

Report from Italy by Ettore Tovo

Decoupling steps up in Italy

The latest phase of the Propaganda-2 lodge scandal is being used to drive remaining pro-American political forces from power.

Two investigations which link Henry Kissinger and the Soviet secret services in a plot to destabilize Italy were reopened in May: the case of the illegal freemasonic lodge, "Propaganda 2," and the 1978 murder of former Premier Aldo Moro by Red Brigades terrorists.

It is a hallmark of Kissinger's ascendancy in the U.S. government that the scandals are not being used to clean up the Italian political world from corrupt characters, traitors, and Moscow agents. Rather, the new wave of scandals risks toppling what is left of republican institutions, as the "muck-raking" is twisted to target exclusively the pro-American elements in Italy's military and political elite.

The government of Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi, put into power on orders from Kissinger and the Trilateral Commission in spring 1983, could fall at any moment under the pressure of a coalition crisis. Premier Craxi has adopted a strategy of making every parliamentary vote on any issue a "confidence vote."

The Socialist premier, who plays a two-faced game of masquerading as an "orthodox Atlanticist" to Ronald Reagan while waffling on Italy's commitment to the Euromissiles and outrightly sabotaging the crucial beam-weapon defense effort, would be no loss to Italy or NATO—in himself. But his ruling coalition includes the one party whose leadership has nailed Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti for his sell-out of the Western Alliance in Moscow—the Italian Social Democratic Party (PSDI).

On April 23 Andreotti became the first leader of a NATO country to sign a joint communiqué with the Soviets condemning the U.S. program to develop space-based anti-ballistic missile defense based on new physical principles.

PSDI head Pietro Longo attacked Andreotti and raised the question in parliament of whether Andreotti had traveled to Moscow merely as "journalist" or was claiming to speak for the government. The foreign minister has yet to answer—directly.

But on May 9, Hon. Tina Anselmi, chairman of the parliamentary select committee set up to investigate P-2, and a member of Andreotti's Christian Democratic Party, read to members of the committee a report on the document which is to be the basis for evaluating the case. This report, intended only for members of the committee, was "leaked" to the press (by a flunky of Senator Pisanò of the neo-fascist MSI party, a French paper later revealed).

By May 10, "selected" parts of the documents were all over the front pages of the Italian press, playing the scandal mainly against PSDI minister Pietro Longo, whose name once appeared on P-2 lists.

In reality, the report presented no new important facts in the scandal which rocked Italy in 1981, when the P-2 Grand Master Licio Gelli was exposed for involvement in a series of assassinations, terrorist massacres, and attempted coups in Italy since 1969. Some enrichment of detail has emerged: We find for the first time in

an official document the charge that the Trilateral Commission, formerly headed by Kissinger, emanated from the masonry like the P-2 Lodge; that Licio Gelli, notorious torturer for Mussolini's secret police, also used to be an agent of the Cominform, Stalin's "international" of the Cold War era; we also find documentation that Gelli could not have been the "anti-communist" he claimed to be, since he supported Andreotti's plan for a government of National Solidarity with the communists.

The report is curiously barren of details which would aid in understanding the *controllers* of P-2 activities. Notably missing is the name of Foreign Minister Andreotti, said by well-informed sources to have been very close to Gelli.

The sad irony is that these "big fish" were laundered out of the investigation—and today are the same figures utilizing the scandal to purge Italian institutions of pro-American networks.

The other dossier reopened is the Aldo Moro affair, the Christian Democratic leader murdered by the Red Brigades. The Communist Party has launched a violent campaign in the party-linked *Paese Sera* accusing the United States of the murder. The campaign gives Henry Kissinger, notorious in Italy for having threatened Aldo Moro before his atrocious death, exactly the aura of the "anti-communist fighter" attacked only by the left which Henry savors so much.

Meanwhile, Italy's Communists are readying their entry into the government. In the typical fashion of Italian politics a trial balloon has been floated in Naples, where the newly elected council under Christian Democratic Mayor and Andreotti protégé Vincenzo Scotti has made a major opening to the Communist Party.