

Report from Italy by Umberto Pascali

The PCI is the major party!

The Communists' victory was aided by elements in the Christian Democracy who want to "decouple" from the Atlantic Alliance.

The Italian Communist Party (PCI) is now the major party in Italy. In the European parliamentary elections of June 17, for the first time ever, the Christian Democracy (DC) was surpassed by the Communists, who are now in a position to impose their will in domestic and foreign policy. The PCI got 33.3% of the votes, almost 5% more than in 1983, while the DC remained at 33%.

The PCI victory represented an unprecedented shock for the Italian population. The Christian Democrats' shield (the symbol of the party) was unable to defend Italy from the long-prepared onslaught of the Communists. The nightmare of the PCI *sorpasso* was suddenly a brutal reality.

Italy's future is now precarious, a situation worsened by the fact that the Communist victory was even promoted by pro-Soviet forces inside the DC, led by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. Though the concrete potentiality for a Communist victory was clear, the Christian Democracy refused to make this an issue; on the contrary, Andreotti and other DC leaders campaigned on empty and ridiculous slogans calling for European integration. The PCI, on the other side, used everything as an issue, including the body of PCI secretary Enrico Berlinguer who died suddenly a few days before the elections. They succeeded in transforming the funeral of their leader into a national brainwashing. Even the neo-fascist leader, Giorgio Almirante, was received at the PCI

central office to present his condolences. Italy is now without any form of leadership inside the official parties capable of resisting Soviet demands and influence.

Fiorella Operto, secretary of the Partito Operaio Europeo (POE), which is known throughout Italy as the "American party" for its campaigning on behalf of President Reagan's beam-weapon program, released a statement immediately after the election, calling on Italians to react now to the results.

"There is the immediate danger of a Communist dictatorship in Italy. Such a dictatorship could take place with or without tanks, as in Prague in 1968. The Christian Democratic leaders, manipulated by Henry Kissinger, are responsible for their own defeat. With the Andreotti-PCI agreement, every citizen knew that a vote for the DC was a vote for the PCI. The domestic picture and the international position of Italy, both established by Alcide De Gasperi, have been destabilized."

Alcide De Gasperi, the founder of the Christian Democracy during the anti-Fascist resistance, succeeded in an immense effort to prevent Italy from remaining "neutral" in the postwar period, de facto in the Soviet orbit. It was his visit to the United States in 1947, and his agreement with the American leadership, that saved Italy from a Communist takeover then.

The historic elections conducted immediately after the signatures were placed on the Italo-American agree-

ment of 1948, established the Christian Democracy as the largest Italian Party and as the guarantor of the alliance with Washington. De Gasperi had to fight not only the Communist Party, but also the Communist sympathizers inside his own party, factions represented today by Andreotti.

The European parliamentary elections of June 17 were only the last act of the tragedy that has destroyed the Christian Democracy as a credible Atlantic party. Now the party of De Gasperi is in the hands of his enemies.

What is being cooked up at this moment is a new government led by Andreotti, a government that would be supported by the Communists, and so, subject to the demands of the Communists. Andreotti will prepare for early elections in November. The months before the elections will be used to break down, piece by piece, what remains of the Atlantic Alliance.

"The increase of the Communist vote," the statement by Operto says, "would have been unthinkable without the machinations of Henry Kissinger and Lord Carrington and the other pushers of 'decoupling.' May the danger of a Communist takeover wake up President Reagan from his electoral pragmatism. The American President must reshape U.S. foreign policy along the lines proposed by the distinguished economist and presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche."

The words of Fiorella Operto have a special importance at the moment. The POE leader is leaving Italy for a visit to the United States, at the head of a delegation of Italian military officers, politicians, and scientists who will be in Washington on July 4 for the foundation of the Schiller Institute, the new foreign-policy think-tank being spearheaded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche to save and rebuild the Atlantic Alliance.