

Vatican by Augustinus

Behind the attacks on Opus Dei

The issue is economic policy—and the attackers seem to be looking East for inspiration.

Recent weeks have seen a violent defamatory campaign carried out in the Italian press against Opus Dei. From the weekly *Panorama*, to the head of the Socialist Party caucus in the House of Deputies, Rino Formica, to the Pious Society of St. Paul, down to the Communists, everyone agrees on demanding that an investigation be opened into the "secret" activities of this important Catholic organization, which is not an order but a "personal prelature" of worldwide scope and influence.

It is noteworthy that the anti-Opus Dei attack is being pushed not only by the usual masonic-secular crowd, but also within the Catholic world itself. Apart from the charges of "secrecy" which many have leveled at Opus Dei, it seems that the main reason that a government investigation is "a timely and not postponable issue," to quote parliamentarian Formica, is the vision of economic policy which Opus Dei promotes.

According to Opus Dei economic expert Father Antonio Livi, this prelature favors a moral approach to the economy, opposed to Marxist economic doctrine on the one hand and unbridled free-market economics on the other. For Father Livi, the true goal of human labor is the common good, hence, the defense and development of human life is the true subject of economics.

It is not just Opus Dei that is being attacked, but those sectors of the Catholic Church which have declared war on the immoral and genocidal economic policy being implemented

by the big international economic institutions. Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger is under attack for the meeting he organized at the Urbaniana University of Rome, during which the social doctrine of the Church was re-stated: the need to defend a moral conception of economics, which the old and new free-marketeers have tried to sweep away in the postwar period.

The attack is aimed against the Pope, who in his numerous pastoral visits in developing countries, has presented himself more and more as the defender of the poor and oppressed, and the most tenacious fighter for a more just, new world economic order.

It is clear that it is not an Italian affair, but is a war that must be fought on all fronts, as is attested by the recent offensive by the supporters of the "Opening to the East" policy of accommodation with the Soviets. They are working, as one Italian weekly revealed, to bring about a trip to Moscow by the Pope by 1988, for the millennium of the Christianization of Russia. On that occasion, the Pope will hold a mass together with the Patriarch of Moscow and all the Russias, in the Cathedral of St. Basil in Red Square, close to the Kremlin, to "sanctify the reconciliation between the two Romes."

A Dominican friar in Turin, Father Giacinto Scaltriti, who was one of the authors of the opening to Moscow under the pontificate of John XXIII, has even proposed that the reconciliation ceremony at the Kremlin be accompanied by a political offer to Mos-

cow to internationalize the straits between Sweden and Denmark, the Persian Gulf, and the Gulf of Formosa, and to create Russian free ports at the mouth of the Indus and in the seas of China and Japan, because: "Russia is by geographical nature besieged in its vital center, that is the Sarmatic plane, and it moves instinctively toward warm waters, to lift the seige."

Father Scaltriti, who among his claims to fame once wrote a letter to Brezhnev suggesting inviting the Pope to Moscow, has now written to Gorbachov, convinced that the situation is again propitious to "bring Russia back to its true destiny, a true Great and Holy Russia." When we asked him about ties between this proposal and the Third Rome prophecy for a world empire centered in Russia, he replied: "The design for which I have worked for years is to realize the prophecy of Moscow, Third and Final Rome."

That these are illusions is beyond doubt, and we have no interest in dilating on possible trips by the Pope to the Soviet Union. But it must be noted that those pushing for an East-oriented policy are the same genocidal forces pushing a post-industrial economic policy in the West: Father Scaltriti was a close collaborator of Aurelio Peccei, who founded the Club of Rome, the neo-Malthusian group that proposes to reduce world population by 2 billion people by the end of the century, since man is "more dangerous than an insect."

The clash is between those who want genocide, whether it be called Marxist or free-market economics, and those who want to save the world from catastrophe by returning to a Christian economic policy. The time has come for the Vatican to call things by their real name; this, and not backroom maneuvers, is the only guarantee that the good will win out.