

Kissinger Watch by M.T. Upharsin

Cruising East with the doges of the future

What future is there for Henry Kissinger and his ilk?

That question might have arisen during the weekend of May 2-4, among those with the dubious privilege of witnessing events at the newly restored Palazzo Grassi and environs in the ancient and decadent city of Venice.

As the London *Economist* of the week of May 3 put it, "everybody who is anybody—from the Rothschilds and the Aga Khan to Mr Henry Kissinger and Europe's more decorative royals," was gathering in Venice during these days. The occasion was the re-opening of a restored Palazzo Grassi, an erstwhile plotting place for the Venetian oligarchy, which had recently been purchased for \$15 million by Kissinger intimate Gianni Agnelli of the Fiat Corporation in Turin.

Sr. Agnelli, notes the *Economist*, wants to turn the Palazzo into a "cultural and technological centre." His first escapade, co-funded by his Fiat and by the United Technologies Corporation, is a new exhibition on "Futurism and Futurists." Judging from this event, the "future" of Kissinger, Agnelli, and the "more decorative royals" is to take the world back in time to some of the darkest moment of this and other centuries, or, forward into a world of Soviet imperial rule.

Before the event, Agnelli had told the Italian weekly *Panorama*, that "futurism" was the movement that would, uniquely, link East and West.

As the exhibition began on May 3, the Fiat magnate said:

"Futurism is the only Italian cultural movement that spread in this century, and it is the art and poetry of motion and of technology."

Sr. Agnelli's mistruths, half-truths, and obfuscations hide one simple fact. As Italian author Fiorella Oporto documents in an article soon to be published in the cultural journal *Machiavellico*, "futurism" was a Russian concoction in the first place, which was exported into the West in the early decades in this century, and which became the rage in those Italian philosophical, ideological, and artistic circles which produced the intelligentsia of Mussolinian fascism. For our shorter purposes here, futurism could be seen as the mother-ideology of both Bolshevism and Nazism; today, its mother is, indeed, "Mother Russia," and whether consciously or not, that was what Kissinger and the jet-set nobility with him were consecrating, as they sailed down Venice's waters on the lavishly decked-out *Orient Express* boat, on the night of May 2, to inaugurate the events of the coming days.

Indeed, for Henry Kissinger, the whole experience was more a return to "the roots," than a trip into "the future." Kissinger's whole geopolitical ideology was concocted in Venice, among the old families of the misnamed Venice Republic. Venice became the center of intrigue, assassination, chicanery, double-dealing, etc.—the kinds of practices that Kissinger has become notorious for, albeit practicing them in a much cruder way than his ancestors.

In his Harvard doctoral thesis, *A World Restored*, written in the 1950s, Kissinger more or less admits this, in his praise for the Venice-manipulated 1815 Congress of Vienna. Similarly today, Kissinger is one among many

would-be "grand strategists" in the United States who would hope to see the United States adopt "Venetian methods" in the conduct of its foreign policy and intelligence evaluations.

Resurrecting the doges

Whether play-acting or not, there was also a considerable revival of the role of the Venetian "Doge" during the days of Kissinger's stay. The "Doge," historically, was the *primus inter pares* in plotting strategy and governing, on behalf of the Venetian oligarchical families.

Agnelli's *La Stampa* daily reported on May 4, for example, that Kissinger was consulting with Italian President Cossiga, on "the situation in the Mediterranean." During this encounter, and throughout the events of May 2-3, Cossiga "assumed for the moment the role of the Doge" of Venice.

As for Agnelli himself: the *Economist*, in its account of his activities in Venice, writes, that there is a growing sense among Venetians that "Mr. Agnelli, already enthroned in the upper left-hand corner of Italy as a sort of Grand Duke of Piedmont, wants to usurp the Doge's throne, vacant since 1797. Venice needs a new Doge, or at least a business-like manager."

The article is entitled, "Rebirth of Venice." Indeed, efforts are underway once again, to make this city the center of strategic intrigue. *EIR* has learned that from Sept. 14-21, Venice will be the site of a giant "European Peoples" conference, featuring participation of many nations of Eastern Europe. The director of that conference for Italy's Veneto Region (where Venice is located) spent a week in the Soviet Union during the last days of April and the first days of May, coordinating arrangements with Soviet academies and institutions for this event.