

Report from Rome by Marco Fanini

What Andreotti has in mind

Now that the New Yalta crowd has toppled Craxi, the Communists will "make the trains run on time."

At this moment of writing, the government crisis in Italy has just started, but we can already foresee its outcome: The incumbent foreign minister, Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti, will be the next prime minister, and his government will be supported by the powerful Italian Communist Party.

The government of the Socialist Bettino Craxi had lasted three years, the most stable government of post-war Italy. Formally, Craxi fell because of a secret vote of Parliament against one law proposed by his administration. The reality is different: Craxi was pulled down immediately after the end-of-May congress of the Christian Democracy, where the absolute winner had been Giulio Andreotti. If Craxi was able to keep the Communists out of power for three years, Andreotti will do exactly the contrary.

Already in 1978-79, Andreotti formed a government with the silent but important external support of the PCI: In other words, the Communist deputies, almost 30% of Parliament, voted in favor of the government or abstained on decisive bills, thus allowing the government to survive. Although Craxi was not particularly pro-American, and never really gave clear and strong support to the Strategic Defense Initiative of President Reagan, Andreotti is a well-known friend of Moscow's Libyan asset Qaddafi and of the Kremlin.

It is not that Andreotti is a Communist. He follows the policy of the New Yalta, elaborated by Lord Peter

Carrington, Henry Kissinger, Willy Brandt, and Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Casaroli, for an agreement with Russia at any cost. The New Yalta implies that strategic areas like Europe and the Middle East are left to Russian control, and the United States should confine itself to the Americas. Since West Germany will fall into the hands of the Soviets, if, as expected, next January the Social Democrats of Willy Brandt win the national elections, then Italy should follow a similar pattern.

This is why, suddenly, the Craxi government has fallen—and why the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano* started last month to issue harsh attacks against Premier Craxi. This is why Andreotti was welcomed in June by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, one of the top "New Yalta" advocates, as the only trusted political man in Italy. Add to this that Soviet leader Gorbachov had promised Craxi he would come to Italy in the spring but postponed his trip to October, when another government will be there. This is a crisis totally orchestrated by the Italian and international forces of the New Yalta and has nothing to do with an internal power struggle between Craxi and Christian Democrat leader De Mita, as the American press has stated.

After the fall of Craxi, Italian President Francesco Cossiga invited the president of the Senate, Amintore Fanfani, to find out if there was any possibility of forming a second Craxi government. Fanfani ended his consultations and reported to Cossiga that

there is no room for a second Craxi government, opening the situation to all solutions.

The Communists have proposed a "programmatic government," based on a platform they would support if they were included in the next cabinet, which is identical to that of Andreotti and De Mita: cutting public spending and the public deficit. The Andreotti faction has proposed a budget law for the next fiscal year that Italian Republican Party head Giorgio La Malfa correctly labeled "a kind of Italian Gramm-Rudman." It proposes to drastically cut pensions to the elderly and public health, and then cut every other kind of public welfare, lowering the living standards of Italians.

It should be noted that most of Italy's state public deficit is a debt of the state toward its own citizens who bought tax-free Treasury Bonds. Mussolini, during the 1920s, managed not to pay Italians on their Treasury Bonds, a Fascist move that was done with the consultation and full support of the U.S. Mellon banking family, and then-U.S. Federal Reserve chief Benjamin Strong.

Now the Andreotti faction is trying to push people to abandon Treasury Bonds and invest in the Italian stock exchange, which is growing at an incredible and crazy speed toward an inevitable crash. This is fascism "with a democratic face." The Communist Party of Italy, which is still dominant in the labor movement, expects to be able to deliver workers to passive acceptance of the massive austerity measures demanded by the New Yalta arrangement. To prove this capability, the Communists just pulled off a "quiet summer" operation, which guaranteed that for the first time in Italian history, there will be no trains or ships or airports on strike in Italy during the summer season.