

Report from Madrid by Leonardo Servadio

Irangate scandal breaks out again

Coincident with Henry Kissinger's visit to Madrid to push the decoupling of Europe from the United States.

The same days that Henry Kissinger was in Spain, in the second week in May, the "Irangate" scandal again hit the Spanish government, indicating that opposition to the "New Yalta" policy, for which Socialist Premier Felipe González is Europe's top spokesman, may be emerging.

Kissinger went to Spain ostensibly for the board of directors meeting of the Italian Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. David Rockefeller and Raymond Barre were there for the same meeting: in other words, key founders of the Trilateral Commission. Spain was chosen, ostensibly, to map out strategies to counter the mounting wave of support for debt moratoria in Ibero-America. In a statement published in *El País*, Kissinger declared that his role in the Madrid meeting was to advise the BNL on its Brazilian investments, or in plain English, on how to prevent Brazil from pursuing the policy of ex-Finance Minister Funaro, under whose tutelage Brazil declared a moratorium on its foreign debt.

The BNL is a bank closely linked to the ruling structure in the Socialist party, the PSOE, which is pushing a "New Yalta" accommodation with the Kremlin. BNL president Nerio Nesi belongs to the "left wing" of the Italian Socialist party (PSI), and is known to have been a big financier of the PSOE, reportedly channeling funds from Turin into the PSOE in Barcelona in the early 1970s (during the Franco regime when the PSOE was still illegal), through the firm Pianelli Traversa, a firm also suspected of conduiting dope-related money.

The BNL was created by Musso-

lini as a central tool for his corporatist policy in the early 1930s, and, as sources underlined, still today maintains its original orientation. In other words, the bank represents a direct continuation of Fascist policy through the Trilateral Commission.

There was another reason for Kissinger to be in Madrid. According to sources, Dr. K was personally charged by President Reagan to discuss the question of the U.S. bases. The story goes that Kissinger "put a lot of pressure" on the Spanish government to keep the U.S. bases. But the interview with Kissinger published in *El País* on May 7 tells a different story: Kissinger argues that the "zero option" means decoupling between Europe and the United States and that eventually the Europeans will have to accept it. On the specific question of the bases, he reinforces the demagoguery pushed by the Socialist government, stressing that "it is not possible to keep bases in a country which is not satisfied" with them. The next day, in an interview in the *Washington Post*, Felipe González went on record as the first European chief of government to endorse President Reagan's "zero option."

It is in this context that the usually pro-government paper *El País* launched the new wave of revelations, reporting that since last February, when Premier González formally promised Parliament that the government would prevent Spain from selling arms, directly or through third countries, to countries at war, Spain has sold at least 5,883 tons of arms to Iran and Iraq; at least eight ships transported those arms from the port of

Barcelona. In the prior two years, larger quantities of arms produced in Spain, including 105 millimeter cannon shells and airplane bombs, were shipped to the same countries.

Who organized these deals? In October 1986 it came out that two U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials, James Kibble and Victor Oliveira, had been arrested in the Madrid airport as they were about to board a flight for Switzerland carrying \$5 million in cash. The two were soon released as a result of the intervention of the Madrid U.S. embassy, which explained that the money was to pay a drug dealer in Switzerland, who worked as a DEA informant. As *El País* underlined, after Gen. Richard Secord stressed in his testimony that DEA agents were used in Irangate-linked arms and drug deals, it is legitimate to suppose that the money was for payments related to arming the Contras and Iran, paid through Swiss accounts.

The operations via the U.S. embassy in Madrid, related to Irangate, must be huge. Last October, Michael Ledeen, consultant to the National Security Council and Irangate "go-between," was floating around Spain in an apparently failed attempt to restructure the Spanish security services to suit his plans. The ambassador was Thomas Enders, a man deeply involved in the Iran-Contra deals and a crony of the unsavory Cisneros financiers of Venezuela. Gray & Company, one of the main companies allegedly used for the Iran-Contra arms-drug deals, operates in Madrid.

Barcelona's mayor, PSOE leader Pascual Maragall, was exposed by the magazine *Tiempo* last November for having arranged deals related to Iran-Contra trafficking with Michael Ledeen, while visiting the United States last October.