

These latest signals on “left opposition” leader Trotsky were preceded by a drive to rehabilitate “right opposition” leader Bukharin.

- On July 16, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Court officially rehabilitated the leading Bukharinite agrarian economists, such as Nicholas Kondratyev, who were executed during the Stalin purges.

- *Pravda* of Aug. 9 carried a lengthy article by historian Viktor Danilov, which carried the arguments used by Bukharin in 1930 to attack the Stalin’s forced collectivization of the peasants.

- On Sept. 9, the *Moscow News* ran an article by Yuri Afanasyev, the new director of the U.S.S.R. National Archives, which stated that the 1938 trial of Bukharin was “baseless” and, “One need not be a professional historian, but only a human being, to say that Bukharin had never been a political criminal.”

The *glasnost* propaganda is also focused on conveying the image that the Soviet Union is now opening up its military facilities for American “inspection.” This farce reached its peak on Sept. 9 when three Democratic members of the House of Representatives were taken on a tour of the Krasnoyarsk ABM phased array radar facility to “prove” to them that it constituted no violation of the ABM Treaty. The congressmen, who could not tell the difference between an ABM radar facility and the proverbial “hole in the wall,” were awed by the red carpet treatment. They dutifully returned to the United States to issue statements casting doubt on the Pentagon’s charges that Krasnoyarsk was designed to service anti-ballistic missile systems—of which there is no doubt whatsoever.

Given such results, one can easily imagine the delighted Soviet hosts more than willing to extend *glasnost* to other military facilities, opening these up with much fanfare for the inspection of other U.S. congressional delegations.

Last month, quietly, another such *glasnost* affair was staged, when a U.S. Pentagon team was allowed to fly into the U.S.S.R. and observe Soviet military maneuvers in the Carpathian Military District, following Pentagon statements that the maneuvers were in violation of the Helsinki “confidence building” agreements.

If it means creating the atmosphere to get the American nuclear presence out of Europe, Moscow will gladly stage more such shows, a trivial price to pay for Munich II.

The main reason for such otherwise farcical *glasnost* functions, is the Western media’s desire to accommodate Moscow’s description of Gorbachov’s image. The rehabilitation of Trotsky and Bukharin provides a case in point. On Sept. 10, a day on which so much of the Western European media was engaged in “rehabilitation” coverage, the Soviet media was granting the most space to a theme that does not quite square with *glasnost*—pages of articles on the occasion of the 110th birthday of Felix Dzerzhinsky, “Iron Felix,” to use *Pravda*’s phrase, the bloody-handed founder of the Cheka, predecessor of the KGB.

## Arrest of Italian arms rocks West Europe’s

by Umberto Pascali

“This is the biggest scandal since Irangate. . . . It is as though Rockefeller had been arrested!” commented an American expert immediately after the Italian police arrested 34 people (11 are still being sought), including one from the top echelons of the Italian Establishment, the industrialist Ferdinando Borletti and his son Giovanni. The accused are charged with having illegally sold weapons to Iran—the weapons that the Khomeiniacs are now using in their war in the Persian Gulf.

The illegal weapons traffic was part of a scheme involving prominent Sicilian mafiosi based in Trapani, acting as intermediaries with Teheran. The weapons and explosives were paid for with drugs and with “assistance” to terrorists operating in Italy, West Germany, and elsewhere in Europe.

“Our work is only beginning,” declared Prosecutor Augusto Lama. “We will turn half of Europe upside down.” What is emerging in Italy is part of a broader European picture, including similar and related scandals in Sweden, Belgium, Austria, West Germany, and England. Several sources in Italy are stressing that the “rotten business” came to light after U.S. National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci visited Italy and several other European countries, to discuss their participation in the military operations in the Persian Gulf.

The arrests are a result of the investigations which began last December, when Abu Nidal-controlled terrorists bombed the Rome airport, killing 13 people; they occurred one day after the Italian Council of Ministers decided to send a contingent of naval ships to the Gulf, in support of the U.S. deployment there. The Council’s decision put an abrupt end to the strenuous opposition of Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who is not only an advocate of “friendly” relations with Iran, Syria, and Libya, but is also the top political protector of the Italian military industry.

### The Borletti dynasty

By far the most important person arrested, Ferdinando Borletti, is himself close to Andreotti. Borletti is president of Valsella; a defense firm located near Milan, which had just received a commission from Teheran, to provide Khomeini with 2.5 million mines! Fifty percent of Valsella is owned by

# smugglers 'Irangate' apparatus

a subsidiary of FIAT, the international corporation owned by the Trilateral Commission's Gianni Agnelli. Borletti is a member of the Board of FIAT, besides being the chairman of the Board of the most authoritative Italian financial newspaper, *Il Sole 24 Ore*.

The Borletti family is actually more important than the Agnellis, who married into nobility, having reached their status (and their title of nobility, Count of Arosio) under the Fascist regime, which the family fully supported. The Borlettis became famous with the creation of the "La Rinascente" supermarket chain, which was inaugurated by the first *duce*, the Universal Fascist Gabriele D'Annunzio.

## Target: President Reagan

Shortly before the arrest of Borletti, in the southern Italian port of Bari, the police seized a Lebanese ship, the *Boustany One*, which was transporting a cargo of weapons destined for Abu Nidal's commandos in Europe. According to a thick package of documentation that the magistracy seized—some are comparing it to the revelations and dossiers which began the Propaganda-2 scandal some years ago—the *Boustany* was supposed to have arrived in Italy around two months ago, along with five other ships. Their mission was to deliver weapons, and possibly trained terrorists who were planning an assault on the Venice summit of the industrialized countries.

The principal target of the Venice raid was President Ronald Reagan. Aboard the ship there was a very advanced U.S.-made anti-helicopter missile, which was to be used against the President, who, for security reasons, always traveled by helicopter during the summit. The "Venice massacre" never took place, probably because of the strict security measures in place; but now the time for "revenge" had come. The weapons transported by the *Boustany*, many of them produced by the Borletti-FIAT firm Valsella, were to be used for a European-wide resurgence of terrorism.

Aboard the *Boustany* were also found 4.4 pounds of heroin and 33 pounds of hashish. The magistrates investigating the Rome airport massacre have evidence showing that the arms used at that time were smuggled along the same route

followed by the *Boustany*. The modus operandi is the same. High-level and very secretive terrorist controllers have established their network in Beirut, Tripoli, and several Mediterranean islands. This "structure" takes care of logistics and has established an alliance with a certain mafia clan, based in Trapani. Felice Corrao and Guido Coduri, two top mafiosi of this clan, were among the 34 people arrested on Sept. 5.

The Trapani clan acted as intermediaries and were paid in drugs; in exchange, they were getting a percentage of the commissions and additional money for the help they gave to terrorist groups.

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*"We will turn half of Europe upside down," says the prosecutor who has arrested some of the highest-level operatives in the Italian illegal arms traffic. Even the friends of Foreign Minister Andreotti have suddenly found themselves behind bars. Some of Europe's most evil oligarchs are beginning to fear that the hour of reckoning is near.*

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Now the investigations are proceeding full tilt, mostly thanks to the young prosecutor Lama, who, in the words of his chief prosecutors, pursued the investigations despite pressure from many sides, "including from our own milieu," i.e., from inside the Magistracy itself. The Trapani mafia clan has already been found responsible for the assassinations of several magistrates. New "angles" are now being opened. Besides the obvious Iran track, there is direct Syrian involvement, at the level of the secret service of that country.

It is worthy of note that the U.S. ambassador in Rome, Maxwell Rabb, knew about the Italian traffic with Iran. When he was recently asked by a Manhattan court whether he knew about the involvement of the Italian government in delivering arms to Iran, he replied: "My information was that they had been very, very generous in this business."

The arms suppliers to Iran, a far-flung group which coincides with the pro-Gorbachov factions in Europe and the "secret government" in the United States, are beginning to fear that the moment of reckoning has come. Italy has just decided to send four military ships to the Gulf. German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is sticking to his pro-Iranian line. According to intelligence sources, the Italian revelations can lead to the heart of the Hamburg group of oligarchs that is the power behind Genscher.