

## Report from Rome by Leonardo Servadio

### Russians eye takeover of Italy

*Did Henry Kissinger give the green light for the Italian Communist Party to join the government?*

**H**enry Kissinger came to Italy in the first days of February, at the same time Secretary of State Baker was also in Italy on his European tour. All signs are that Kissinger gave the green light for the Italian Communist Party, the PCI, to participate in a government with the Socialists—a coalition which, for the first time in the postwar era, would keep the Christian Democratic Party out.

Kissinger declared that his agreement with Moscow works this way: The Soviets agree to hold elections in the captive nations of Eastern Europe and the U.S. gives guarantees that it will not exploit this fact to “influence” those countries.

The best *quid pro quo* Kissinger can give to the Russians, is to help establish, in NATO’s European “frontline” countries, Germany and Italy, governments which Moscow looks upon as “friendly.” This means the Social Democrats in Germany, and in Italy, the Socialists and Communists.

Interviewed by the weekly *Epoca* in Rome, Kissinger said: “I had a very high esteem for Aldo Moro, both as man and as a politician. But I think that his priorities should have stayed within internal politics.” Aldo Moro was the president of the Christian Democratic party (DC), slain by the Red Brigades in 1978 after having organized the first Christian Democratic government with the “external” support of the PCI (the Communists stayed outside the government).

At that time, it was generally understood that Moro was killed because he defied the will of the State

Department, and people spoke of Kissinger’s role in threatening Moro because of his policy toward the PCI. Thus Kissinger’s statement today will be read to mean: There are no more roadblocks to the PCI entering the government.

The key to the government that Moro planned was not only that the PCI supported it, but also that it aimed at restoring some fundamental idea of national sovereignty: economic development and fostering nuclear energy, at a time of deep economic crisis and a terrorist onslaught on the Christian Democracy.

Today, the PCI would form a ruling coalition, not with the DC but with the Socialist Party, and the political content of this government would be exactly the opposite of the defense of national sovereignty. Its content would be what Gorbachov set out as his thrust for a world government at his speech at the U.N. last December: a “New Age” post-industrial society.

In the past several months, the PCI has stepped up its efforts to knit closer ties with the Socialist parties and their underlings, with the aim of preparing the ground for Socialist and Communist hegemony in the European Parliament, a body that will become more important if the economic integration of Europe in 1992 goes through. The greater coziness between PCI and the Socialist parties at the European level, also paved the way for cooperation *inside* Italy.

In late February, PCI general secretary Achille Occhetto went to Moscow and met the Soviet dictator Gorbachov. For five and a half hours the

two Communist leaders planned out strategies to jointly intervene in Europe in particular. Gorbachov stated that the Soviet aim is not to undermine the link between the United States and Europe. This link “is indissoluble,” stated Gorbachov, nearly the formulation Kissinger used for the bonds among the Warsaw Pact countries. But the basic strategy was that the Communist Party will move in tandem with the Socialist Party.

“The way we discussed works within the idea of a real overcoming of the old divisions between the Communist and the Socialist movement,” declared Occhetto. “Today there are many relations and interconnections, bypassing the divisions between the Second and the Third International.”

Even if on domestic matters the Italian Communists and Socialists tend to clash, for months there seems to have been more agreement in matters of European policy. It is even mooted that the PCI will work with, or even within, the Socialist group in the European Parliament.

Occhetto went and met the leadership of the German Social Democracy on Jan. 26-27. Those meetings provided a “formal basis” for cooperation between the two parties, as Occhetto stated. The PCI-SPD rapprochement is a “strategic” and cultural operation, he stressed. This is epitomized in the question of how to redefine the idea of “progress,” which was discussed as basis of defining a new “left-wing” identity.

Occhetto said that Italy’s Communists and Germany’s Social Democrats agreed that “progressive” no longer means industrial and technological progress, as progress was understood till a few years ago, but “ecological” progress—exactly in line with the content of Gorbachov’s speech at the United Nations.

*To be continued.*