

Report from Rome by Leonardo Servadio

Russians to take over Italy?

The Communist Party, in a bid for liberal acceptance, now says its roots are in the French Revolution.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the Italian Communist Party (PCI), the most powerful Communist Party in the Western world, might join the Italian government. The PCI was once in power, right after World War II, but since 1948 it has been shut out of the Christian Democratic-dominated coalition governments that have ruled Italy ever since.

In 1987 something fundamental changed: A referendum on nuclear energy was artfully orchestrated in the wake of the Chernobyl accident to manipulate "public opinion" into an anti-nuclear frenzy. The referendum was promoted by the Socialist Party, the Radical Party, the Green Party and, naturally, by the PCI. As a result of the referendum, Italy was targeted as the first industrial-sector nation to abandon nuclear energy over "environmental issues." From then on, all the mass media of the country initiated a non-stop propaganda campaign to make environmentalism the mainstream of the cultural debate.

Industrial devolution, in the context of the international "New Yalta" deal between the U.S. and Russia, set the stage for the most dramatic change in postwar Italy's political history: the potential constitution of a left-wing government, run by the Socialist Party and the Communist Party in a coalition which, for the first time, would exclude the Christian Democracy. Last week's column described how the PCI has parlayed relations with the Socialist parties on the European level, into the germ of a Communist-Socialist

partnership inside Italy.

Already in November, the PCI had held a series of meetings with the Italian Radical Party, for the past 15 years the most outspoken propagandist of all the "post-industrial" themes: for liberalized drug consumption, against nuclear energy, against industrial progress, etc. In January, PCI General Secretary Achille Occhetto made another move to "redefine" the PCI, away from its Communist background, into something palatable to Western liberals. In an interview with the magazine *Espresso* he defined as the legitimate tradition of the PCI, not the Russian Revolution of 1918, but the French Revolution of 1789: "minus the Terror period," said the peace-loving Occhetto. The idea was very simple: to present the PCI, whose historical roots lay in the Communist Third International centered in Moscow, as part of the liberal bourgeois tradition, which is commonly understood as deriving from the French Revolution.

The liberal establishment likes the idea. Last summer, the Italian Liberal Party (which is considered the "conservative" party rooted in the industrial middle class) joined the so-called "Red cooperatives." Those are the financial, commercial, and industrial operations created and run by the PCI with minority participation by the Socialist Party, which provide a large income to those parties, especially thanks to their deals with Moscow. For the "right-wing" Italian Liberal Party to join this system is quite extraordinary and were unthinkable

without the global "New Yalta" deal between Western elites and Moscow.

The Italian Socialist Party has been in the Italian government since 1964, with the Christian Democracy, but it never took the reins of government until 1983, when its leader Bettino Craxi became prime minister. How did that happen? In the spring of 1983 the Trilateral Commission held its annual meeting in Rome, and there it was discussed that Italy needed some "changes." Henry Kissinger held a private meeting with Craxi in Milan, together with Socialist Party foreign policy specialist and Trilateral Commission member Margherita Boniver. Craxi was hailed in the U.S. establishment milieu as the new leader for Italy, and the Christian Democracy, buffeted for years by terrorist assassinations and political and economic scandals, was compelled to step aside. It is worth recalling those events, since they show clearly how the Socialists can be seen as the "U.S. establishment" party in Italy, in the same way as the Christian Democracy could be considered, at least until a few years ago, as the Church party, and the PCI, the Russian party.

With the assassination of Christian Democratic Party President Aldo Moro in 1978, the "Church party" was prevented from making an alliance with the "Russian party," which might have removed this party from Russian control. Now the "American party" (or, if you prefer, the "U.S. establishment party") is working toward making an alliance with the "Russian party" aimed at ending all the political influence of the "Church party." This corresponds precisely to the strategic planning of the New Yalta.

It is something which cannot work for long since it is based on anti-human austerity measures and an imperial concept. Yet today this is the dominant policy.