

P-2 probe continues despite denials

by EIR Staff

Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti got a skeptical reception on Aug. 2, when he delivered a report to the parliamentary committee investigating the illegal Propaganda-2 Freemasonic lodge. Andreotti reportedly said that after checking with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the Swedish government, he had found no confirmation of recently aired charges that P-2 was complicit in the unsolved 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, and that the CIA and U.S. President George Bush were involved in the conspiracy.

Andreotti's testimony followed a request from Italian President Francesco Cossiga in a letter dated July 3. Cossiga demanded an investigation of charges aired by self-described former CIA employees Richard Brenneke and Ibrahim Razin over the publicly owned RAI television channel, TG1, at the end of June and in early July.

The RAI video crew that prepared the interview with Brenneke on Bush and P-2 came under heavy attack after the CIA denied the charges July 23. A violent press campaign was launched accusing the TG1 journalists of everything from being "unprofessional" to "communists" who targeted the U.S. intelligence community in order to cover for East bloc involvement in terrorism. But in a telephone interview with *EIR* July 24, one of the top executives of TG1 forcefully rejected the charges, pointing out that TG1 is planning to air a program on the East German secret police and its former deputy chief, Markus Wolf.

TG1 sticks to its guns

The leading journalists in TG1 were close to the late Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro, who was kidnaped and killed by the Red Brigades in 1978. The inquiry into P-2's U.S. connections is linked to that crime.

The director of TG1, Nuccio Fava, who would retire on Aug. 1, stated July 24 that he will not budge from his position. "I was indelibly stricken by the tragedy of Aldo Moro," he said, "and not only professionally. My conscience is clear. I am deeply convinced that one must look into the darkest periods of our recent history, to the still-unsolved mysteries of this country. This is what we tried to do at TG1, by presenting testimonies and facts. We did it in the case of the airplane that crashed in Ustica in 1980. We did it in Hungary on the tracks of the terrorist Carlos and Abu Abbas; and in Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, and the U.S.A. to confirm the hypothesis that Licio Gelli was involved in the death

of Palme. I have always been convinced that not only for terrorism but also concerning the P-2 and all the other dark aspects of the secret services, no citizen and no journalist can spare efforts to find the truth, or at least to understand." The journalists of RAI backed Fava.

On July 29, TG1's Ennio Remondino promised in the daily *Corriere della Sera*, "The inquiry into the CIA, P-2, and Italian occult powers continues, and I am preparing a followup. I have just returned from the United States, where I have pulled together hundreds of letters, which prove that we are on the right track."

"I have found about a thousand documents," which provide leads about the "current accounts for CIA operations, and the full names of Italian figures involved," Remondino told *Corriere*: "Now I feel relieved. I know that I have gotten closer to the truth, even though it may be a fearful truth." Remondino reported that while he was in the U.S., his briefcase filled with television material and cameras "strangely" disappeared.

Two days later, on July 31, TG1 broadcast a new interview with Richard Brenneke taped by Remondino in the United States. Remondino began by stating that Brenneke had worked for the CIA as a contract agent, and showed the relevant documentation from the Portland, Oregon trial, which acquitted Brenneke of the charges of lying, precisely for having said he was a CIA agent. Brenneke repeated that the "Agency" financed groups which "could be considered terrorist groups" in the 1970s and that he was involved in such operations.

CIA-East bloc joint operations

Remondino asked: "But, the CIA used to give money and weapons together with the Eastern countries to the same terrorists?" "Yes," answered Brenneke, "that's what it is. At the end of the 1960s and at the beginning of the 1970s in particular, this was considered a means of obtaining those results which the chiefs of the secret services pursued." Can you give details, asked Remondino. "In Czechoslovakia weapons, pistols, hand grenades, explosives like Semtex were bought. . . . At the end of the 1960s and at the beginning of the 1970s, I used to deal with Czechoslovakia. In some circumstances I met some terrorists; the persons with whom I dealt were not considered terrorists; they were persons who used to help out the U.S.A."

So, asked Remondino, it is a sort of big game among secret services, and we common citizens, the countries, the states, the parliaments, are the victims, with the dead, the terrorist attacks, and the bombs? "There is an organization," Brenneke explained, "a series of clubs, of organizations, that make deals outside of the control of the government, that do business and always did so outside the government's authority. And these organizations are united; their objectives, their ends in many cases are the same. And the ordinary man? Well, this is the real world, this is what happens in reality."