

# The 'Italian face' of JFK: from Permindex to the Moro murder

by Sandro Mitromaco

On Feb. 24, *Unità*, the daily newspaper of the Italian PDS (Democratic Party of the Left) carried the following five-column page one headline: "Moro Like JFK: A Case Still Open," subtitled, "The state does not want the truth on the kidnaping—the Red Brigades were directed from the outside." Days later, *Il Sabato*, the conservative Catholic weekly said to be close to Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, carried on its cover the same title: "Moro Like Kennedy," with a huge picture of the slain statesman, Aldo Moro, gazing pensively at the picture of President Kennedy. A kicker reads: "In the U.S. a movie accuses the CIA of the Dallas murder. In Italy, Senator Mazzola, deputy defense minister at the time of Moro's assassination, speaks for the first time of the mysteries of that case. And after 13 years admits that the case is not closed."

A third Italian daily, *La Stampa*, owned by the powerful Agnelli family of Fiat, published prominently the same equation: "Moro Like Kennedy"!

Aldo Moro, as *EIR* readers know, was the Christian Democratic statesman who was kidnaped by the Red Brigades on March 16, 1978 in downtown Rome and held for a hundred days until his bullet-riddled body was found in the trunk of a car, a few minutes away from the national office of the ruling Christian Democracy.

Moro, the most important Italian political leader at that time, had been the architect of a "Government of National Solidarity," inaugurated on the day of the kidnaping. This formula was aimed at stabilizing the country after 10 years of subversion, terrorism, and violence. It was a formula that Henry Kissinger and the Anglo-American elite opposed with all their might. Moro personally was threatened repeatedly by Kissinger, and had abandoned political life. The new government, inaugurated on March 16, 1978, was his first big political undertaking after a period of inactivity provoked by his fear of exposing his family to danger.

The role of Kissinger in the killing of Moro became the focus of investigations that started with a legal petition presented to the Tribunal of Rome by Italian associates of Lyndon LaRouche. Italian magistrates tried to interrogate Kissinger, in vain. After several judicial inquiries, journalistic investigations, and a series of revelations, it now appears inconceivable that the most powerful politician in Italy could have been kidnaped in Rome by a gang of student-terrorists

and held for three months despite the biggest police dragnet in Italy's modern history, and then found dead under the nose of the investigators.

## A national coalition

"It is amazing that a right-wing Catholic publication like *Il Sabato* and a daily like *Unità*, the paper of the PDS, both came out with the same title: 'Moro Like Kennedy.' It is astonishing that Agnelli's paper pops up with the same line. What is happening? Are we going back to the National Coalition?" a Roman insider recently said to *EIR*.

Both *Unità* and *Il Sabato* point the finger at Kissinger. The first article was written by Gianni Cipriani, co-author, with his brother Antonio, of the book *Limited Sovereignty: History of Atlantic Subversion in Italy*. It described the report presented on Feb. 23 to the Parliamentary Investigating Committee on Massacres and Terrorism. The report was prepared by a group of lawmakers including Francesco Macis of the PDS and Luigi Granelli of the Christian Democrats, and stressed that the Moro case is "still open." In 41 pages, the congressmen underline that important evidence and records on terrorism are missing—including records on the Moro case—and that the Red Brigades, far from being an independent terrorist organization, was just a tool. A few days earlier, the chairman of the committee, Senator Gualtieri, had publicly denounced NATO's Gladio network as "illegal."

Gladio, a supersecret organization created after World War II, was supposed to be a "stay behind" paramilitary network able to unleash irregular warfare in case of Soviet invasion of western Europe. But the organization was used to create terrorist gangs, according to many accounts, both right-wing and left-wing, aimed at destabilizing countries to keep them under control. Aldo Moro, according to these accounts, was threatening to establish a government solid enough to be independent politically and, especially, financially, from the Anglo-Americans and from Moscow. In a different situation, Kennedy had represented the same "danger."

## Permindex and the Dulles brothers

On Feb. 19, Antonio Cipriani had published in *Unità* an original review of director Oliver Stone's film "JFK." In a

long feature, the investigative journalist brought back to light the story of Permindex and its Italian affiliate, Centro Mondiale Commerciale (CMC). The only defendant in the New Orleans trial for conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy was Clay Shaw, a high official of both Permindex and CMC, as the film mentions. Cipriani went back to the Rome connection and dug into it.

The article sparked an electrifying response from many sides of the Italian political spectrum. According to reliable reports, several different researchers began looking for a trail that would link the old Permindex to more recent destabilization capabilities, including drugs, mafia, and terrorism.

"There was also an Italian connection in the only trial for the Kennedy murder," Antonio Cipriani wrote. "By accusing Clay Shaw of New Orleans, District Attorney Jim Garrison pointed his accusing finger against the man who, from 1958 to 1962, represented the CIA in Rome. Not only that: Shaw was a boss in two international companies, Permindex and CMC, that were managing the Rome Fair in those years. Looking into the names of the members of the board, one discovers a network of agents of the British, American, and Italian secret services, tied to the representatives of royal families. And de Gaulle stated: They financed the OAS in order to kill me."

In his information-packed article, Cipriani publishes a secret document, signed "Dulles," that "shut down any investigation [by U.S. personnel at any level] of Permindex." The Dulles brothers Allen and John Foster were respectively the director of the CIA and U.S. secretary of state. "What did Dulles write? That U.S. diplomatic offices abroad should help Permindex, because it operated in harmony with the department, in other words, people should stop investigating these economic groups."

Cipriani describes the charges by French President Charles de Gaulle, who accused Permindex of being a tool of the Anglo-American intelligence agency to kill him (this was why de Gaulle took France out of the NATO military alliance), and also the implications for the October 1962 assassination of Enrico Mattei, the president of AGIP, the Italian oil company.

## Oil war against the Seven Sisters

When Mattei died—his plane was sabotaged and crashed near Milan—his independent oil company was engaged in a deadly fight with the Seven Sisters (the Anglo-Dutch-American companies) all over the Third World. Mattei was explicit about his aim: to give Italy an adequate source of cheap energy. For him this was the *sine qua non* condition, if Italy wanted to be independent and prosperous. His challenge had broken the monopoly of the Seven Sisters, to establish direct contacts with several Third World countries, and to use the growing power of his company to invest in modern technology in the oil-producing countries and to train thousands of Third World scientists and technicians.

The "oil war" is also the center of the interview given by Christian Democrat Sen. Francesco Mazzola to *Il Sabato*, published under the headline "Moro Like Kennedy."

When Mazzola, the vice chairman of the Christian Democratic caucus in the Senate, was asked whether the "differences between Moro and Kissinger concerned above all the independent policy of the Italian leaders toward the Arab countries," he stated: "Yes, for sure that was a point of difference. Also because at the end, at the center of the discussion, there was the question of oil supplies for our country. And to have an independent policy in this field would have meant to establish links with the Arab countries. . . . Kissinger surely did not look with favor on the strengthening of our policy toward the Arab countries. Besides, in the United States the pro-Israeli lobby has always had a dominating position. . . . I believe that this has been the issue that prompted the U.S. decision to obstruct Moro's political design. Even more: In my opinion, the key to many mysteries can be found in the battle for oil."

Which mysteries? "I came up with no logical explanation for the massacres that happened in Italy." Senator Mazzola ventures to state that both the United States and U.S.S.R. were determined to keep Moro's plan from implementation, and that both the KGB and CIA are responsible for the terrorism that hit Italy. "I always thought that terrorism was the result of the coincidence between these terrorist groups that conceived of making the communist revolution and those of the fourth directorate of the KGB, the section of the Soviet secret services in charge of the destabilization of the West. . . . Terrorism was born for its own reasons, that were different from country to country, but for sure its birth and its activities were encouraged and helped in this plan of destabilization that the KGB implemented in those years."

So the East was to blame for terrorism? "Certainly, but not alone. I am convinced that the United States watched and let it happen. In a second phase, the help has been overwhelming."

Mazzola, who as deputy defense minister in charge of the Navy took part in the key meetings of the "crisis committee" set up to coordinate the search for Moro, wrote detailed notes on those discussions. The senator makes a point of stating that twice, unknown thieves had broken into his office "without stealing anything. Maybe looking for papers."

One of the issues in Mazzola's papers could be the story of Steve Pieczenik, a "Kissinger man," according to *Il Sabato*, a deputy assistant secretary of state sent to Italy on April 7, 1978, just 22 days after Moro was abducted. He was chief of the State Department's anti-terrorist unit. Pieczenik, probably on the basis of secret clauses dating back to Yalta, took charge of the investigations. Days before the martyred body of Moro was found in the center of Rome, Pieczenik left Italy. Today the State Department apparently doesn't have any public record on him, and not a clue as to his whereabouts.