
Interview: Sen. Sergio Flamigni

'Italy must reject limited sovereignty, join LaRouche movement against IMF'

Sergio Flamigni began his political activity during World War II. At the age of 16, he was the leader (the youngest partisan leader of the Resistance) of a famous partisan brigade, the Gastone Sozzi, based in Romagna. He was a member of the Italian Parliament from 1968 to 1987, and a leading member of the Parliament's Anti-Mafia Committee, and the committees investigating the murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro and the Propaganda-2 (P-2) freemasonic lodge. Moro had been threatened violently by Henry Kissinger before the Red Brigades kidnaped him on March 16, 1978. More recently, he has distanced himself from party involvement, and is rapidly becoming the reference point for many in Italy who are seeking to restore Italy's national sovereignty. Umberto Pascali interviewed Senator Flamigni on Sept. 26. The interview has been translated from the Italian.

"Just a few hours ago, I was at a demonstration of pensioners in Rome. There were 200,000 people there—it was very impressive. There is generalized dissent against the austerity package. These measures do not solve anything, and above all they are unjust. All over Italy, people are demonstrating in the streets—a phenomenon we have not seen for the last 20 years. Imagine, the government is taking away medical assistance from elderly people, from the people who need it most. It canceled the cost of living escalator. People all over Italy are saying, 'No!' I think there is no way for the trade unions to avoid the proclamation of a general strike against this austerity."

Senator Flamigni comments thus on the draconian austerity measures the Italian government announced on Sept. 17, under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On Sept. 13, the government had given up on defending the exchange rate of the lira against the other currencies of the European Monetary System (EMS), and had devalued it by 7%. A volatile situation was thereby triggered, with international speculation still pointing to a collapse of the lira, the danger of a run on the banks, and destabilization maneuvers centered, above all, around the rapidly growing separatist Lombard League, and other local parties. The League is exploiting the revulsion of people, especially in the north of Italy, against the political corruption and austerity.

EIR: The origin of these measures is not national—

Flamigni: Absolutely right. For two reasons: First, we saw very clearly, a few weeks ago, before the devaluation of the lira, that the intervention of the central bank, buying liras, was causing a hemorrhage. We understood at that moment, that there was a huge international speculative maneuver under way against the lira. The problem is that the government of Giuliano Amato did not have the guts to denounce it. It knew, though, so either it accepted this passively, or it is an accomplice.

But there is a second reason. Italy is not in control of its economy. The kind of economic line Italy has been following has not corresponded to its national interests. This is why Italy is considered the so-called weak link of Europe.

Without going back too many years, let's see what happened, for example, after 1989, after the collapse of the Berlin Wall. There was a unique opportunity to restructure the Italian economy, so that we would be able to participate in a vast plan of investment and development for eastern Europe. This represented the most fundamental interests of those countries and of Italy. Not the policy of the IMF! But this did not happen, even though there were those in Italy those who wanted to do exactly that. Why? Because, once again a restriction was imposed upon Italy, reconfirming our *limited sovereignty!*

EIR: How did this process work?

Flamigni: We must focus on the responsibility of the government, and even more of those powerful circles that have always shaped Italian politics. I am talking about masonic circles, forces that are linked to certain interests, and certainly not to the need for economic development. These interests are pushing, in Europe, for the creation and explosion of ethnic conflicts; they prefer to promote and finance a huge traffic in weapons, to create a situation of permanent chaos. Not only in the former Yugoslavia, but in the Caucasus and elsewhere. Italy had no chance to organize a new economic policy, because the people in the government are the guardians of our *limited sovereignty*. They are working for the Anglo-American banks.

EIR: Senator, you have been the most outspoken member

of the parliamentary committee investigating the P-2, and of the Anti-Mafia Committee. Just three weeks ago, on Sept. 7, I saw you in the Italian Senate listening approvingly to the intervention of Sen. Massimo Brutti. Brutti asked the government to investigate Elvio Sciubba, the Italian representative of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, the masonic organization that gave to humanity the Ku Klux Klan of Gen. Albert Pike. Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche has asked that light be shed on these lodges. Do you think Italian leaders are going to take up this suggestion?

Flamigni: The forces you are referring to, the forces that played such an obscurantist role in the United States, are the same forces that tolerated and promoted the P-2 in Italy. What an evil role it played, at the service of those forces you mentioned!

Brutti was referring to Sciubba in the context of a denunciation of the new forms assumed by the P-2. Because the P-2, even after having been officially dismantled, continues to exist—secretly. After all, let's not forget that the famous lists of P-2 members that were delivered to the committee were not complete. The lists included only one-third of the names. Furthermore, a witness told the committee that it was precisely the most important names that were never turned over.

Many of those unnamed people are now involved in this international economic game. Not only Sciubba, who has been traveling all over eastern Europe on behalf of the Southern Jurisdiction. Sciubba conducts his activity openly, but there are others, *the controllers*, who are still unknown to the public. There has been a request to re-open the P-2 committee, to bring the investigation to its conclusion. This is necessary and urgent, precisely because these masonic forces are linked to the mafia, to the big financial powers, to those who use the money coming from drug- and weapons-trafficking, from kidnappings. Organized crime has been transformed into an instrument in this international game.

EIR: This connection between masonic circles and organized crime is understood by many in Italy, but probably a little bit less so in the United States.

Flamigni: A precise responsibility in this is to be laid at the doorstep of leading circles in Great Britain and the United States. This connection dates back to the landing of the Allied forces in Sicily during World War II. It is well known today that there were mafiosi in the American jails who were asked to help, and they performed a precise task of liaison with the mafia in Sicily that, in a certain sense, took part in that phase, but with a precise aim. In the process of the U.S. Army freeing Sicily, mafiosi were placed as mayors in many towns. Mafiosi entered the secret services. The mafia played such an important role because there were Americans who were able, with lack of scruples, to use it successfully. When the Anglo-American troops left, we Italians remained here and were forced to submit to the mafiosi after they had acquired considerable power. Later, they increased their power. The

link between politics and the mafia started then, and also the connection between the mafia and masonic lodges dates to that time.

It was in the immediate postwar period that Rev. Frank Gigliotti was sent to Rome to negotiate with the Italian government the restitution of the masonic properties. Gigliotti was the man to organize the reunification of the Italian masonry. All this because of a precise policy by the Anglo-Americans to establish control over Italy. And they were not very discriminating in what they did. They used people like the boss of the P-2, Licio Gelli, an agent of the Fascist Republic of Salò. Consider that at least until 1949, Italy did not have its own secret services; this function was covered by the British and U.S. services. British and Americans used persons who, in their opinion, gave the maximum guarantees.

At a certain point, the Anglo-Americans even conceived the idea to split Sicily from Italy, to create a separatist movement. And in fact, the separatist movement popped up. There was the phenomenon of Giuliano, the separatist bandit, who organized the massacre of Portella della Ginestra against the Sicilian peasants who were asking for land to cultivate. Then the strategists behind Giuliano changed direction, and suddenly the separatist movement disappeared, Giuliano was arrested and several witnesses just died.

EIR: After the assassination of Judge Falcone in Palermo, former Manhattan U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani asked for the intervention of the FBI to fight the mafia in Italy, since the Italians supposedly were not capable of doing it themselves. He also suggested a militarization of Sicily.

Flamigni: When I was member of the Anti-Mafia Parliamentary Committee, I visited the United States, with the other members, to meet the agencies and the organizations involved in the fight against the mafia. I was shocked by the lack of collaboration we received at that time from the FBI. Not only I, but all the members of the committee. We received more collaboration from the Customs Service, the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration], and even from the Canadian police, than from the FBI.

The fight against the mafia is first of all a political question, not a military one. We must cut the connection between mafia and politics, between the mafia and the real controllers and sponsors. Thus the pretense, sending the FBI, i.e., an organization that knows only too well those links, is only a way to throw dust in our eyes.

EIR: You are the author of the book *The Spider Web*, which analyzes step by step the kidnapping and assassination of former Italian Prime Minister and Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro in 1978. The morning of the Red Brigades kidnapping, a government was inaugurated that was supported by the main parties, a government of national unity, the basis for guaranteeing a policy of national sovereignty. On April 21, Lyndon LaRouche wrote a memorandum addressed to

Italian politicians underlining the necessity to go back to the moment of that assassination committed under the “Anglo-American aegis” to stop Moro, who wanted to implement the “historic compromise” with a PCI [Italian Communist Party] that had distanced itself from Moscow. LaRouche stressed that if that policy were not implemented now, then “foreign monetarist interests will turn Italy into a balkanized confederation. . . . Italy is still a victim of the Versailles Treaty and of its continuation, Yalta. For those forces Italy must not be able to have its national sovereignty. . . .”

Flamigni: I totally agree. This should be the objective: the policy of 14 years ago, the agreement between Moro and PCI leader Enrico Berlinguer. Both dead. The difficulty is in the fact that, if the murder of Moro was the apex of the conspiracy to keep Italy divided and subdued, that conspiracy did not stop; it is continuing right now. We were talking before, about the presence of the P-2 in this international game, about the maneuvers against Italy, about the lost chance in 1978, in 1989. Now, those who made Italy lose those chances are the same forces that are assaulting Italy now. They are acting on behalf of the Anglo-American financial system. They are determined to prevent Italy from taking the road of a new economic policy, such as that LaRouche is referring to. It is a difficult fight, unless this movement against the austerity measures sweeping Italy now succeeds in provoking a radical change.

EIR: Amelia Robinson, before coming to Fiuggi to the Festival of *Unità*, had been invited to Rimini to the meeting of Communion and Liberation [see article, page 42]. She was invited by the two main parties in Italy. Some saw this as a poetic synthesis of the need in Italy for a unity of all the popular forces. . . .

Flamigni: Yes, I saw that myself. That night in Fiuggi, one felt clearly this need to overcome the division among Italians, because that division is only in the interests of those who want to keep Italy in a situation of limited sovereignty. During the last few months I toured at least 50 cities and towns with Antonio and Gianni Cipriani, to present their book, *Limited Sovereignty*. And I must say—as in the case of Fiuggi, where people did not want to go home—that Italians are thirsty for the truth. They are tired of the split imposed by Yalta, and they show their enthusiasm when they are told about a real solution. In this situation, there is no doubt that we must go again for the rapprochement of all the popular forces. Italy has no other perspective.

But this is not enough. We must establish a concrete connection with the other side of the Atlantic, with those U.S. political leaders who are in a vanguard position in the fight against the imperial system that is currently dominant. I am referring to the organization of LaRouche, to leaders like Amelia Robinson, the Rev. [James] Bevel. LaRouche is a great fighter for civil rights also, and I see the establishment of this collaboration as a necessity, but also as something that is feasible.

Consider that the Italian people are internationalist by tradition. There has been a vacuum in the last years. That night in Fiuggi I talked about “concrete, effective internationalism,” because I felt the need to fill that vacuum. Today, the international dimension hangs over Italy, the presence of so many refugees coming from Africa and elsewhere. As already happened in Germany, this can be exploited by our enemies to provoke racism. The presence of obscurantist forces determined to exploit our economic problems should push us even more to fight at an international level.

Until the problem of the Southern Hemisphere is solved, we will suffer this escalating destabilization. If the International Monetary Fund can continue to impose the policies it has imposed up to now, then the conflicts will continue. This is why we need a common strategy.

EIR: On Sept. 28, Michael Billington, one of the most effective leaders of the LaRouche movement, will be surrendering to prison authorities following a brutal judicial setup and conviction. Before he surrenders, he will address the march against the death penalty from Richmond to Washington led by Reverend Bevel.

Flamigni: If I were to have the chance to talk to all the marchers, I would say: This movement must become gigantic, you are on the right road, you are giving us [in Italy] great help. You are fighting to solve our problems, too.

It is very remoralizing for us in Italy to see that there is a growing force in the very country where it is most important to fight this battle. Morally and spiritually, we are there with you. I believe that your fight will give us the strength to develop in Italy, through international collaboration with you, a common action.

When I think of how Martin Luther King was massacred, this great figure who had inspired so many hopes all over the world; when I think how a great fighter like Lyndon LaRouche is kept in jail; when I think about Michael Billington again thrown in jail with a monstrous sentence; when I think about the case of Rochelle Ascher, then I realize that it is a great honor to follow in their wake, and to be persecuted by the powers that be.

There must be a great solidarity, and a great gratitude for these people who are persecuted. They should be comforted by the knowledge that they are fighting for justice, that they are on the side of reason, and even if injustice could seem to win for a moment, the resistance to this injustice will keep alive the torch of freedom. I believe we cannot set a limit on the gratitude that we owe to these people who are persecuted for justice. . . .

I greatly appreciate your fight against the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, against the heirs of Albert Pike, against the sponsors of racism and organized injustice. We in Italy have the same enemies as you do. Thank you for your fight. We need now to find a common ground for a closer, concrete collaboration.