

“employing 4,500 laborers and 3,000 machines, worth \$2 billion, seized from Russian, East European, Chinese, and Korean firms” who “have been promised compensation.” The project had been given priority, due to its promise of increasing agricultural production, to overcome the dependency on food imports.

The results so far are encouraging: Some 300,000 hectares out of 1.5 million have been reclaimed, and 300,000 more are being treated. Furthermore, the project will open the area up for development and exploitation of its vast oil reserves, reckoned to account for one-third of Iraq’s total reserves, capable of increasing output by 2.5 million barrels per day.

Big Lies about the project

Two conspiracy theories have been presented to damn the project. One, by Max Van der Stoel, the Dutch U.N. official responsible for investigating Iraqi human rights violations, claims that the river “would drain the marshes and deprive the Marsh Arabs of their natural habitat.” Jansen comments appropriately that this is “an ironic charge from a Dutchman whose country is built on reclaimed land.” Van der Stoel reportedly issued his charges without having even visited the area; he said he “did not have time” to go there.

The same charge is being trumpeted by British press organs, which have launched a virtual crusade to “save the Marsh Arabs.” As Jansen comments, the project will allow the Marsh Arabs to be treated “as human beings who have a place in modern Iraq rather than relegate them to a marshland museum as anthropological specimens.”

The second theory is that the Iraqis want to dry out the swamps to allow army forces to expel the estimated 10,000 dissidents there. In fact, Jansen points out, the lower water level has resulted not from Iraqi machinations, but from the reduced flow of Euphrates water from Turkey into Iraq as a result of Turkey’s new Ataturk Dam, and from increased Iranian utilization of rivers flowing into the marshes. From a military standpoint, the scheme is absurd: “If the Iraqi Army was determined to drive rebels and refugees quickly and easily out of the inaccessible reaches of the marshes, it would simply flood the marshes, using the heavy flow of saline water to do so.” Instead, the Iraqis have built a dike along the Hammar marsh, “to isolate the polluted and brackish but fresh water of the marshes from the heavy saline water in the Third River, thus preserving the wetland ecology and habitat.”

Such an ambitious project represents a threat only insofar as it contributes to rebuilding Iraq, and to bringing it one giant step farther on the road to becoming a model for a successful, Arab industrial state. That, as *EIR* has maintained since the onset of the hostilities, is what the Anglo-American malthusian elite wishes to prevent. One fanatical ecologist in the British press recently noted, that to destroy the Third River, one would need to declare a “no-bulldozer zone,” not a “no-fly zone” in the south. Perhaps that will be next on the U.N. Security Council’s agenda.

Italy

‘Corruption scandals’ steered from abroad

by Claudio Celani

On Monday, Jan. 25, the doors of the Milan San Vittore prison swung open to let out Mario Moretti, leader of the Red Brigades, the terrorist organization responsible for murdering tens of Italian institutional leaders in the 1970s. Moretti coordinated the 1978 abduction and assassination of Aldo Moro, the famous Christian Democratic leader whom Moretti personally interrogated for 55 days and ultimately shot. For that and other crimes, Moretti had been sentenced to life in prison; but instead, although he never collaborated with justice and never repented or dissociated himself from his terrorist past, Moretti has been allowed by a court ruling to begin his “reintegration” into society as a free man.

Almost at the same time, while Aldo Moro’s assassin was walking around Milan a free man, the press reported that Moro’s daughter, Maria Fida, a former member of Parliament, has lost her job and is having a hard time finding a new one.

These two images symbolize the dramatic crisis the Italian nation is living through: a country whose institutions are rewarding the assassin of one among its greatest statesmen, while the victim’s children are suffering as outcasts of society.

Aldo Moro was killed because he was pursuing an independent policy for Italy. The Red Brigades commando that killed him was steered from outside, by the same people who today are rewarding Moretti because through all these years he has kept the secret of who really gave the orders to kill Moro.

A lawyer, Nino Marazzita, has pointed out that “Moretti’s privilege is the price of silence.” Marazzita, who was counsel to the Moro family, has stated: “In the Moro case an intervention took place from the Italian, Soviet, and American foreign secret services.” The terrorists, Marazzita says, “never wanted to talk about it, but they must know.”

Who gave the orders to kidnap and kill Moro? Back in 1978 almost all Italian institutions were controlled by people who belonged to a secret lodge, Propaganda 2. P-2 included the heads of the secret services, police, and *carabinieri* (military police) who “could not find” Aldo Moro during his 55-day captivity. The lodge was built by Licio Gelli, a businessman who took orders from Alexander Haig and Henry Kis-

singer. Kissinger, shortly before Moro's capture, had "advised" him to change his policy, in such a way that Moro took it as a threat.

Putting the mosaic back together

A major national TV channel, Canale 4, interviewed Maria Fida Moro on Jan. 31. Moro's daughter recalled her father's last words: "My blood will fall on you." "There is a connection between my father's death and the corruption scandals that are shaking Italy," she said. "They are like parts of a mosaic that is being re-composed."

On the very day of the interview, something unprecedented in the history of the Italian Republic occurred. Police entered the national office of a major political party to search it. This was not just any party, but the Socialist Party (PSI) of Prime Minister Giuliano Amato. The action had been ordered by the Milan judges who have been investigating illegal bribes from businessmen to politicians for a year, and have indicted more than 100 people so far.

Bettino Craxi, the PSI's secretary general, was always a target of the investigation, and has now received his third subpoena. Parliament will decide in a few weeks whether to lift his immunity, together with 19 other members of Parliament, mostly Socialists and Christian Democrats.

Within days, the administrative office of the Socialist newspaper *Avanti!* was also searched. Then the investigation, heretofore limited to northern Italy, expanded to Rome, where two city councilmen were arrested, along with some businessmen.

A system is coming down

A whole system is coming down, a political system in which all parties were illegally financed through a generalized system of kickbacks on public works. The Milan probe, however, was started by a faction in the political system itself which is tied to the same crowd that was complicit 15 years ago in the Moro crime. This is a secret service/freemasonic faction which, in cahoots with Anglo-American circles, is promoting "new politicians" and "new" political forces.

One of these people is Mario Segni. In a letter from his captivity, Aldo Moro had pointed to Segni as the champion of "a new generation of Christian Democratic leaders whom the Americans are nurturing." Another is Claudio Martelli, the justice minister and "Mr. Clean Hands" (after the code-name of the Milan investigation) who is supposed to replace Craxi when the PSI leader is arrested. Segni and Martelli both stand for the forces in the established parties which want to ally with the emerging "new" political force, the separatist *Lega Nord*, or in English, North League.

The electoral growth of the North League over the past year has been in direct proportion to the expansion of "Milan-gate." The League pushes a blood-and-soil ideology against the centralized Italian political system, and it controls 39-40% of votes in northern Italy.

In short, what is going on in Italy is an "epochal transformation," in which corruption scandals are used by one political faction to destroy another. In this process, a Jacobin climate is being built up in the population by the mass media, in which the general level of understanding has fallen instead of rising. A growing ratio of Italians, feeling the pinch of a formidable economic crisis which has brought the official jobless rate to 11.5%, believes that the cause of these woes is "political corruption." The new Jacobins in politics not only offer no solution, but are fighting even the few initiatives which the present government is pushing as a remedy for the crisis.

For example, in early January, Premier Amato announced a plan for 50,000 billion liras (\$76 million) in public works and infrastructure, which is almost double what Bill Clinton ever promised for the United States. It is not enough, because it will create no more than 100,000 jobs directly, and a few more indirectly, but it does go in the right direction. Part of the plan, costing 13,000 billion liras (\$19.8 million) will finance a high-speed railway running north-south down the Italian peninsula—a much-needed and modern piece of infrastructure.

Yet not only is the North League against the project as creating "more sources of corruption," but even Beniamino Andreatta, the economic "brain" of the Christian Democracy, which is still the main party in the government, opposes it.

The privatization issue

Another issue splitting the Amato government is the future of Italian public industry. Italy's large state sector has always been a regulating factor in the economy, and now, hit by the crisis, it is under attack by free-marketeers who want the Italian state to sell off sound, technically advanced companies to help decrease the national deficit, which is huge. Nothing could be more stupid, but that is exactly the program of the "new-ist" faction.

The present fragile political balance could tilt any moment in favor of the "new-ists," a coalition of forces including the League. At that point, any job-creating program would be cancelled in favor of a much more radical austerity program.

In a move to prevent that, a recent policy paper produced by *EIR*'s economics staff (see story, p. 11) was prominently covered by *L'Italia*, a news magazine which was recently established by forces who oppose the dissolution of the Italian central institutions. *L'Italia* quotes *EIR* in exposing how the privatization strategy was decided in semi-secret meeting on board the British Queen's yacht on June 2, 1992. The exposé includes a profile of three major Wall Street firms active in the plot (Goldman Sachs, Salomon Brothers, Merrill Lynch), and repeats the allegation that the National Geographic Society (another stronghold of Anglo-American imperialism) supports a plan to dismember Italy into three little states, exactly what the League calls for.