

Italy: behind the scandals an even bigger scandal

by Claudio Celani

Lyndon LaRouche issued a statement from his prison cell in Minnesota on Feb. 25, warning that “the current political crisis in Italy is an attempt by Anglo-American-centered forces to orchestrate, through assets which they have long held in Italy, a general destruction of the nation of Italy.” He added that this action “is strategically coordinated with the Anglo-American unleashing and orchestration of the genocidal horror perpetrated by the Milosevic fascist forces within former Yugoslavia and threatened destruction of the Balkans as a whole.”

LaRouche’s standpoint is the only one which allows us to understand what is going on in Italy. What the British media call “a revolution” has led to a paralysis of political institutions and of major sections of the national economy. According to the scenario laid out by such media, the country will finally get rid of a “corrupt political class” which has ruled for 50 years, and adopt an Anglo-Saxon model, i.e., a British liberal system where the role of the state in the national economy is reduced to zero and the economy is ruled by the “free-market” forces.

In reality, the political establishment which has been collapsing under “corruption scandals” is being destroyed from the outside, because it is an obstacle to geopolitical plans according to which Italy, together with the Balkans, represent the “southern flank” of a potential Eurasian development bloc, centered around cooperation between Germany and Russia. Therefore, Italy and the Balkans are being destabilized today, exactly as they were destabilized before World War I.

The target of the destabilization is the Italian political

system as such, dominated by parties such as the Christian Democracy (DC) and its government allies, which have guaranteed for 50 years, although under a “limited sovereignty” system, a dirigistic economic model that has allowed the country to become the sixth largest industrial power in the world. Key to that system was the state-run industry, which Italy inherited from fascism but which, thanks to figures like Enrico Mattei and Ezio Vanoni, became the locomotive first for reconstruction, and then for the Italian economic miracle. Especially Enrico Mattei, founder of the national oil company ENI, promoted the reconstruction of the Italian economy by supplying cheap energy to industry and fertilizers to agriculture. Mattei, who launched a new kind of cooperative policy toward developing countries, was a challenge to Wall Street and London corporations connected to the oil multinationals, and was killed in a mysterious airplane crash in 1962.

Although the generation of national leaders that followed Mattei abandoned his courageous fight for independence, the system built by Mattei remained. When Aldo Moro, president of the DC, launched a policy of national unity in 1978 which challenged Italy’s “limited sovereignty” status, he, too, was killed, by a band of Red Brigades terrorists. That was the beginning of what LaRouche calls “the most recent phase of political destabilization.”

After the wave of revolutions that brought down communism in eastern Europe and the Yalta system’s division of Europe, the Anglo-Americans decided that they should prevent peaceful cooperation between eastern and western Europe, and launched their final assault, with the war in the Balkans and the present wave of political scandals in Italy.

Behind the cry of 'corruption!'

The way such scandals work is very simple. The public sector of the Italian economy, built by Mattei, had become a source of illegal financing for political parties. This was illegal only because a law, adopted in the mid-1970s by Anglo-American agent Ugo La Malfa, established that political parties could finance themselves only through money given to them by the state, in proportion to their electoral strength. Of course, that money was not enough to run serious electoral campaigns, and every government party—the DC, the Socialists, the Social Democrats, the Republicans, and the Liberals—got their share of “black financing” through kickbacks from public works projects. Also opposition parties, like the former Communist Party (today the PDS) got their share at the local level, since they run administrations in several major cities.

Given such a system, it was only a question of pulling a string and the whole system would unravel. Therefore, the same Carabinieri (military police with investigative functions) that for 50 years had closed their eyes to similar violations, started pouring out tons of reports on “violations of the laws on political financings.” With the help of state prosecutors trained in the United States or following the modus operandi of the U.S. Justice Department, a big “anti-corruption” investigation started in Milan, which has later expanded to the whole country. Ironically, although the system has almost collapsed because of the scandals, very few people have so far actually been convicted and sentenced. Most of them, and all members of Parliament involved (one-third of the House), have not even been indicted. Thanks to a recent reform of the criminal law and the judiciary system, a person who is being investigated receives an “information warrant” which is supposed to protect him from unfair prosecution, but which has instead been transformed by the media into a virtual conviction against him. Furthermore, the same reform establishes that a person who is simply being investigated can be jailed if the prosecutor thinks he might flee. Thus jailing is being used effectively as a means of coercion. Systematically, local politicians and businessmen have been kept in jail until they agree to issue “confessions,” implicating other politicians or businessmen. Thus, those behind the scandals have pulled an endless chain which has already involved more than 1,000 persons.

The present government, led by Socialist Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, has already lost six ministers, and remains in power only because there is no replacement for it.

A turning point was reached on March 7, when Justice Minister Giovanni Conso, a prominent and respected constitutionalist, expressing a large Parliament majority, issued an executive order changing the law, in order to stop the arbitrary jailings, reduce illegal party financing to an administrative infraction, and, not least important, allow all private and public companies under investigation to resume their work. (Indeed, the investigation has so far had remarkably negative



Friends of Lyndon LaRouche in Italy identified the Freemasons and the IMF as those out to destroy the nation, in this election poster of the European Labor Party (POE) in the early 1980s. The slogan reads, “No to austerity; no to the government of technicians.” Carrying out the execution of Italy is “The Secret Masonic Lodge of the International Monetary Fund.”

effects on the economy, since central and local political authorities hesitate to begin any public works project, fearing that they too will come under investigation.)

But when, according to the normal constitutional procedure, the government sent the legislation to President Oscar Scalfaro for his signature, something unprecedented happened. The Milanese prosecutors met under Chief Prosecutor Vittorio Borrelli and issued a release rejecting the government’s decision as “unacceptable.” President Scalfaro had to send the legislation back, unsigned, to the government. That was a virtual coup by the Judiciary over the Executive branch.

A new phase of destabilization was then unleashed, with the emergence of a new, terrible kind of accusation against Italian political leaders. People like Giulio Andreotti, the most powerful man in Italy, and Antonio Gava, leader of the DC group of senators, were accused of being respectively connected to the mafia and to the Camorra (Neapolitan organized crime). A prosecutor in Palermo issued warrants against Andreotti based on hearsay evidence from mafia witnesses. Some witnesses, like Tommaso Buscetta, made their

declarations from the United States, under FBI protection.

The plan to dismember Italy

Now, the Anglo-American establishment is waiting for the result of a referendum on April 18, which is supposed to mark a major power shift in favor of the pro-Anglo-American forces. The referendum was called by Mario Segni, a former Christian Democrat from a freemasonic family, and concerns several issues, the most important of them being an electoral reform against the present proportional system and in favor of a British-style majority system, in which the winner takes all. Such a change would have the effect of delivering the rich, highly industrialized North to the Lombardy League, a new party which claims that northern Italians are ethnically different from southern Italians, and which, despite all the denials by its national leader, Umberto Bossi, is expected to initiate a process of splitting the nation into three separate entities. The League, in fact, is part of an international project to replace national cultures, based on the Christian ideal of man, with ethnic "blood and soil" ones.

It is not by chance that the League's project has been endorsed as a European model by the U.S. magazine *Telos*, run by Paul Piccone, a former leftist who is connected to the same network of psychiatrists that is responsible for the "ethnic cleansing" theory behind Serbia's war against Bosnia (see *EIR*, Feb. 12, 1993).

High-level sponsors of Segni's proposed reform include the Freemasons, who are the most important vehicle for Anglo-American influence in Italy. In an interview made available to *EIR*, former Grand Orient Lodge Grand Master Armando Corona said that "Segni is carrying out a battle for new electoral methods which are a great conquest, and we are indebted to him." Segni's vision, Corona said, "will probably be the way of the future." Corona's choice of Francesco Cossiga as the ideal prime minister, seems to confirm what a source told this writer: that Henry Kissinger has dropped his old friend Andreotti in favor of Cossiga. Kissinger is very close to the Italian Freemasons.

In his Feb. 25 analysis of the Italian crisis, Lyndon LaRouche underlined the evil role being played by the institutions of Freemasonry internationally. "Headed at least nominally by Britain's Duke of Kent, [they] are in a utopian campaign, a utopian anti-crusade, to destroy a European civilization based on the notion of *imago Dei*, to destroy the notion of a nation-state based on a people's self-government through reason, through the medium of a common language and common principles, and to subject all mankind to the kind of usurious mass murder typified by International Monetary Fund conditionalities and radical-environmentalist demands such as the banning of chlorofluorocarbons today.

"They fear greatly that their enemy—Germany, France, and Russia, and other nations coming out of the events of 1989—might form the core of a cooperative effort to solve their problems to mutual advantage, by pooling their poten-

tials for scientific and technological progress and for other forms of development, to alleviate the great wants of mankind, throughout Eurasia and also throughout other parts of the world."

Economic warfare

The political destabilization of Italy would not work if it were not run in connection with economic destabilization. The key to provoking a Jacobin revolt against the system is the economic crisis, the real source of discontent among Italians who shout or vote against "political corruption." Soon after the formation of the Amato government last August, American credit rating agencies like Moody's and Standard & Poor's surprisingly downgraded the Italian economy, giving a green light to the international speculation that forced the lira to abandon the European Monetary System. Since then, the Italian currency has been devalued 30%, and the International Monetary Fund is applying pressure on the government to react by privatizing the state sector, i.e., selling the best part of it to foreign corporations at wholesale prices. In this way, the IMF insists, the government could get some fast bucks to reduce the huge public debt. The rest of the debt should be reduced by increasing taxes, slashing entitlements for health and pensions, and closing unproductive plants belonging to the big state holding company IRI.

This line meets the opposition of a broad political faction, which is represented by Industry Minister Giuseppe Guarino. Guarino has presented an alternative plan which, although not opposing the privatizations, insists that obsolete plants be modernized and that Italian private investors be given priority over foreign ones.

The role of LaRouche and EIR

In this context, Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR* have played a major role in catalyzing resistance against the Anglo-American plot. Last January, the *EIR* economics staff in Wiesbaden, Germany, issued a paper entitled "The Anglo-American Plot behind Italian Privatizations: The Destruction of a National Economy." The paper circulated in all political and economic circles, and was prominently published in *L'Italia*, a new weekly magazine with a "Gaullist" profile, which fights against the "denationalization" of the country.

The *EIR* memorandum revealed that on June 2, 1992, a secretive meeting took place on board the *Britannia*, Queen Elizabeth II's yacht, off the Italian coast, between British bankers and Italian state managers and officials, to discuss the privatization of Italy's state sector.

When Bettino Craxi, until then the powerful chief of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), the main coalition partner of the DC in the government, received his first notification that he was under investigation by the Milanese judges, he decided to counterattack by giving *EIR*'s dossier to the press. On the following day, March 3, Antonio Parlato, a parliamentarian from an opposition party, the MSI, raised a parliamentary

question quoting at length from *EIR* and *L'Italia*, and asking the government about the meeting on board the queen's yacht. After that, the story, this time a real scandal, broke out widely in the press.

Another member of Parliament, Raffaele Tiscar (DC), has raised a similar interrogatory, quoting *EIR*'s dossier. A member of the government, Treasury Director General Mario Draghi, has admitted that he was on the yacht, but claims that he left early—unlike other cabinet members who stayed. *EIR* has learned that the cabinet member Draghi referred to is Beniamino Andreatta, present budget minister and leader of the radical privatizers' faction. This information was used by Parlato for a third parliamentary question.

Even Giulio Andreotti, a man famous for his "flexibility" (i.e., compromises with the Anglo-Americans), started to accuse "international financial circles" of being behind the attacks against him and the DC. The leaders of the DC groups in the House and the Senate sent a joint request to the Rome prosecutors to investigate a suspected "conspiracy" against "republican institutions."

Such steps break the controlled environment established by the Anglo-Americans, which forces Italian leaders to fight one another in the belief that their enemies, or those who pull the strings of the destabilization, are to be found inside the country. This is only partially true, since they are so only by being, as LaRouche said, assets of Anglo-American networks.

Before Easter, when *L'Italia* magazine again quoted *EIR*'s analysis of the destabilization of Italy, *La Voce Repubblicana*, the organ of the Republican Party, a party which has always supported the IMF line for Italy, responded with fury, attacking the editor of *L'Italia*, while quoting only from *EIR*—although without mentioning it. Indeed, *EIR* has touched exactly the right nerve.

The credibility achieved by LaRouche and his movement has brought 63 members of the Italian Parliament to sign a call to President Clinton to free the American political prisoner. The signatures were presented on April 2 in the Italian Parliament, by Emma Bonino, secretary general of the Radical Party, and by Flaminio Piccoli, a senator and historical leader of the Christian Democracy (*EIR*, April 16, p. 30). "The campaign against LaRouche," Piccoli said, "occurred largely because he annoyed the big American corporations, because, had he become President, he would have limited their power." "I am convinced," Piccoli said, "that many of the things occurring in our country are due to mistakes by political responsables, but largely also led and directed by those who are interested in weakening Europe."

If they want to save their nation, Italian leaders will have to turn their resistance into a policy that will promote a real economic recovery, by abandoning the IMF's recipes, as well as illusions of about a European free-market zone, and instead adopting LaRouche's "Productive Triangle" approach.

How the 'revolution' in Italy unfolded

by Claudio Celani

The London Economist calls it a "revolution" that has broken out in Italy, and cheers at the destabilization of the Italian state that has developed over the past two years. In the chronology that follows, we trace the assault on Italy, the efforts that certain nationalist forces are making to block it, and the role that EIR and Lyndon LaRouche are playing in that battle.

1992

Feb. 17. Beginning of "Operation Clean Hands" (*Mani Pulite*). Mario Chiesa, a Socialist Party-connected manager of a home for retired people, is arrested while taking a kick-back of 7 million lira (\$4,000) for a cleaning contract. Using a recently introduced "American-style" criminal code, such as plea-bargaining, the magistrates offer him his freedom in exchange for revealing the names of others who are eventually implicated in the corruption case. Chiesa is reported to be head of a local masonic lodge. The "sting" against Chiesa was carried out by Carabinieri police captain Roberto Zuliani, who will lead all subsequent "Milanogate" operations, in tandem with Judge Antonio Di Pietro, until November. To obtain "proof" from witnesses, the investigators simply keep them in jail until they talk. Often "confessions" are recorded in the absence of any defense lawyer.

March. In the middle of the election campaign, Socialist Party leader and former premier Bettino Craxi, announcing his candidacy for leading the next government, gives an interview to *Corriere della Sera* in which he pushes for a big infrastructure development plan for Italy.

March 12. Salvo Lima, the most powerful Christian Democrat in Sicily, is assassinated by the mafia. Flaminio Piccoli, a senior Christian Democratic leader, writes that the murder reflects a "strategic design" in the interests of someone who wants an Italy removed from Europe.

March 21. Grand Orient master Giuliano Di Bernardo orders the dissolution of the American covert freemasonic lodge Coliseum. Di Bernardo announces that he will vote for Claudio Martelli, Craxi's rival in the Socialist Party (PSI).

March 29. One week before the elections, the *Economist* magazine of London invites Italians to vote for the Northern League. The Italian state must be reduced to "rubble," the magazine says.

April 5. Parliamentary elections. The Lombardy League is the winner, but the traditional parties could still maintain