

Bombing in Florence: a terrorist attack against the Renaissance

by Claudio Celani

The bomb that exploded on May 26 in Florence, killing 5 persons and wounding 30, was ordered by forces that understand very well the significance of cultural warfare. It destroyed part of the Uffizi Palace, one of the greatest art museums in the world. The 100-kilogram car bomb missed, by only a few meters, the gallery containing the most precious works of the Italian Renaissance. Had these not been housed in a room without windows, thereby damping the shock wave, these priceless treasures would have been lost to mankind.

The Accademia Georgofila, the oldest European agricultural academy (1753), was completely destroyed. The shock wave transformed glass and stones into projectiles that devastated the rooms in the Uffizi containing Roman statues and post-Renaissance paintings. A Trittico by Van Honthorst (1617) was totally destroyed, as well as two works by Bartolomeo Manfredi. A work by Sebastiano del Piombo (1511) was cut in two. Two hundred meters away, the church of Santo Stefano al Ponte suffered severe damage, and a Giotto painting inside was damaged, although not irreparably. The shock wave front covered the street from the Uffizi to the municipal square, striking the Palazzo della Signoria and shattering all its windows.

The Florence bombing goes beyond what Italy has previously seen in terms of terrorism in its postwar history—which is already far beyond what most other advanced sector countries have suffered. But this time it is not only the slaughter of innocent people, or the danger to democracy which is embodied in this gravest challenge to the state, as it was when the Red Brigades kidnapped and killed Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro. This time, what has been hit is what is most precious to the nation, above any conceivable idea of political faction: the artistic patrimony of the Renaissance, of which Florence is indisputably the capital. One high-level Venetian politician was quoted in the daily *Corriere della Stampa* on May 28: “First they destroyed politics, then the institutions, and now they are finishing off the country.”

A backlash?

It is clear that the “strategy of tension” is supposed to force certain decisions, either at the government level or in

popular opinion. But the viciousness of the attack may be causing an unexpected backlash. Already several political forces have started a public debate in the press and in the Parliament on the idea that there is an Anglo-American plot behind the destabilization of Italy, quoting from *EIR* and other publications of Lyndon LaRouche’s international movement.

LaRouche pointed out in his weekly radio broadcast, “*EIR* Talks with Lyndon LaRouche,” on June 2, that some sources in Italy have attributed the destabilization to the Freemasons. Referring to a secret meeting that took place on June 2, 1992 on the British royal yacht *Britannia*, LaRouche said, “It is understood throughout Italy that the country is facing destruction steered by those forces which were represented on that *Britannia* yacht meeting.” The *Britannia* meeting, which was attended by top Italian financial operatives and others, launched a strategy of privatizing Italy’s state-run industries.

A reflection of such an understanding could be seen in the May 30 editorial of the newspaper *L’Unità*, organ of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the main opposition party. Entitled “Berlin-Rome, the Bomb Axis,” the article traced a connection between the recent terrorist destabilizations of Italy and Germany (with reference to the arson attack in Solingen, Germany on May 29). Wrote author Angelo Bolaffi, “It is as if in Italy and Germany a desperate attempt is under way to prevent those two countries from finally achieving a *normality* of their own, to maintain them, instead, in the precarious condition of border provinces, unstable and potentially unaccountable.”

Investigative hypotheses

Nobody believes anymore that it is “just the Mafia” that is behind the bombings. After an eight-hour meeting with prosecutors from Florence, Rome, and Palermo, Interior Minister Nicola Mancino declared: “I do not exclude connections to occult structures. I am thinking about underground powers like the P-2 [the outlawed Propaganda-2 freemasonic lodge], which has deep roots in Tuscany.” Florence prosecutor Vigna and others made a comparison with the train bombing that killed 15 persons and wounded 267 on the Milan-

The global adversary

Lyndon LaRouche made these remarks on May 31:

What is being said in some of the Italian press in exposing matters which should have been exposed 15 years ago or earlier, is very useful and very helpful in mobilizing at least part of the shocked Italian population to realize that it is five minutes or one minute before midnight for the very existence of the Italian nation.

Although we must concentrate on the Italian situation as such, we must look at Italy as being a victim of a process which is much broader. We must go back into the 19th century, we must understand that the forces directed by Lord Palmerston through such Palmerston assets as Giuseppe Mazzini tried also, in a sense, to destroy Italy; and if they could not destroy it, to control as much as possible the formation of a united Italy under the House of Savoy. We remember the end of the war, when the Americans in the OSS and others, in the name of opposing the return of the House of Savoy, were duped into a policy associated with a friend of a fellow whom I used to call "Dopio" Croce or "Maladepto Dopio" Croce because of his Hegelian and similar kinds of history.

Palmerston and the Freemasons

What we are dealing with is what is known generically as the Versailles System and its Yalta and New Yalta successors. Now these were actually designed on behalf of a faction in Britain which is known historically as the Venetian party, that is, of the heirs of Paolo Sarpi's faction, which is the British imperial faction against which the American Revolution was fought, for example. This Venetian faction is otherwise known as the British imperial faction of which Lord Palmerston, during the middle of the 19th century, was a leading representative. If one traces the development of freemasonic organizations in the United States, in France, in Italy, and so forth during the period of Palmerston, one has a very good handle on what the problem is today.

One should also look at the phenomenon in France called the Entente Cordiale, whose roots lie in such locations as Lord Palmerston's enthroning the man who became Napoleon III in the presidency of France. Actually, the French government under Napoleon III, Napoleon le Petit, was the first Entente Cordiale. An Entente Cordiale, permit me to say so, is a French catamite submitting to a British imperial sodomite.

The progeny of this miscegenation of the British Scottish Rite with the French catamites is called Grand Orient and it is known by the same name in Italy. This is very close to another branch of British intelligence, the freemasonic organization of so-called Jewish designation—but it is not Jew-

Naples route in 1984. The main fugitive from that case is Friedrich Schaudinn, a German-Serbian weapons dealer who is now hiding out in former Yugoslavia. According to journalist Gianni Cipriani, one of Italy's most experienced researchers into terrorism, Schaudinn is being protected by networks controlled by members of the P-2 lodge.

The P-2 connection does not exclude the Anglo-American angle; indeed, it amounts to the same thing. The P-2 was a secret lodge controlling, at one point, all of Italy's secret services and military leadership, on behalf of American freemasonic networks represented by persons like Henry Kissinger and Michael Ledeen. The P-2 has been dismantled, but many Italian leaders believe that the American control over the Italian secret services, especially the military SISMI, still exists. It was no coincidence that after the Florence bombing, somebody decided to make public a classified speech given by former President Francesco Cossiga three months ago before a parliamentary committee, in which Cossiga revealed that the SISMI has always acted on American orders and gave orders to the Italian government, rather than doing its bidding.

Three hypotheses are officially being put forward as to who is responsible for the Florence bombing, and what their motivations might be: 1) the Mafia and the P-2, reacting to recent successful anti-Mafia operations; 2) the Serbians, who want to prevent a NATO or American military intervention from Italian bases; 3) financial circles interested in collapsing the Italian economy.

The last hypothesis, which might seem the most far-fetched, is not really so. Certainly the terrorism works, at one level, as an economic attack, scaring tourists away at the opening of the summer season. This affects one of Italy's most important sources of revenue, aggravating the crisis surrounding the public deficit, which has already led to the collapse of the lira and to a loss of Italy's credibility in the financial markets. Supporting this thesis is Massimo Pini, adviser to former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. In an interview in the daily *La Stampa*, he said on May 29: "I received a phone call from Americans who told me: Now you cannot sell your companies at the same price as yesterday, otherwise we will go to France, where it is safer, to buy."

But the attack against Italy operates at several levels, and it certainly includes Italy's role in the Balkans. Many have pointed to the fact that Serbian officials have repeatedly threatened Italy with terrorism, should Italy decide to supply bases for a military intervention against the Belgrade regime. Two days after the Florence bombing, it was made known that a commando squad of mercenaries had stopped an Italian aid convoy in Bosnia and brutally executed three members of the expedition. Then, on June 2, a gunboat of the Serbian-Montenegrin Navy shot, without warning, at an Italian fishing boat inside Italian territorial waters, killing a fisherman. The Italian government reacted by putting the Navy on alert, and is preparing to strengthen air defenses by leasing American F-15s or F-16s.