

and particularly the most vulnerable ones: our children," the king said. "This drama must be totally clarified, along with its origins and its ramifications." Such statements that clearly exceeded the king's constitutional status, which obliges him to refrain from interference in political affairs.

The strength of the protests forced Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene to meet with the victims' parents after the demonstration. He promised definite measures to clean out what everybody calls the "pornocracy." The parliament felt compelled to finally agree to a reform of the judicial system, to make it independent.

### Bring morality back into politics

This scandal hits a people who have already suffered much at the hands of the politicians. The government has imposed draconian austerity measures, and still unemployment is rising. At the beginning of this year, the parliament handed over emergency powers to the government, in a desperate attempt to meet the European Union's Maastricht Treaty criteria, at any price. One newspaper quoted a trade union representative at Volkswagen, Brussels, as saying: "We are totally fed up with people in high places telling us what is good and what is bad for us, whether it be the high court, or the people who tell us our salaries are too high and that we should join the single currency."

People are standing up against these policies, across ethnic and national borders. Three weeks ago, British papers were gloating that this scandal would finally tear the country apart, which has always been divided along ethnic lines between Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia. Exactly the opposite happened. In their grievance and anger, people closed ranks against corruption and political incompetence. "We are one country and are standing up for one cause," was one of the slogans at the march. People are asserting a "common humanity that has risen above the squalid deals of a political class that has failed the nation," the London *Times* admitted on Oct. 21. "Belgian society remains steeped in the precepts of mainstream Roman Catholicism. Last weekend, those moral certainties challenged the political establishment to live up to its responsibilities."

Strikes, demonstrations, and protests continued throughout the week after the march. The scandal around the pedophile ring was just the detonator, which sparked the widespread anger and frustration about the economic and political situation. As the mother of one of the missing children said at the "White March": "We owe a lot to these dead children, for a new force is born, thanks to them."

That force wants to put morality back on the agenda; the movement is carried by moral principles, for humanity and justice. The Belgians are discovering the power of the people, or, as one marcher said: "It is as if we were waking up from a bad dream. . . . It is urgent to put morality back in the running of this country."

## Italian prosecutors close in on 'new P-2'

by Claudio Celani

The Sept. 15 arrest of Lorenzo Necci, general manager of Italy's national railway company, is threatening Italy with consequences which observers describe as potentially more devastating than the 1993 "Tangentopoli" corruption scandals that rocked the country's post-war political system. The scandals have had the immediate effect of jeopardizing Italy's largest infrastructure project. But there is more to it than that.

Necci was the architect of a 36,000-billion lira plan for high-speed railway construction, which had just started to be implemented. The project consists of east-west routes, from Turin to Venice, which would be connected to the French high-speed network and to the central and eastern European networks through new tunnels under the Alps. A north-south line would stretch from Milan to Naples. Although the project has some critical weaknesses, especially in its financing, Necci worked for five years to rationalize the structure of the national railway company, Ferrovie dello Stato (FS), and the project finally did get under way. Work began on the Rome-Naples, Milan-Bologna, and Florence-Bologna lines, all involving the largest private and state-owned construction companies, such as FIAT, ENI, and IRI.

The whole project is now thrown into doubt, even if the government did quickly replace Necci as president of the FS, and Transport Minister Claudio Burlando stated that the work will not be interrupted. But the prosecutors who arrested Necci and are keeping him in jail, are focussing on a suspected system of illegal bribes which involves all contractors for the Alta Velocità project. Therefore, developments in the investigation could easily block the project.

Also targeted for investigation is Public Works Minister Antonio Di Pietro, the former "Operation Clean Hands" prosecutor, who had just announced a vast program for building and upgrading highways, aqueducts, and roads, especially in southern Italy. Di Pietro was apparently supporting construction of the famous "Messina Bridge," to connect Sicily to the mainland.

All these infrastructural projects had been attacked by radical ecologists, such as Environment Minister Edo Ronchi, and by Treasury Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who

was unwilling to finance them. Strong opposition came from the European Commission as well, which is pressuring Italy to comply with the Maastricht Treaty's "criteria" of budget balancing.

All the pressures notwithstanding, the economic and social situation in the country, above all the high unemployment (more than 20% in southern Italy), had pushed the investment plans ahead. Now, the new scandals have changed the picture.

The representative of a parliamentary faction whom this author met at the beginning of October in Rome, described the situation: "Here, everybody is afraid of being arrested the next day." Real issues, such as the economy or international strategy, are being set aside until the issue of survival is solved. "Our priorities are: first, to avoid getting arrested; second, to implement, quickly, an institutional reform limiting judicial power against political power [again, avoiding getting arrested]; and third, the economy."

### **The institutional conflict**

A number of parliamentary forces believe that the Italian judiciary—a completely independent body, which, has no elected representatives—has gone out of control. This faction insists that, if they are not stopped, the "Party of the Prosecutors" (*Partito dei Giudici*) will make the Italian political landscape into scorched earth, to the advantage of such Jacobin forces as the Northern League.

The opposite faction, which ardently desires to put a majority of Parliament in jail, insists that corruption is real and has to be eradicated; that the prosecutors are just doing their job.

Both factions are right, in a way. Therefore, the institutional conflict is getting worse and worse, and apparently the only solution, is for one institutional grouping to destroy the other. The real solution, however, can come only if the fundamental hypothesis underlying the current political process is changed.

For instance, there is no longer a figure around of the stature of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democratic statesman who was kidnapped and killed by the Red Brigades, under orders from Henry Kissinger, in 1978. Moro, before being killed, had successfully defused what he correctly perceived as a scandal campaign engineered by U.S. State Department circles, centered around revelations about bribes coming from the Lockheed Corp., and aimed at destroying Moro's party. It is not important here to discuss whether Moro or his colleagues took the bribes. What is relevant is that Moro understood that the attack was directed against the political system itself, and reacted with a famous speech in Parliament, in which he declared: "We will not let ourselves be put on trial." Moro could act that way, not only because of his known moral integrity, but because he represented a "political hypothesis" of national sovereignty, on the basis of which he could rally

the support of both the government and the opposition, the famous "national unity" policy of which he was the undisputed leader.

Unfortunately, today there is no Moro around, and the political process is determined by paradigms ensuring the self-destruction of the system, such as world government, globalization, and privatization. In order to defend the political system from disintegration, one has first to believe that a political system is needed. But if you believe in the free market and world government, you do not need a political system; you just need technocrats.

### **The higher level**

Yet, the very investigation of Necci supplies a couple of leads that could turn the situation around. What is needed, is that investigators raise their attention to the higher levels, those "above politics"; if followed, such investigations take you outside of Italy. Indeed, the system of political corruption in post-war Italy was "built" by forces centered in the City of London, with the intention of, first, corroding the system from the inside; and second, of easily destroying it, when the time were right, with well-steered scandals. These are the same forces which are today pushing deregulation, the free market, and privatization.

Lorenzo Necci is connected to two key figures: banker Francesco "Chicchi" Pacini Battaglia; and a U.S. citizen named Enzo De Chiara, named by investigators as the head of "the new Propaganda-2" (from the name of the famous secret P-2 masonic lodge discovered in 1981).

"Chicchi" Pacini Battaglia was already identified in 1992 as the person who managed a system of bribes through his Swiss bank, Karfinco. Karfinco was founded in 1980, as a conduit through which money coming from the Italian state-owned company ENI could be used for bribes to political parties, especially the Christian Democrats (DC) and the Socialists (PSI). Strangely, Pacini Battaglia walked free, after being interrogated by prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, while hundreds of other politicians and business managers who had committed the same crime, were arrested and spent months in prison.

The reason that Pacini Battaglia was not arrested, has to do with the fact that the "Clean Hands" investigation was never supposed to destroy the system of corruption itself, but only certain political parties. The system of corruption had to stay, in order to control the next phase.

Pacini Battaglia inherited a system built by British agent Eugenio Cefis in 1963, after Enrico Mattei, the founder of Italy's national oil company ENI, was assassinated. Cefis reversed Mattei's policy of national independence and Third World development, and started to build a network of Swiss subsidiaries of ENI, in partnership with the Union Bank of Switzerland, in order to operate out of the control of Italian authorities.

Cefis left ENI in 1975, but after his retirement, the front line was taken by Florio Fiorini, who was financial director of ENI until 1980, and later by Pacini Battaglia.

### The old P-2

The system of political corruption was officially elaborated by Licio Gelli, the head of the P-2 lodge, in his "Plan for a Democratic Renewal," found in the possession of Gelli's daughter on July 14, 1981. In January of that year, investigators had seized a partial list of 900 members of the secret freemasonic lodge, which included all the heads of the Armed Forces, police, and secret services, as well as top bankers, businessmen, and politicians from all the "anti-communist" parties. Gelli's Plan describes corruption as a way of steering political parties, trade unions, and the mass media, from the outside. Complementing the Plan is a "Memorandum on the Italian Political Situation," which states bluntly: "It is good to add, in conclusion, that if, to reach our aims, it were necessary to insert oneself . . . in case we had necessary funds, amounting to 10 billion liras . . . in the current DC membership system, to buy up the party, it would be necessary to do it without hesitating, with cold Machiavellianism."

Pacini Battaglia, as well as his predecessor Florio Fiorini (who ran ENI's illegal bribe system from 1970 to 1980), have worked in close connection with P-2 members.

The P-2 was officially a "pro-American" organization, but in reality it obeyed the Grand Mother Lodge in London. Two parliamentary investigating committees established a central role of the P-2 organization in all major terrorist and destabilizing events in Italy's recent history. For instance, Moro's assassination was possible, because the P-2 controlled all police and secret services structures, as well as the leadership of the terrorist Red Brigades.

Members of the P-2, like former secret services number-two man Gianadelio Maletti, have been found perpetrating a coverup of the 1980 terrorist bombing of the Bologna train station. Today, Maletti is in South Africa, dealing with the weapons traffic.

South Africa is the base of "Operation Longreach" which, according to recent revelations, was used to assassinate Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986. One of the operation's leaders, Craig Williamson, was an employee of Giovanni Mario Ricci, connected to the P-2, and a partner of Francesco Pazienza, a P-2 member well introduced into the Bush administration.

The P-2 involvement in the assassination of Palme had already emerged, in a phone call between P-2 head Licio Gelli and Philip Guarino, a top member of the U.S. Republican Party, a few days before the murder. Guarino told Gelli: "The Swedish tree will be felled, tell our good friend Bush" (Palme is referred to as "Palm tree").

Guarino, Gelli and Pazienza were guests at the inauguration of the Reagan-Bush Presidency in 1981. The P-2 organi-

zation had played a major role in that election campaign, by engineering the "Billygate" scandal against Jimmy Carter. Eventually, the P-2 network was used as a channel for the arms delivery to Iran, after the Paris negotiations between U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and the ayatollahs.

### The new P-2

The P-2 was officially disbanded in 1981, but, according to investigators, it recycled itself through other freemasonic lodges, and has kept operating. The head of the "new P-2" is, according to Aosta prosecutor Davide Monti, Enzo De Chiara, a U.S. citizen and foreign policy adviser to the Republican Party and a friend of George Bush, Sen. Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and Bob Dole. There is an arrest warrant out for De Chiara from Italian authorities, on charges of "conspiracy" and "secret association."

Investigators discovered that in the spring of 1994, De Chiara organized the participation of the separatist Northern League in the government led by Silvio Berlusconi. In a meeting with, among others, De Chiara, Northern League leader Umberto Bossi, and national police chief Vincenzo Parisi, it was decided that the Interior Ministry (which oversees both the police and the internal secret services) be given to Northern League representative Roberto Maroni.

Another participant in that meeting was separatist activist and financial swindler Gianmario Ferramonti, who was arrested last spring because of his involvement in a \$13 billion money-laundering ring. The mastermind of the operation, according to investigators, was De Chiara. The ring apparently also involved former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's law firm in Houston, and a Nicaraguan banker with ties both to Contra and Sandinista circles, Alvaro Robelo.

Robelo, through the Rome branch of his Banco de Centro America e de Italia, issued false certificates which allowed Ferramonti to get credits from Swiss banks. The credits were used, according to investigators, to launder dirty money. The same people tried to sell old German Weimar bonds to the Russian government, at a discount price. Russia, in turn, used them at face value to pay outstanding debt to the German government. The Baker law firm had been contacted to provide expertise in the bonds. The scheme was discovered, before it could be implemented.

With Robelo, the circle of the "new P-2" is closing in on George Bush and Oliver North's "drugs for weapons" operation in Central America. An investigation into De Chiara's friends in Washington could therefore not only support Italian prosecutors in clarifying who is pulling the strings of the Italian destabilization, but could also help uncover who destabilized America through the spreading of crack-cocaine in the streets of Los Angeles.

In both cases, the question "*cui bono?*" is answered: the London-centered oligarchy, working to destroy nation-states in favor of world government.