

The first option, a legal crackdown, is also dictated by security considerations. The League is in fact developing into a sort of “legal arm” of a proto-terrorist operation which made its debut last May 8, when an armed commando unit calling itself *Veneto Serenissima Armata*, occupied the belltower in St. Mark’s Square, in Venice. The *Serenissimi* have been arrested and sentenced, but public opinion was shocked in discovering the dimension of popular support they received in the Veneto region.

A secret service report which was transmitted by the government to Parliament on July 13, indicated that the May 8 episode was not an isolated one, but was followed by several threats issued to prosecutors and police, demonstrating “a dangerous parceling out of radical secessionist circles.” “Such a phenomenon,” the report warns, “if further fed by

aggressive tones and intolerant attitudes [by Bossi], could produce emulations . . . especially if coinciding with significant events or political deadlines.” The report warns against chain-reaction processes in other parts of Italy, where some factions have long “pushed for separatist demands.” The implicit reference is to Sicily, and the warning has acquired renewed importance, because on Sept. 4, Liga Veneta leader Fabrizio Comencini made public statements in support of the Mafia. In defiance of historical reality, Comencini declared that the Mafia was “born after 1860 . . . as a just reaction of defense against the national state, an invader and a repressive one.” Comencini is a former neo-fascist, who turned to the League in 1992.

Despite the threat of a Northern Ireland-like scenario, adversaries of the crackdown claim that such an option would

Italian media follow EIR in exposing secession plot

On Aug. 30, several prominent Italian dailies, including La Nazione, Il Giorno, and Il Resto del Carlino, quoted EIR’s exposé of Britain’s Prince Philip, former U.S. President George Bush, and Alfred H. Heineken’s involvement in inspiring Umberto Bossi and his Northern League, and the plot to create a secessionist state of “Padania.” The article, based on EIR material, was entitled “Who Created a Europe of Many Padanias?” and was written by Giorgio Zicari.

Florence’s La Nazione headlined its coverage, “Bossi Is a Cheater, His State Belongs to Bush,” and added the kicker: “Secession, Padania . . . Bossi May Have ‘Stolen’ the Idea from a Friend of the Former President.” Bologna’s Il Resto del Carlino headlined its coverage: “Revelations—in 1992 Bush ‘Invented’ Padania. What If Bossi Just Copied Everything?” Milan’s Il Giorno, which also ran the story, is owned by the national oil company, ENI. These three dailies sell around 700,000 copies; approximately 1-2% of the population of Italy bought a paper with the EIR story. The article by Zicari follows:

The split-up of the country with the political and administrative division between North and South, the creation of Padania . . . are not ideas springing from the head of Umberto Bossi, but rather it is a much broader project, born outside Italian borders and involving the whole of Europe. This is what has been reported by the *EIR Strategic Alert*, a weekly newsletter published by *Executive Intelligence Review*, an international news agency, often quoted by U.S. media.

This source says that Bossi’s ideas are nothing but a “recipe” earlier prepared by a study group around Alfred H. Heineken, head of the Anglo-Dutch multinational, a friend and adviser of former President George Bush.

Heineken, according to the same source, “belongs to the most exclusive circles of the international oligarchy, being a member of the 1001 Club of Prince Philip and advocates publicly the necessity for substituting for today’s nations, small entities dominated by a world imperial government.”

In the 1960s, according to the news agency, one of the employees of Heineken was Maj. Louis Mortimer Bloomfield, head of a company whose name popped out in the context of the investigations on the assassination of John Kennedy.

The newsletter states that already in 1992—the year in which “Operation Clean Hands” started in Italy—Heineken published a project called “Eurotopia” in which he proposed to divide Europe into 72 mini-states, according to ethnic and demographic criteria. These are exactly the same criteria on which the political projects and the propaganda of the leader of the Northern League, are based. Each state should have, according to Heineken, a population no greater than to 5-10 million inhabitants.

The agency [*EIR*] says that in 1992, then-U.S. President George Bush “approved the project, thinking that it was innovative and interesting.” Two years later, the Italian part of the Heineken plan—which included the creation of an independent state in Northern Italy—“was taken up, almost as a xerox copy by the League leader, Francesco Speroni. . . .”

The main inspirer of the Heineken plan was the late British historian Cyril Northcote Parkinson, who was a “British intelligence agent.” . . .