

Sheikh Amed Yassin, a leader of Hamas, the main Palestinian Islamic movement, told Reuters, "We don't know who carried it out. Maybe they were Jewish extremists who want to push Jews to more extremism." And PA peace negotiator Hassan Asfour said, "It is not unusual for Netanyahu's government to blame everything on Palestinians and the Arab world to hide its failure in the peace process."

In the south, contingencies for possible war with Egypt are being planned out. This, despite the fact that Israel and Egypt have had normalized relations for almost two decades. Egypt is also a close ally of the United States, receiving the largest amount of U.S. foreign aid after Israel. Israeli war planners envision the possibility that Egypt could decide to intervene in either of the first two war scenarios, turning the conflict into a general Middle East war.

Netanyahu's strategic miscalculation

In commenting on these plans, Oren warns of the danger of serious miscalculation on the part of the military leadership and Netanyahu's government. He points out that the "new generation of soldiers and officers" does not have battle experience, as did the generation of officers who fought the October 1973 war. Oren admits that that earlier generation lacked the wisdom to prevent the so-called Yom Kippur War, but they at least had the capability to hold the line militarily until an international political settlement could be reached. The lack of battlefield competence among the new IDF generation, Oren says, makes the "lack of wisdom" to prevent a war even more potentially catastrophic.

Oren singles out Mofaz as a man who is seriously lacking in that wisdom. Oren points out that Mofaz was the commander of the Army division in 1994 that was "responsible for the slip-ups that enabled Baruch Goldstein to carry out mass murder," killing 50 at a Hebron mosque. Even more important, Oren writes, Mofaz, who, everyone knows, owes his career to Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, is incapable of politically influencing the government to prevent war.

As a nuclear power, any miscalculation in the conventional battlefield could lead to the introduction of nuclear weapons. Up until now, Israel has maintained what it calls "strategic vagueness," refusing to confirm or deny that it has nuclear weapons. But now, there are indications that this approach is being reassessed. In a recent workshop on Israeli security held under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense, Gen. Yitzhak Ben-Yisrael, head of the Armaments Research and Development Department, said that "if Israel's defense doctrine is deterrence, you can't deter anyone except by showing him your capability." He added that Israel "is not interested in announcing what we have because information like this feeds the public's fantasy about what we have." Nonetheless, according to a report in *Ha'aretz*, he said that this policy is now being reappraised, and that, although deterrence continues to be Israel's strategy, the development of a preemptive strike capability is also important.

Italy remoralized by McDade-Murtha victory

by Umberto Pascali

The McDade-Murtha "Citizens Protection Act," passed as an appropriations amendment by the U.S. House of Representatives on Aug. 5, is rapidly becoming a household word in Italy. From the beginning, many Italian leaders have closely watched the bipartisan fight waged by Reps. Joseph McDade (R-Pa.) and John Murtha (D-Pa.) and the LaRouche movement against the Department of Justice (DOJ) permanent bureaucracy and Kenneth Starr's assault on the U.S. Presidency. Over the last five years, Italy has been similarly hit by the "Clean Hands" operation, which has decapitated the country of its leadership. Operation Clean Hands is connected to Prince Philip's Transparency International, which includes "former" International Monetary Fund and World Bank executives, and collaborates closely with IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and World Bank President Sir James Wolfensohn. Its mission is to use corruption scandals to shred the fabric of a target nation's institutions (see *EIR*, Aug. 7, 1998).

The overwhelming vote (345-82) to pass the McDade-Murtha provisions has begun to remoralize those Italian forces who had been smashed by the "Clean Hands" magistrates. "If the U.S. can rebel against these pseudo-legal persecutions, so could we," said one Italian observer. A leading daily, Milan's *Il Giornale*, has launched an all-out campaign, including the publication of interviews with co-sponsors Murtha and McDade (see *Documentation*).

"It is lawful," *Il Giornale* wrote, "to find in Starr's doggedness, suggestive parallels with the methods that certain magistrates in Italy have used and still are using against political leaders. . . . Starr tried constantly to violate the principle of attorney-client confidentiality. He behaved like the captain in the *Caine Mutiny* who went insane. . . . What creates alarm (and the parallel with Italy also emerges, naturally) is that a man like Kenneth Starr suffers from a common disease, that is, the increasingly frequent criminalization of political debate."

Il Giornale underlines the connection between the supporters of the magistrate in the "Clean Hands" team — mainly the Milan State Attorney's office led by Saverio Borrelli — and politicians who gained from the "elimination by scandal" of the previous political leadership. *Il Giornale* points especially to Deputy Prime Minister Walter Veltroni, a key leader of the PDS (the former Italian Communist Party). Veltroni has organized official and confidential meetings with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, to set up a "Third Way" Interna-

tional. On Sept. 21, Blair, Prime Minister Romano Prodi, U.S. President Clinton, and Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson will address a conference at New York University Law School intended to launch the “Third Way.” A debate over this new post-Communist International is raging in Italy, even among Veltroni’s party colleagues. The way Prodi put it to PDS political secretary Massimo D’Alema, is that the “Third Way” political movement aims to “globalize politics after globalizing the economy.”

Il Giornale demonstrates the complementarity between the Clean Hands legal intimidation and the emergence of the “Third Way.” The daily brandished the McDade-Murtha victory to tell the friends of Blair and Veltroni that the opponents of Clean Hands have allies, i.e., that U.S. Democrats and Republicans are indeed in revolt against the abuses of the DOJ bureaucracy. The front-page headline on Aug. 11 mocked the Third Way crowd in Europe: “In the U.S., the Allies of Blair and Veltroni Came to a Decision. . . . U.S. Democrats Vote to Establish a Committee to Protect Citizens against Prosecutorial Abuse.”

Moreover, Clean Hands opponents have side-stepped a trap set for them by George Bush ally Michael Ledeen. Ledeen, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Europe, had advised his Italian conservative contacts — many of them victims of Clean Hands — to treat the operation as purely a local Italian phenomenon. As *Il Giornale*’s coverage of McDade-Murtha shows, that advice has been rejected. After all, as one source noted, it was Ledeen who, in July 1995, introduced Clean Hands prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro to the United States. Di Pietro was forced to resign for accepting bribes and “favors.” In order to obtain immunity, Di Pietro ran for the Senate on the PDS slate, whence he has since created a radical Jacobin movement.

Documentation

The United States says ‘Enough!’

Il Giornale interviewed U.S. Representatives McDade and Murtha in its Aug. 12 issue.

“Murtha: ‘We want to protect our citizens against prosecutorial abuses!’ The United States says ‘Enough!’ to the ‘storm trooper’ prosecutors. 200 members of Congress have already signed the proposal of a committee to oversee the attorneys’ offices.

“The America of the Democrats, which is liked so much by Vice Premier Walter Veltroni, and by the ‘Olive Tree’ [government coalition] crowd here in Italy, is creating an instrument for keeping under control the excessive zeal and the frequent violations of some of the U.S. prosecutors. We

have found Democratic Congressman John Murtha, one of the two legislators who presented to the Congress the proposed law for stopping the ‘storm trooper’ prosecutors.

“‘We do not want to gag our prosecutors,’ he says; ‘on the contrary, we want to institute an ad hoc commission, bipartisan, half of whose members should be appointed by the White House, and the other half by the Congress, so that our citizens might be guaranteed and protected, against the abuses of the prosecutors, which — if you go by the latest statistics — are growing every day. . . . It will put curbs on those Attorneys General and prosecutors who use the methods of persecution, who start with the person to get to the crime, who do not respect the rights of the citizens. It will be an instrument that will subject to scrutiny, those prosecutors who operate outside the law. . . . The commission will have the job of examining whether the prosecutors give their instructions with the aim of persecution, whether there be procedural abuses with respect to the grand jury. Starr is not the only one, unfortunately, in the U.S.A., to reveal secrets of his office, to certain friendly press, to strike home at the White House, in this war, by now personal, which is taking place in our country, in the face of incalculable risks. This, by now, is a habit of many prosecutors, who assault the people they are investigating, in order to impress public opinion and popular juries. . . .’

“Republican Joseph McDade explains: ‘We need at least another ten signers in order to set up a Control Commission over those prosecutors who abuse their powers. I don’t know the Italian problem, nor the one that concerns the leader of your opposition, who . . . seems to be being subjected to a certain ferocity at the hands of Italian prosecutors. . . . My personal case is emblematic of the reason why certain prosecutors have to be curbed. In 1992, I was accused of corruption, I was accused of having obtained illegal contributions for financing my electoral campaign. I had to resign from my position as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee; my name was covered with mud by the usual “attack” prosecutor who wanted to give himself some publicity, using my case so that he could become a judge. Then, two years later, I was tried and cleared on all counts.’ ”

On Aug. 11, Il Giornale Washington correspondent Alberto Pasolini Zanelli wrote:

“Many see in the Clinton/Starr case only the most Boccaccio-like aspects. . . . In reality what is at stake is much more of the personal case, even of a President. This could become one of the ‘battlefields’ of the counterattack launched by many sectors of U.S. society, in particular the Congress, and the political world against a situation that leads to disequilibrium. . . . The [McDade-Murtha] bill demands simply that the rules established for U.S. lawyers be also applied to prosecutors, including those who work for the DOJ, and the special prosecutors. . . . The oversight committee should check whether the attorney offices’ conduct . . . ‘selective investigation’ . . . prosecutorial attitude, grand jury abuse. . . . As one can see, this is exactly what some prosecutors in Italy are accused of.”