

Cossiga: The comeback of the 'Pick-Axer'

Francesco Cossiga's biography could be taken out of Francesco De Roberto's *I Vicere*, a novel describing the career of an ambitious Sicilian prince. Cossiga is no prince, although his family is among the "notables" of the Sardinian city of Sassari. Cossiga, from a family of Freemasons and Jacobins, followers of Giuseppe Mazzini, is the first "Catholic" member of his family (an adaptation to the times). He grew up under the patronage of Antonio Segni, a major landowner and an associate, during his youth, of pro-British fascist leader Dino Grandi. When the Christian Democratic Party was founded, Segni joined it and became one of its national leaders.

In 1962, Segni was elected President, and took with him the young Cossiga, who became his liaison with Secret Services head General De Lorenzo. A few months later, the great nationalist leader Enrico Mattei was killed, and a cover-up was organized by De Lorenzo's people.

From that point on, Cossiga's biography parallels the major mysteries of Italian politics, culminating in his role during the 1978 kidnapping and assassination of Aldo Moro by the terrorist Red Brigades. Moro was eliminated under orders of Henry Kissinger, who wanted to stop Moro's project for national unity. A faction of the Italian elite, to which Cossiga belonged, made sure that Kissinger's orders were executed. Cossiga was Interior Minister, and therefore head of the police, prior to and during the kidnapping. Three months before the kidnapping, in the midst of a terrorist emergency, Cossiga dissolved the anti-terrorist police, under cover of reforming the Secret Services. When Moro was kidnapped, on March 16, 1978,

Italian police and intelligence services were hamstrung, thanks to Cossiga's reform. While Moro was held captive, Cossiga centralized investigations in "crisis management committees," whose members, it was later discovered, were all adherents of the secret Propaganda 2 freemasonic lodge.

Cossiga resigned after Moro was killed, on May 9, 1978. But one year later, he became Prime Minister, leading a coalition which overturned Moro's policies.

In 1985, Cossiga was elected Italian President. During his mandate, a secret NATO organization, called "Gladio," which is accused of playing a destabilizing role, was uncovered. Cossiga declared that he personally, as state secretary, presided over its founding. The PCI, the largest opposition party, called for Cossiga's impeachment, but the initiative was unsuccessful. In 1989, Cossiga resigned as a member of the Christian Democratic Party and started a movement to demolish the constitutional party system, which he called a "*cosa nostra*" system. Cossiga's campaign was the signal for the Clean Hands operation and the electoral growth of the separatist movement, the Northern League. Before the end of his mandate, in 1992, Cossiga resigned in order to provoke an institutional crisis and prevent a representative of the party system from being elected.

Cossiga has been characterized by Margaret Thatcher as "my preferred Italian politician." Cossiga is an admirer of British liberalism, and frequently visits the U.K. He has confessed admiration for Cardinal John Henry Newman, the founder of Dublin University and of modern British Catholicism.

Cossiga is a psychiatric case, in the true sense of the word. Like his hero Newman, he suffers manic-depressive cycles, which require psychiatric and pharmaceutical treatment. When he gets manic, nobody can control him.

finance . . . looked pretty disoriented and divided. . . . Taking that and the monstrosity of financial excesses into account, as well as the fact that this crisis is hitting a global economy, the most credible consequence is: Let's prepare for the worst."

According to *EIR* sources, De Benedetti's belated warnings have created a shock in political circles, and especially in the Parliament's Finance Committee. These circles have already acknowledged the correctness of *EIR*'s analyses and the decisive role played by *EIR* and the LaRouche movement, which first exposed the *Britannia* plot, and, since then, have consistently provided leadership.

Once the decision to dump the technocratic experiment was taken, the question became to choose the easiest alternative, in terms of a political projection of the new consensus

reached among the elites. The choice of D'Alema fit the demand. D'Alema is the secretary general of the Democratic Left (DS, the former Communist Party), the largest party in the "Olive Tree" coalition that brought Prodi to power, through election victory, in 1996. However, due to pre-election agreements, the DS in the Prodi government was represented by the leader of the pro-technocratic faction, Walter Veltroni, and the composition of the whole Prodi cabinet reflected such a compromise, with a dominating presence of two former central bankers and a majority of non-elected representatives of the "permanent bureaucracy." Thus, once the government crisis was opened, and after Prodi failed in the attempt to rescue his majority, the natural candidate to succeed him would be D'Alema.

Once D'Alema received a mandate, it was clear that the