

A Profile of Gelli And the P-2 Lodge

We reprint here an excerpt from “Gelli ‘Comeback’ Exposes Synarchists, But Threatens To Destabilize Italy,” in EIR Oct. 17, 2003.

In his youth, “puppet-master” Licio Gelli was a member of the Fascist Party and participated in the Spanish Civil War on the side of the Falangists. After Sept. 8, 1943, he joined Mussolini’s separatist Italian Social Republic and founded a party section in the city of Pistoia, working as a military officer in connection with the SS. Soon after, however, he established contacts with factions in the Resistance, and participated in a military action against the German occupation forces.

Later, in 1950, a report sent by American Embassy sources to Italian intelligence characterized Gelli as a Communist International agent. Thus, he fits the profile of those characterized as “nazi-communists” or “Synarchists” in wartime American intelligence files. These files described a conspiracy to establish Falangist-type regimes in continental Europe and Great Britain in the period immediately preceding World War II.

Gelli was picked up, with hundreds of “former” fascist military, intelligence, and police officials, by James J. Angleton’s CIA, and recycled into the “anti-communist” government security structures of post-war Italy. . . .

Gelli was mandated by his international masters to create the P-2 project in 1965. He was introduced into Italian Freemasonry and in a few years became head of the P-2 secret lodge, supported by Grand Orient leaders Salvini and Gamberini. Gelli enrolled an incredibly large section of the national anti-communist elite, especially military and intelligence officials, but also politicians, bankers, and corporate leaders.

The P-2 also has affiliates abroad, especially in South America. It met strong opposition within Freemasonry; anti-P-2 factions tried to stop Gelli by publishing leaks on his Fascist past, and his Cominform ties. But Gelli’s backing was too powerful, and with dossiers on everybody, he silenced the opposition.

In 1976, the P-2 strategy shifted after general elections saw an impressive advance of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) to 32% of the votes, only one point behind the ruling Christian Democratic Party (DC). Furthermore, Christian Democrat Aldo Moro’s strategy of breaking the PCI from Moscow and involving it in a pro-Western national coalition government, was proving successful. Gelli’s masters now tasked P-2 to conquer government centers of power and promote key institutional reforms, according to the guidelines described in a paper entitled “Plan for a Democratic Rebirth.”

On Feb. 16, 1978, Aldo Moro was kidnapped (and killed three months later) by the terrorist Red Brigades. . . . Henry Kissinger’s two-year-old threat, that Moro’s attempt to nationalize the PCI “would have a bad end,” was realized.

When the list of the members of the P-2 Lodge was

discovered in 1981, Italians learned that the heads of *all* of the agencies which were supposed to find Moro's prison and arrest the terrorists, were P-2 members. The Lodge's *international* connections were merely indicated by the documented association between Michael Ledeen—a leading U.S. neo-conservative today with the American Enterprise Institute—and the P-2-controlled leadership of the SISMI military intelligence service. Francesco Cossiga, then minister of police, was Gelli's good friend.

Despite his resignation after Moro's death, Cossiga became Prime Minister two years later, and Italy's President in 1985. In 1991, he launched a populist "anti-corruption, anti-organized crime" campaign against his own party, the DC; this was the starting point of the "Clean Hands" investigations and purges which dissolved all the post-war political parties and let new, populist parties fill the gap: the neo-fascist MSI (now the "post-fascist" Alleanza Nazionale); Berlusconi's new Forza Italia; and the chauvinist Lega Nord.

In an interview with *La Repubblica*, on Sept. 28, 2003, Gelli said about Moro: "I went to Moro to present my credentials, when I was the consul for a South American country. He told me: You come in the name of a dictatorship, but Italy is a democracy. He explained to me that democracy is like a bean soup: To cook them, you must be very patient. I answered: Take care that your beans are not left without water, Signor Ministro." The threat is clear, not only against Berlusconi, Fini, and Bossi, whom he named, but also others in the opposition, and Italian leaders opposing Cheney's gang's policies: You can end up as Moro did.—*Claudio Celani*