

## PCI SHUDDERS IN WAKE OF BRESCIA BOMBING

May 31 (IPS) — The time-bomb planted by the fascist "Black Order," which killed six persons and injured 94 May 28 during an anti-fascist rally in Brescia, fulfilled a precise function in Rockefeller's strategy against the working class in Italy. As "Black" CIA puppets grabbed headlines away from their "Red" Brigade brothers, the lurid details of the new massacre blurred all class and political distinctions, leaving the population with a single horrifying image of senseless chaos. "Italia dilaniata!" cried liberal daily *La Stampa*, using the same adjective which describes the torn corpse of a bombing victim. The social order is being dismembered; the parties are corrupt, the State is impotent; the magistracy, police and Parliament claw each other in public.

Every postwar institution of bourgeois democracy in Italy — represented by the antifascist popular front — is literally blowing up in the face of the working class. In the place of those institutions, three alternatives are now being set before Italian workers whose pent-up anger was catalyzed by the outrage in Brescia.

### Three Alternatives

The Communist leadership of the largest trade-union confederation, the CGIL, split this past week over two opposing strategies: one, represented by the leaders of the metalworkers and textile unions, is programless "intransigent opposition" to the Rumor government. The other, put forward by the confederation bureaucracy calls for joining in the administration of austerity in return for certain "trade-offs" — the latest version of PCI hysterical compromise.

Both of these strategies were hatched inside the narrow nationalist ideology manipulated by Rockefeller's CIA technicians especially tailored to the Italian ideology with its dual pathology of belltower-chauvinism and anarcho-syndicalist impotence.

### An Open Secret

NATO/CIA orchestration of fascist terrorism in Italy is an open secret. Since January, when the left-liberal press began selectively blowing the details of the fascist-lunatic "points of the Compass" plot, it has been known that this particular scenario was written in the NATO psychological-warfare office in Verona. One protagonist in the Compass affair, Guido Giannettini, is a CIA agent in Italy's CIA-controlled military intelligence (SID). The "Black Order" or "Year Zero" which claimed victory for the Brescia massacre, is tied to the "Compass" through the MSI, the parliamentary fascist party. Less widely known but readily demonstrated by evidence in the public domain are the connections between "red" terrorists and their checkerboard counterparts, the neo-Nazis.

As IPS and *New Solidarity* have shown, they all spring from a common source. The now casual phrase for the

terrorist pattern in Italy is "strategy of tension"; it is now commonplace for the press and politicians at least to *imply* that the "strategy of tension" comes from the CIA. The message to the population is simple: *You can't do a damn thing about it.*

### The Reality

Indeed, without the intervention of the European Labour Committees, even the impressive capacity of working-class organizations in Italy to mobilize millions of workers would be utterly ineffectual in this period. The reaction to the Brescia affair is a case in point. Within hours after the bombing, workers throughout the country were pouring into the streets, organizing spontaneous marches and assemblies. The three labor confederations, CGIL-CISL-UIL, hastily called a four-hour general strike for May 29, coinciding with national strikes of teachers and school employees. While the party and union leaders launched pleas to the "forces of order" to repress fascism, the forces of order (i.e. the police and Carabinieri) were occupied in defending MSI local offices in every major city from the attacks of enraged leftists youths!

Like these anarchistic youths, the leaders of the metal and textile workers in the CGIL who are calling for militant struggle on a *national* basis are sacrificing the defense of the working class to the fantasies of Italian "pappagalismo." The reality is that Italy, with a trade deficit of \$1.2 billion for April alone, *cannot meet its current payroll!* Immediately, the payrolls of the entire public hospital sector and some major cities including Rome cannot be met. Officially, two million workers have lost their jobs in the last four months. As long as the trade unions refuse to raise the question of overthrowing capitalism, wage cuts are inevitable.

### Lama's Belltower

The "realist" Lama, head of the CP-dominated CGIL, recognizes this fact. According to *La Stampa* May 28, where the plan is virtually endorsed editorially, Lama favors an "emergency government" composed of all the parliamentary parties from the Liberals to the Communists, but excluding the MSI. Such a government would only last long enough for the trade unions and the Communist Party of Italy (PCI) to discredit themselves by enforcing brutal austerity, before turning over a leaderless working class to military fascist rule.

### Fascist Replay

Pathologically bent on defending his own belltower, Lama declared last week that the unions would not defend the white-collar workers. They are "expendable" because they are nonproductive. Lama's strategy, if carried out, would permit the unions to be picked off one by one, as sector after sector becomes nonessential. The abandoned public employees would be organized by the fascists, in a tragic replay of the 1920-22 period.