

FACTS BEHIND TERRORISM

Italy's Socialist Party is linked to terrorist Red Brigades

Antiterrorist officials investigating the murder of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro have announced a "profound reconsideration" of the case following their questioning of top leaders of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) over their contacts with known terrorists involved in the Moro killing. Most important of those who have been questioned thus far is Bettino Craxi, general secretary of the PSI, who has been heralded by the *New York Times* as their candidate to head the next government of Italy.

It was revealed yesterday that not only did Craxi and PSI Vice-Secretary Claudio Signorile meet with Pace, a Red Brigade terrorist who is charged with *direct participation* in the Moro murder, but a letter from jailed terrorist mastermind Toni Negri states that it was Bettino Craxi who pushed Negri to contact Moro's wife on April 30, 1978 to tell her that time was running out on meeting the Red Brigade's demands.

These new revelations follow a series of exposés in the past few weeks in the Italian press which have rocked the Italian political scene. According to stories appearing in press throughout Italy—*Corriere della Sera*, the Italian Communist Party's *L'Unita*, and *La Repubblica*—other top leaders in the Italian Socialist Party are *evidentiarly* linked to Red Brigade controllers.

Last week it was learned that a Roman magistrate investigating the Moro murder had obtained

information from wire-taps linking PSI parliamentarian leaders Giacomo Mancini and Antonio Landolfi to the financing of a magazine run by Franco Piperno. Piperno, the still-at-large member of the trio accused of masterminding the Moro kidnapping and assassination and the partner of Padua University Professor Antonio Negri, who is currently in prison awaiting trial for the crime, published the *Autonomi* magazine, *Metropoli*. Another member of the *Metropoli* editorial board is Oreste Scalzone, another "brain" behind the Moro murder, who is also in jail with Negri.

The evidence showing *Metropoli* as a center of terrorist control is accumulating daily as the investigation continues. On May 29, two Red Brigades suspects, Adriana Faranda and Valerio Morucci were arrested at the Rome apartment of Giuliana Conforto, an instructor at the University of Costenza in Calabria which was founded by Mancini. Conforto told police she was housing the two terrorists at the behest of Piperno.

The last issue of *Metropoli*, confiscated by the police, carried an article by Piperno titled "The Sooner they Pay"—a hit list which targeted several judges who were investigating the *Autonomi*. The names, addresses, descriptions, schedules, and favorite restaurants of the judges were found in the personal files of Faranda and Morucci. Furthermore, ballistic experts have since identified the

'Skorpion' machine pistol found with Morucci as the one used to murder Moro's five-man bodyguard during the kidnapping and later to murder Moro himself.

PSI leader Riccardo Lombardi's top protégé, vice-secretary of the PSI Claudio Signorile, contacted Piperno as part of the PSI's effort to pressure the Andreotti government to comply with the Red Brigades demands for negotiations toward an "exchange of political prisoners."

The tightening police dragnet around the PSI is confirming allegations made by the European Labor Party in Italy over one year ago to the effect that to stop terrorism in Italy, investigations to find the actual terrorists must begin with the PSI controllers at the top. By applying this method, investigators have uncovered first the *Autonomi* "controllers" and now their contacts in the PSI.

Also under investigation is the financing behind Piperno's "research center." According to *L'Unita*, money was coming from Formet, a company linked to the Cassa per Il Mezzogiorno, an operation masterminded by PSI leader Giacomo Mancini and FIAT magnate Gianni Agnelli.

While the investigation tightens around the PSI, the Committee Against Repression in Italy, headed by Negri collaborator Sylvia Frederici held its second press conference at New York University in New York on June 28. Frederici was accompanied by Negri's attorney Bruno Leuzzi-Siniscalchi who is in the U.S. filing a legal suit to block collaboration between Italian magistrates and Dr. Oscar Tosi, a U.S. expert on voice identification. The committee bitterly denounced the Andreotti government for placing the PSI parliamentarians under suspicion of terrorist connections.

—Michele Steinberg