

Report from Rome by Antonio Gaspari

Greens defend toxic-waste dumpers

Socialists, Communists, and even Greenpeace have lined up to defend the toxic waste dumping company Jelly Wax.

Italy's "garbage scandal," the swindle by which phantom companies, contracted to process toxic wastes, instead sent the waste to open dumps in Eastern Europe and the Third World, has brought to light the collusion of the political "ecology" movement with organized crime, in a massive pattern of pollution of the world environment.

Small toxic waste-conversion companies born out of nothing, with hefty political support, have obtained huge orders. Once the money was pocketed, these companies, aided by characters with criminal records and by corrupt government officials in various parts of the world, have discharged tons of industrial, chemical, and pharmaceutical wastes into open-air dumps with no safety measures in Nigeria, Venezuela, Romania, East Germany, and Lebanon.

Despite the enormous threat to human beings and the environment, the so-called ecologist groups have taken great pains *not* to denounce the companies responsible for these disasters, and in some cases have lined up in their defense. None of the politicians or public officials who have intervened into the debate has asked how these spook companies came to receive such huge amounts of money, while the same funds could have been used to build the needed purification and reprocessing plants.

Take the case of Jelly Wax, a small firm based in Opera, Province of Milan, with a reported annual turnover of a mere 7 billion liras (about \$5.1 million), and a little office with two secretaries. In May 1987, in accord with the Venezuelan Company Inversiones Ileadil, Jelly Wax contracted to de-

stroy 2,147 tons of wastes, which were loaded onto the ship Lynx at the port of Carrara, and destined for Puerto Cabello, Venezuela.

Last fall, the Venezuelan government turned back the poisonous cargo, and the drums of refuse are now on the Syrian boat Zanoobia, which is docked like an enormous garbage barge. The Italian government will have to resolve the reprocessing job eluded by Jelly Wax, at the cost of some 4 billion liras (about \$2.9 million).

Inversiones Ileadil had been created in Venezuela at the end of 1986 by Luciano Miccichè from Agrigento (Sicily), and one Manuel Felipe Tirado Lara, with only 1 million liras' capital (about \$720). Both are now sought by international police. Miccichè is thought to be in Panama, headquarters of another company, Mercantil Lempport, which was paid 740 million liras (about \$.5 million) by Jelly Wax to melt down the toxic wastes.

Was Jelly Wax the naive victim of a swindle? Given its personnel, this seems unlikely. The manager, Renato Pent, is indicted in a Turin oil scandal. Pent's brother-in-law owns Ecolibarna, another waste-processing company which swindled its customers two years ago.

Another Jelly Wax operation involves 2,411 tons of industrial waste of various kinds dumped from the Czech ship Radhost on the beaches near Beirut. Jelly Wax claims it turned the waste over to Adonis Productions Engineering of Beirut, which apparently does not exist. So the Lebanese government is sending these 2,411 tons of refuse right back to Italy.

The same story goes for the waste dumped in Nigeria, which set off a diplomatic incident. Again it was a cargo dispatched by Jelly Wax, together with Ecomar Servizi of Leghorn.

These disasters seem not to have touched Jelly Wax's credibility, above all with Communist, Socialist, and Green Party administrators. In November 1985, three municipalities in the Province of Milan—Locate, Triulzi, and Opera—organized a conference, sponsored by Luigi Randi, the Socialist environment commissioner for Locate, his Socialist counterpart for Opera, and the Province of Milan's Socialist environment commissioner. The conference was entitled, "How to Melt Down the Sludge Produced by the Water Purifier South of Milan." The main report was delivered by Jelly Wax, which had already received the region's go-ahead to process 7,000 cubic meters of exhaust oils.

Out of this confab came a company called Sud milanese, Società d'intervento SpA, which was supposed to melt down the sludge. This new company is semi-public and semi-private. Jelly Wax holds 50% of the capital; its president is Socialist environment commissioner of Locate, Luigi Randi.

Jelly Wax's network of friends is impressive. In February 1985, Jelly Wax helped sponsor a meeting organized by the Center for Research into the Economy and Environment (CREA) on the topic "Lead in Gasoline and Automotive Wastes." CREA is directed by Vera Squarcialupi, a Communist member of the European Parliament.

Despite Jelly Wax's multiple contributions to polluting the planet, it has been defended by none other than Greenpeace, which is convinced that all responsibility rests on the Syrian company that owns the Zanoobia!