

International Intelligence

Prosecutors ask life in prison for Andreotti

On May 7, Italian prosecutors demanded a life sentence for former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who is being tried in Perugia for allegedly ordering the 1980 assassination of journalist Mino Pecorelli.

The prosecution in Perugia and another in Palermo, where Andreotti is charged with being the "political" head of the Sicilian mafia, and where prosecutors are asking for a 15-year sentence, bear the pawprints of the U.S. Department of Justice permanent bureaucracy: Both trials are constructed from a chain of evidence based on statements by Tommaso Buscetta, a "former" mafia member who is in the Federal Witness Protection Program in the United States. Buscetta has been "worked" by former U.S. Attorney Richard Martin.

The prosecutors' demand has split Italy's political world in two. Andreotti is now 80, and has served several times as Prime Minister. His prosecution has become a symbolic trial against the Christian Democratic Party, of which he was the last prestigious leader. The party dissolved in 1993, under the combined pressure of Britain's "Clean Hands" anti-corruption witch-hunt and the Andreotti case. He is currently a member of the Senate, and publishes *30 Giorni* magazine. He still plays a major role in Italian politics, especially in foreign affairs. Recently, he campaigned against the NATO attack to Yugoslavia and against the new NATO doctrine.

Netanyahu orders PLO Jerusalem office closed

In apparent response to the decision of the Palestinian Authority *not* to declare a Palestinian state on May 5, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the shutdown of the Palestine Liberation Organization's East Jerusalem office, Orient House. Moving quickly to prevent an explosion, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Edward Walker persuaded Israeli Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to wait 24 hours before enforcing the closure. An embassy spokes-

man said, "The Americans are also concerned about the potential for flare-ups at the Orient House, and call for the parties to display restraint."

On May 11, the Israeli Supreme Court issued an injunction against the closure, at the instance of an Israeli pro-peace organization, which had argued that the order was an election ploy by Netanyahu. The Shin Bet domestic security agency had warned that closing Orient House could spark riots in Jerusalem and throughout the West Bank.

The PA announced its decision to put off declaring a Palestinian state until July, after Israel's elections on May 17. According to a PA statement, the decision was taken after a request by President Bill Clinton was sent to PA President Yasser Arafat. According to the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, Clinton's letter proclaims that "the Palestinians should live free today, tomorrow and forever." He continued, "The objective of the negotiating process is the implementation of UN Security Resolutions 242 and 338, including land for peace, and all other agreements under the Oslo process. . . . The U.S. knows how destructive settlement activities, land confiscations, and house demolitions are to the pursuit of the Palestinian-Israeli peace." This is the first time the United States has referred to Jewish settlements as "destructive." Notwithstanding, shortly after ordering the closure of Orient House, Netanyahu's government issued a permit for the construction of 800 more homes on disputed land.

Brits come out with new 'lone terrorist' model

Britain's International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) issued a report in early May claiming that a major terrorist threat comes from disaffected individuals with access to weapons of mass destruction. The report apparently does not mention that, of the 30 terrorist groups on the U.S. State Department's watch list, over 20 have major offices or headquarters in Great Britain.

The report asserts that these lone terrorists "are more likely to use chemical or biological weapons and to cause destruction on a larger scale than their politically motivated

counterparts and are therefore more dangerous." Although the report admits such weapons would be difficult to acquire, it contends that "a threat that causes great concern and which would mark a distinct change is the possibility that these terrorists could acquire nuclear weapons which they might not hesitate to use."

"The new terrorists," the report contends, "are driven by religious or millenarian beliefs, by motives such as revenge and punishment or by single issues. To the extent that they are religious in orientation, they are clearly less political than their predecessors." These terrorists "are more likely to be more indiscriminate and more lethal than the old. Some are more sophisticated in technological, operational and other terms than earlier terrorists, and more capable of conducting operations at great distances."

Libya's peace offensive working in East Africa

The secretary general of Eritrea's ruling People's Front for Democracy and Justice, Amin Muhammad Said, visited Libya to "consolidate the general cooperation agreement that was signed last year between the party and the Libyan Revolutionary Movement," according to the *Addis Tribune* of May 9. Also in the delegation was Muhammad Ali Jabrah, head of the Eritrean party's foreign affairs division.

On May 7, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin returned from a trip to Libya, where, according to the Ethiopian News Agency, "conducive situations are being created to further consolidate the existing relations between Ethiopia and Libya." Before that, a Libyan envoy had discussed the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi in Addis Abeba. Libya remains officially neutral in the war, although its ties to Eritrea are closer.

The same week, Sudan opened up direct airline routes between Khartoum and Tripoli. On May 2, Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi had met in Tripoli with Sudanese opposition leader Sadiq al-Mahdi, after the latter's meeting in Geneva with Sudan National Assembly Speaker Hassan al-Turabi.