
ITALY

The Italian P-2 Socialists launch a counteroffensive against the judiciary

by Umberto Pascali, Rome correspondent

Bettino Craxi, the head of the Italian Socialist Party, stood up in the Italian Parliament in mid-July and delivered a violent attack against Pier Luigi dell'Osso, one of Italy's most active prosecutor-judges. Craxi charged that dell'Osso, who is known for his courageous investigations into the drug mafia, was directly responsible for the suicide of Luciano Rossi, an official of the Italian Finance Police.

Luciano Rossi was the key witness against Licio Gelli, Grand Master of the P-2 Masonic lodge that was caught plotting the fascist overthrow of the Italian republic in late May. The publication of the list of high-level members of Gelli's "lodge" toppled the Forlani government and implicated, among others, several leaders of Craxi's Socialist Party.

Now Craxi and the other P-2 tainted politicians are on the counteroffensive, demanding the destruction of the independence of the Italian magistracy, the national network of prosecutor-judges who have been seeking to put all the fascist plotters behind bars. In mid-July Craxi and Social Democratic Party head Pietro Longo—whose name appeared on the P-2 list—led the assault on the magistrates with the battle-cry "Stop the witch-hunt." Among those political leaders who joined the call for an immediate halt to investigations was Flaminio Piccoli, the secretary of the Christian Democratic Party. Piccoli said in the Chamber of Deputies that the magistrates investigating P-2 are not objective, are too quick in issuing arrest warrants, and are de facto working on behalf of the "communists."

Craxi had already advanced his plan to put the magistracy "under control" during the Socialist Party congress in Palermo in late April. Although the P-2 list was still secret at the time, Craxi's right-hand man Claudio Martelli was already under investigation for corruption. According to reports in the Italian press, Martelli (and Craxi himself) allegedly received a \$7 million bribe through the P-2-linked Swiss bank, Union des Banques Suisses.

The campaign against "communist magistrates" has now been taken up with a vengeance by the Italian press controlled by P-2 forces—i.e. of the press. News

on the investigations began to disappear from front pages, displaced by mud-slinging against the judges. The weekly *Europeo*, whose publisher is P-2 member Angelo Rizzoli, ran a cover illustration representing Communist Party Secretary Enrico Berlinguer dressed as a judge. Inside long articles on the "misdeeds" of the magistrates—who are in fact mostly conservatives—were illustrated by cartoons of Berlinguer winding up the keys of small puppet-judges.

The aggression became so violent that the magistrates of Milan, the ones attacked by Craxi, wrote a letter to Italy's President Sandro Pertini denouncing the campaign organized to "block the investigations" and threatening to resign en masse. In an interview with the daily *La Repubblica*, Judge dell'Osso blasted the socialist maneuver, asserting that "if the proposal to put the magistrates under political control passes, this will be a very unhappy day for Italian democracy and the beginning of a new dark age."

Dell'Osso is the judge who directed the raids on four heroin-refining laboratories in Italy reported on by Colonel Rossi in a speech he gave at an Antidrug Coalition conference earlier this year. The P-2 probes have already shown that Gelli's lodge is *identical* with the international drug cartel and its financial apparatus.

Coverup of NATO role

The rapidity of the P-2 coverup is given away by the behavior of the West German press. For the first time since the scandal exploded, it has received major coverage in West Germany. The *Bayernkurier*, controlled by Gelli's crony Franz-Josef Strauss, and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* jumped like hungry dogs on the issue of "stopping the communist judges." Before this campaign opened, all mention of the involvement of former NATO commander and present U.S. Secretary of State Gen. Alexander Haig, has disappeared from the media. This despite the fact that documents "marked with the name of Haig" had been found in Gelli's villa, and the new documents found in the false-bottom suitcase of Gelli's daughter, who was arrested July 5 at the Rome airport, included a description of a

destabilization plan organized by NATO.

According to reports in *Corriere della Sera* and other papers, that plan is a guideline for profiling and manipulating terrorist groups to destabilize governments not liked by the NATO leadership.

In Maria Grazia Gelli's suitcase, the magistrates also found documents about the Socialist State Industries Minister, Gianni De Michelis. De Michelis, according to these papers, has been involved in financial crimes with his brother-in-law, Count Barnabò, a Venetian nobleman believed to be hiding in Latin America because of his role in helping one of the top neofascists involved in the 1969 Milan Bank of Agriculture bombing massacre.

De Michelis and his Venetian oligarch friends have also been linked to "red" terrorism. The Socialist minister sponsored the early career of Prof. Toni Negri, the head of the Autonomi who was jailed for masterminding the Aldo Moro murder at the hands of the Red Brigades. The first left subversive magazine in Italy was launched by the De Michelis family publishing house in the 1960s.

But the arrogance of the Socialists has no limits. After the documents on his crimes had already been sequestered, De Michelis—engaged in the new Spadolini government's campaign to cut the cost of living escalator and impose tens of thousand of layoffs in the public industries—accused the unions opposing his austerity of being communist and "terrorist."

The strategy of crushing the labor organizations, the principal task of the Spadolini government, is parallel to the efforts to cover up the P-2 scandal. In fact, despite the investigations, the only real obstacle the P-2 forces now encounter is the trade unions. Once the cut in the cost of living escalator is imposed, nothing can block the successive destruction of the unions, and no force will be able to oppose the plan to "restructure" the Italian economy, as follows.

According to the Spadolini-De Michelis plans, the whole economy will be put in the hands of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Banca Commerciale, and the Monte dei Paschi under the supervision of the British-controlled Bank of Italy (see Economics). These are the banks of P-2!

The recent crash of the Milan stock market is part of this plan. The crash was provoked directly by the Venetian financial interests represented by Cesare Merzagora, the former Senate president and the boss of the powerful Assicurazioni Generali insurance conglomerate. Merzagora and his oligarchical owners have already succeeded in changing the law under which banks cannot intervene in buying shares of industries. If this project goes on, in a short time Merzagora's crowd will be able to buy up the entire economy at half-price and kill the industries they don't find "useful."

FRANCE

Mitterrand clinches national socialism

by Dana Sloan

Two months into François Mitterrand's seven-year term as president of the French Republic, a series of dramatic shifts is taking place in the country's policies and institutional structures. Unchecked, they will mean the end of the French Republic.

This should not be taken as a warning that concerns the much-publicized participation of four Communist Party members in the new government. France's drift toward "1984" stems from the person of Mitterrand himself. Mitterrand was described to *EIR* sources, some years ago, by a senior member of the French ruling elite, as one of the very few leading French politicians who had any grasp of world strategic realities. In his case, this means a knowledge and commitment to the zero-technological-growth, "world federalist" order that is the near-term strategic objective of the Venice and London-centered "old families" which expended so much effort over the past decade to bring him to power. Mitterrand was put into power with aid of massive funding from Qaddafi's Venetian colony of Libya, and British intelligence rigging of the French elections.

If Mitterrand has any commitment to "French" interests, it is not to the nation-state rebuilt by de Gaulle, but to the subservient role of a revived "French Empire" within the world empire of the Venice-London forces.

Mitterrand was a Nazi collaborator, receiving the highest decorations of the Vichy government. By D-Day, he had placed himself at the service of British intelligence. During the Fourth Republic, he held various ministerial posts, advocated French prosecution of the Indochinese and Algerian wars, and demanded French subservience to NATO. With de Gaulle's restoration of France, Mitterrand became his most vocal and venomous political opponent, not ending his denunciations of de Gaulle, "the dictator," until the great general's retirement. He built his Socialist Party on the strength of the *sans-culottes* "spirit of May 1968," and continuous campaigning for the destruction of the institutions, the industrial capabilities and the nation-building foreign policy of Fifth Republic governments. Mitterrand personally is described by leading circles today as a dictatorial Robes-