

A Roy Cohn link to the Dalla Chiesa murder?

by Marilyn James

On Sept. 3 in Palermo, Sicily Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, his wife and driver were killed by a team of mafiosi. At the time of his murder, the General was investigating the interconnections among left and right terrorists, the drug trade, the mafia and their political backers. Ironically, his death resulted in the granting of extraordinary investigative powers to his successor, Emmanuele de Francesco; it is generally believed that had Rome given Dalla Chiesa such authority when he had demanded it, he would be alive today.

In early October, the Palermo magistrates ordered the arrest of Nicola Alvaro who they suspect was one of the hitmen, and issued an arrest warrant for fugitive mafia "Don" Benedetto Santapaola, the man believed to have ordered Dalla Chiesa's murder. A fugitive since June 16 when he killed rival mafia "Don" Alfio Ferlito and his three police escorts, Alvaro, while maintaining his innocence, has remained faithful to the mafia code of silence; however, Italian authorities believe the General's hit was linked to ongoing gang warfare to wrest control of the lucrative heroin and cocaine trade from the "old mafia." The emerging *nuove famiglie* (new families) encompass the *cosche* of Palermo, Catania, Reggio Calabria and Naples. The Neapolitan group is collectively known as the Camorra, while the southern Italian clans are called *n'Drangheta*.

According to the Oct. 7 Italian daily *La Repubblica*, Alvaro is believed to function as a "pa mafioso" promoting peace among the *cosche* through a refined division of labor. The *n'Drangheta* has since the early 1970s had a monopoly on the "Anonima Sequestri" or kidnapping machine, which they share with the terrorists, splitting the profits 50-50. *Investigative Leads* investigators in Italy report that the "nuove famiglie" have a lock on the cocaine trade and direct access to the poppy fields of the Mideast's "Golden Crescent." The latter may be a lead as to the point of supply for the Russian-made Kalaschnikov weapons.

Interrogations of Alvaro provided evidence of a strong relationship—by blood and marriage—between the *nuove famiglie* and the Montreal, Canada crime syndicate led by "Don" Vincent Cotroni and Paola Violi.

The Cotroni-Violi group along with the Meyer Lansky-controlled Santo Trafficante gang in Florida were the main entry points for the "French Connection." According to authorities in Quebec, who worked with the Crime Commission

there, the Cotroni-Violi group is now a "protectorate" of the New York-New Jersey-based Gambino family.

Since the early 1970s, the Gambino clan has made a systematic bid for control of the illegal drug trade. Sicilian Tommaso Buscetta, a leading *nuove famiglie* man, is believed to have engineered the takeover of the South American end of the French Connection that was run by Auguste Ricord. In 1972 Buscetta and Carlo Zippo, another Gambino emissary, discussed "reorganization" with members of the Ricord gang in Rio. By November, all the Ricord gang were behind bars. Similarly, a recent series of major heroin busts in Milan and Palermo has revealed that leading chemists from the old French connection are now working for the Gambinos. The murders of mafia "Dons" Carmine Galante and Angelo Bruno left the Gambino family in a strong position vis-à-vis Atlantic City, N.J. casinos and the multi-billion dollar heroin trade.

The Gambino family appears to have been chosen as the pointmen in the United States because of their political connections to the Sicilian separatist movement headed by Michele Papa, based in Catania, Sicily. Papa, a central figure in the "Billygate" scandal, was also the liaison between the Separatists and their key funder, Libyan dictator Qaddafi. This association provided the mafia access to both left and right wing terrorist organizations, controlled by the Black or Fascist International, such as the Red Brigades and the Ordine Nuovo. Ordine Nuovo terrorist Pierluigi Pagliai, recently arrested in Bolivia [story, page 8], apparently plugged into the South American network built in 1972 by Buscetta and Zippo, which is a crucial supply source in the cocaine pipeline.

The Gambinos' charmed existence in the U.S.—despite drug arrests and state investigations—is no doubt linked to their choice of attorney: Roy Marcus Cohn. Cohn is a close friend of the current U.S. Ambassador to Italy, Maxwell Rabb, who was involved in numerous businesses linked to Meyer Lansky. Well informed sources have stated that Cohn and mobster Joe Adonis (né Giuseppe Doto) were very close at one time and jointly used the services of the largest Italian daily in the United States, *Il Progresso*. The paper, founded by Generoso Pope, Sr., was heavily subsidized by ex-mafia "Don" Frank Costello. In spring 1981, the paper was bought into by Mario Pirri and his partner Count Carlo Caracciolo. Pirri allegedly was a go-between for the hashish trafficking Brotherhood of Eternal Love. Count Caracciolo owns the weekly, *L'Espresso*, cited in the recent Moro murder trial for maintaining suspiciously close relations with terrorists.

In October, Cohn and Rabb were indicated as participants in operations against the founding conference of the Club of Life in Rome, including the stripping of security for the Club's founders Lyndon and Helga LaRouche [story, page 28]. Gambino assets Anthony Doto (son of Giuseppe) and Dino DiMarco of the Montreal gang were cited by international security experts as possible hitmen against the LaRouches.