

Bettino Craxi's links to the mafia and terrorism

by Stefania Sacchi

On July 28, in a street in the Italian city of Palermo, Sicily, 100 kilos of dynamite exploded a FIAT 127 car parked a few steps away from the car of Judge Rocco Chinnici. Four people, including the Judge, were killed, and 15 passersby were wounded. Judge Chinnici was reportedly leading an investigation of 80 Italian politicians who, according to work previously done by Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the head of government antiterrorist forces assassinated in 1982, are active members of the Sicilian Mafia. Sources say the 80 politicians include former defense minister Attilio Ruffini and former Palermo mayor Vito Ciancimino, both close to the Fanfani wing of the Christian Democratic Party—the pro-Bettino Craxi wing. Amintore Fanfani, who preceded Craxi in office, is known for his pro-fascist tendencies and support for new prime minister Craxi, the first Socialist to take power in Italy since the fall of Mussolini in 1943.

The Palermo bombing should be considered the warning of what is to come under the Craxi government. As rightly expressed by Eugenio Scalfari, the director of *La Repubblica*, one of the most important Italian newspapers, Craxi's appointment represents not only a change in government, but a "change in regime. . . . Anyone who has not yet realized it, should reflect deeply."

Bettino Craxi, the strongman and capo of Italian politics, has finally realized his decade-long dream and become what will be remembered as the "second Mussolini." Like his predecessor, Craxi has attained this thanks to a combination of international forces which have their center in the Trilateral Commission and in the U.S. State Department, including people like the man accused of ordering Aldo Moro's murder,

former American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Craxi represents everything Kissinger has worked for since the beginning of his career. Kissinger wants to render the United States a captive nation of the supranational forces opposed to industrial development, whose goal is zero population growth to maintain the international financial power of a small elite of huge family *fondi*, or funds, and ready, in order to achieve such goals, to use terrorism, drugs, and political assassination.

Austerity, austerity

When the Trilateral Commission had its international congress last April at the Hilton Hotel in Rome, the case of Italy was brought forward by Italian industrialists and university professors, to impress on the minds of Trilateralists that a drastic change would be the only solution for the serious Italian crisis and at the same time making it clear that Italy could very well be used as a test-case for the diffusion of Trilateral ideas all over Europe.

Kissinger took up the task of the practical carrying out of the plan, and the day after the end of the Rome meeting, went to Milan and met Bettino Craxi in his office at Piazza del Duomo. Industrialist Gianni Agnelli had already given his blessing to the operation. Craxi was told by Henry Kissinger that he was to attack the Italian government, to provoke its fall, early elections, and a rapid implementation of the austerity measures demanded primarily by the Swiss banks. The best man to run a government to implement such austerity would be Craxi himself.

The program Craxi announced, even before he formed an

actual government, is a carbon copy of the policies of the supranational forces he represents. Total domestic austerity will be imposed on the population starting with an effective freeze on workers' wages. There will be little organized opposition: the trade unions had already stopped being effective last January, when a deal among industrialists, government, and trade unions reduced the strength of the cost of living escalator.

Craxi's proposal is to create a National Solidarity Fund built up with private and public industry shares and with sizeable deductions from workers' wages. This fund would make up for the loss of jobs by launching a pick and shovel program throughout the country for the unemployed. A drastic drop of public spending will create the necessary framework for realizing the program. On July 29, Craxi summoned Bruno Storti, chairman of the Consiglio Nazionale Economia e Lavoro (CNEL), the National Council on Economics and Labor, an entity founded after the war as a consulting body for the government, where industrialists, representatives of the state, and trade unions would work together. Storti and Craxi were reportedly instead trying to find a way to use the CNEL as a tool of social control.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Franco Modigliani will be called to Rome to be at the side of the prime minister as an economic adviser, representing Milton Friedman's Chicago School of Economics and the "technetronic society" advocates like industrialists Carlo De Benedetti and Bruno Visentini (who both favor the Communist Party, even though they belong to other political formations). Modigliani has already released his proposals in the pages of the last issue of *Espresso* magazine. In an interview he insisted that the best way to cut public spending is to cut social services, while fighting 16 percent annual inflation in the country, and freezing salaries for two years.

Modigliani's proposals are in tune with the early proposals of various economists of the Socialist Party of Italy, like Luigi De Marchi, who, during an interview with *EIR* in 1981, declared that Italy is overpopulated and by the year 2000 more than 40 million people (from a total population of less than 60 million) should be done away with. Implementing the social service cuts proposed by Modigliani would make this target easy to reach.

The second stated aim of the newly appointed prime minister is to get an agreement with Soviet "czar" Yuri Andropov: Craxi has declared he wants to meet Andropov very soon. It is easy to see in his move an attempt to delay the installation of the Euromissiles, while giving lip-service to the Americans on this subject.

How Craxi threatens the national security of Italy is probably best expressed by the enthusiastic welcome Craxi gave to the white book put out by the Radical Party of Marco Pannella, detailing the site of each single secret military installation and missile base in Italy, both of the Italian army

and of the United States. After the press conference where he presented his book, Pannella gave a copy of it to Craxi, who promised that the "actions of the Radical Party will be taken into consideration by the new government." It is not astounding, therefore, that the Radical Party has pledged its full support for the government, a move which follows the introduction of several former Radical Party candidates in the Socialist slates during the last election campaign.

But the most important facet of the "great reform" to be implemented by Bettino Craxi will be the institutional reforms, including several changes in the Italian post-war Constitution, the same Constitution which was originally made to ban forever the taking of power by any regroupment of the forces which brought Mussolini to power in 1922, and Europe and the world to war. Craxi's expressed aim is to give more power to the prime minister's office as first step, which will lead to other reforms, including that of the banking system, which would give a sort of dictatorial powers to the Bank of Italy. The Bank of Italy involvement in flight capital from Italy and in recycling of drug and weapon smuggling dirty money through Switzerland has been reported in *EIR*.

Why Craxi?

The personal profile of Craxi makes him an ideal candidate for filling the post of the strongman. The Trilateral Commission hopes that he will be able to use the same methods he has always used to make his lightning career: straightforward hooligan methods. His career actually started in the fact that he is the son of a socialist lawyer from Sicily, who became deputy prefect (the second-highest law enforcement post) of Milan under Socialist leader Riccardo Lombardi just after the war. Even in high school he is remembered for his frequent fist-fights with "opponents" and for his job as bouncer during political discussions. In the early 1950s he was a bully at the Milan State University. When only 23, he was made a member of the Central Committee of the Socialist party, being the protégé of Pietro Nenni, leader of the autonomous faction of the Socialist Party (PSI) (those who refused to merge with the Communist Party). Craxi went to Rome and soon became the number-two man in the faction. At the beginning of the 1970s he was elected a deputy to the national parliament but still remained in the shadows. But an article in *Time* magazine, in 1972, depicted Craxi as "one of the 40 most important people in Italy," at a time when he wasn't a nationally-known figure at home.

From the very beginning of his career in the party Craxi used hooligan methods, ruthlessly attacking political rivals, particularly Francesco De Martino and Giacomo Mancini, who in succession held the post of secretary-general. When De Martino's son was kidnapped, the leftist leader had to quit as secretary, leaving more maneuvering room to careerist Craxi. Some say that the kidnapping of De Martino's son was organized from inside the Socialist Party, using the Mafia

fringes in Calabria. Many point to Craxi, who profited the most from it, as the culprit. Finally, in 1976, during a famous party congress held at the Midas Hotel of Rome, Craxi became the secretary of the party. But the Christian Democrats and the Communists were implementing the "national solidarity" government, and there was no place for a so-called third force, a "socialist centralism," as Craxi himself called his plans for total hegemony in the Italian political scene.

In 1978 the real nature of Craxi's leadership came into the open. During the kidnapping and the murder of Christian Democratic party chairman Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades terrorists, Craxi invented the "party of negotiation" line. This program was counterposed to the no-deals line of the Italian government and of Pope Paul VI, and was intended to bring the Red Brigades leaders into direct talks with the government and recognize them as a legitimate political force. Craxi was working in tandem with Henry Kissinger, who had several times threatened the life of Aldo Moro, as he had done with Pakistani premier Ali Bhutto who was hanged by current dictator Zia ul-Haq in 1979. Kissinger threatened both politicians for the same reason: Both wanted the development of nuclear power in their countries.

The "negotiation" line helped Craxi to strengthen his personal power inside the party. Slowly but steadily, Craxi paved his way in the Socialist Party to becoming a full-fledged dictator: the same method he is using in national politics now.

Destabilization: the PSI's password

Becoming the "party of negotiation" during the kidnapping of Aldo Moro is a very good example of the modus operandi of the Socialist Party: *Metropoli*, the magazine which represented the Red Brigades line at that time, was financed by Socialist senator Antonio Landolfi and by Socialist deputy Giacomo Mancini, both accused by the Italian magistracy of the crime of "building an armed gang," but not prosecuted because of their parliamentary immunity. The center of the Red Brigades in France is the language school Hyperion, identified by various law enforcement agencies as the headquarters of terrorism in France. Hyperion is led by the fugitive Red Brigades leader Simioni, who was, together with Craxi, leader of the Federazione Giovanile Socialista Italiana in Milan (the youth organization of the Socialist Party) during the 1960s.

Now, with the uncovering of the "Bulgarian connection" in the context of the international drug/weapons smuggling from Eastern Europe to Italy, the network which also ran the attempted assassination against Pope John Paul II in 1981, two trade unionists, Luigi Scricciolo and Paola Elia, both working in the international secretariat of the UIL trade union, led by Giorgio Benvenuto, who is close to Craxi, have been implicated in the investigation. Judges Imposimato and Priore, the same judges who issued the subpoena for Henry Kissinger to testify on the question of the assassination of

Aldo Moro in April 1983 (which Kissinger illegally evaded by hiding in the American Embassy) have decided to interrogate Irving Brown, following the testimony of Paola Elia and her husband Luigi Scricciolo, who was second in command in the UIL after Benvenuto.

The Mafia connection

The second important point to take into consideration when discussing the role of the PSI in trying to destroy the Italian republic is its links to the Meyer Lansky connected drug traffic. Socialist deputy Loris Fortuna, the lawyer of "instant banks" set up by London crime king Luigi Torri in London beginning in 1974 to launder drug money overnight, was the first to call for the legalization of "soft" drugs in 1974. Torri became known in 1962, for his involvement in the notorious "Number One" Rome night club cocaine smuggling scandal. The names of FIAT owner Gianni Agnelli and of former Bank of Italy Governor Guido Carli have also come up in the same scandal.

The Socialist establishment in Milan has been historically connected to, if not created by, the drug Mafia through the connection to Joe Adonis, responsible for having brought the drug network of Meyer Lansky to Italy after the war. Adonis, through mafioso Italo Ialongo, maintained direct and continuous contact with former Milan mayor Aldo Aniasi (notorious for having, as Health Minister, legalized the public distribution of methadone, or synthetic heroin, in August 1980). Craxi's power base is still in Milan, where he is said to own, through frontmen, one-third of the town, mainly restaurants and entertainment buildings.

A third very important point to analyze is the PSI's defense policy. Socialist defense minister Lelio Lagorio is responsible for plans to transform the Italian army into, on the one hand, an army for "city-control," with normal soldiers having the status of disaster fighters—a social control force under the newly created "Ministry for Civil Protection." The other part of the army is supposed to become an elite of well-trained special corps, which could be deployed all over the Mediterranean area and Europe. Discussions are already in progress as to whether to send Italian troops to Bavaria, in support of Franz-Josef Strauss's *Mittleuropa* project (see article, page 37). This would include having American troops leave Europe, and removing Europe from American influence and moving it politically closer to Moscow.

In conclusion, the appointment of Craxi and everything this has brought about can be considered the accomplishment of the schemes of the illegal Freemasonic Propaganda-2 Lodge of Licio Gelli and of its superior, the Montecarlo Committee, of which, according to published reports, Kissinger is also a member. Their plan, now largely implemented, was to bring Italy into a state of total chaos and confusion, where key Mafia assets could take direct power. Thus Italy, under Craxi, is becoming the wedge for Andropov's strategy for the conquest of Europe and the Mediterranean.