

‘Strategy of Tension’ 25 Years Ago, and Now

by Claudio Celani

Twenty-five years ago, on Aug. 2, 1980, a bomb went off in the Bologna central train station, provoking the largest massacre of innocent civilians in the history of Italian post-war terrorism. Along with terror incidents in Piazza Fontana (1969), Brescia, and the Italicus train (1974), Bologna has become the symbol of the so-called “Strategy of Tension”—the use of blind terrorism to create conditions for a reactionary shift in the government.

Investigations of the Bologna massacre have identified the perpetrators, neo-fascists Giusva Fioravanti and Francesca Mambro, and some of the higher circles involved in the coverup of the terror act. This has led to a conviction against Licio Gelli, grandmaster of the conspiratorial P-2 freemasonic Lodge, his buddy Francesco Pazienza, and three top officers of the Italian military secret police (SISMI), all members of P-2.

The investigations and the numerous trials concerning the Bologna massacre have cast light on how the secret P-2 association, a product of Anglo-American synarchist circles, has played a role in the coverup of the massacre, and in the destabilization of Italy. However, as Bologna mayor Sergio Cofferati stated in his speech for the 25th anniversary, “the string-pullers are still in the dark.”

On Aug. 2, 2005, thousands of citizens of Bologna gathered in a public ceremony to commemorate the victims, as they have every year since 1980. And as in every other year, the head of the association of families of the victims, and the Bologna mayor gave speeches calling for truth and justice, interrupted several times by applause. As every other year, the government representative was met by boos, usually directed by radical leftists.

But it is not only the radicals protesting. Informed Italians see that a powerful faction in government circles represents a continuity with those conspiratorial forces which have been involved in the coverup of the Bologna investigation. In this context, former Italian President Francesco Cossiga, as spokesman of that cover-up faction, intervened on the eve of the commemoration, to propose reopening the Bologna trials. “New evidence,” he said, would suggest that it was not Italian neo-fascists, but “Palestinian radical organizations” which planted the Bologna bomb in 1980.

This suggestion was rejected. The central issue of the

speeches in Bologna, this year, as every year, was the request that the government should lift the state embargo on intelligence papers concerning the 1980 massacre.

This year, the LaRouche movement in Italy intervened at the demonstration with a leaflet that was grabbed up like hot cakes by the participants. Entitled "Dick Cheney and George Shultz's New Strategy of Tension," the leaflet said: "After 25 years, many shadows still cover the massacre which we are today commemorating, as well as other massacres of the so-called Strategy of Tension. . . ." The leaflet explained how the strategic context is defined by the economic-financial crisis, in which the oligarchy and its servants, like Dick Cheney, want to maintain their imperial design known as "globalization." "The aim is to create false confrontations, in order to pull the strings from the outside and prevent any attempt to re-establish the sovereignty of modern nation-states."

Currently Cheney, like Hitler in his bunker, is planning a war against Iran, the leaflet stated. The LaRouche movement in the U.S.A., and in the world, is leading the fight to stop this

madness and bring about a reform of the world financial and economic system, called "the New Bretton Woods."

'Terror on Trains'

On Jan. 13, 1981, Italian police found a bag on the Taranto-Milan train, containing the same kind of explosive used in Bologna, along with two guns, ammunition, newspapers, and plane tickets, all pointing to French terrorist Raphael Lagrange and German terrorist Dimitris Martin. The head of the military intelligence services (SISMI) declared that it was a bonanza of forensic evidence to help find the Bologna perpetrators.

But in 1985, all this was discovered to be false: The bag had been planted on the train by two SISMI officials, under orders by SISMI head General Santovito and his "advisor" Francesco Pazienza. All four were members of the secret P-2 Lodge. The bag had the purpose of setting investigators on the track of "international terrorists," which led to Falangist circles in Lebanon, and of detouring them from a probe of P-2

A Profile of Gelli And the P-2 Lodge

We reprint here an excerpt from "Gelli 'Comeback' Exposes Synarchists, But Threatens To Destabilize Italy," in EIR Oct. 17, 2003.

In his youth, "puppet-master" Licio Gelli was a member of the Fascist Party and participated in the Spanish Civil War on the side of the Falangists. After Sept. 8, 1943, he joined Mussolini's separatist Italian Social Republic and founded a party section in the city of Pistoia, working as a military officer in connection with the SS. Soon after, however, he established contacts with factions in the Resistance, and participated in a military action against the German occupation forces.

Later, in 1950, a report sent by American Embassy sources to Italian intelligence characterized Gelli as a Communist International agent. Thus, he fits the profile of those characterized as "nazi-communists" or "Synarchists" in wartime American intelligence files. These files described a conspiracy to establish Falangist-type regimes in continental Europe and Great Britain in the period immediately preceding World War II.

Gelli was picked up, with hundreds of "former" fascist military, intelligence, and police officials, by James J. Angleton's CIA, and recycled into the "anti-communist" government security structures of post-war Italy. . . .

Gelli was mandated by his international masters to create the P-2 project in 1965. He was introduced into Italian Freemasonry and in a few years became head of the P-2 secret lodge, supported by Grand Orient leaders Salvini and Gamberini. Gelli enrolled an incredibly large section of the national anti-communist elite, especially military and intelligence officials, but also politicians, bankers, and corporate leaders.

The P-2 also has affiliates abroad, especially in South America. It met strong opposition within Freemasonry; anti-P-2 factions tried to stop Gelli by publishing leaks on his Fascist past, and his Cominform ties. But Gelli's backing was too powerful, and with dossiers on everybody, he silenced the opposition.

In 1976, the P-2 strategy shifted after general elections saw an impressive advance of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) to 32% of the votes, only one point behind the ruling Christian Democratic Party (DC). Furthermore, Christian Democrat Aldo Moro's strategy of breaking the PCI from Moscow and involving it in a pro-Western national coalition government, was proving successful. Gelli's masters now tasked P-2 to conquer government centers of power and promote key institutional reforms, according to the guidelines described in a paper entitled "Plan for a Democratic Rebirth."

On Feb. 16, 1978, Aldo Moro was kidnapped (and killed three months later) by the terrorist Red Brigades. . . . Henry Kissinger's two-year-old threat, that Moro's attempt to nationalize the PCI "would have a bad end," was realized.

When the list of the members of the P-2 Lodge was

connected Italian neo-fascists.

Another detour attempt was made through a P-2 controlled neo-fascist, Elio Ciolini, who “revealed” to prosecutors that the string-pullers of the Bologna massacre were to be found in a secret Masonic Lodge based in Montecarlo, whose members included, among others, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. Eventually, Ciolini corrected his version to accuse “American billionaire Lyndon LaRoche” (sic) of being the organizer of both the Bologna massacre and the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme!

Prosecutors spent months of valuable time going after the Lebanese connection, which proved to be false. After his first “revelations” proved to be false, prosecutors did not bother going after his second allegations, and Ciolini now sits in jail.

Today, one should ask whether the bombs found in London on July 27, which did not go off, were part of an attempt to influence investigations by planting false evidence, similar

discovered in 1981, Italians learned that the heads of *all* of the agencies which were supposed to find Moro’s prison and arrest the terrorists, were P-2 members. The Lodge’s *international* connections were merely indicated by the documented association between Michael Ledeen—a leading U.S. neo-conservative today with the American Enterprise Institute—and the P-2-controlled leadership of the SISMI military intelligence service. Francesco Cossiga, then minister of police, was Gelli’s good friend.

Despite his resignation after Moro’s death, Cossiga became Prime Minister two years later, and Italy’s President in 1985. In 1991, he launched a populist “anti-corruption, anti-organized crime” campaign against his own party, the DC; this was the starting point of the “Clean Hands” investigations and purges which dissolved all the post-war political parties and let new, populist parties fill the gap: the neo-fascist MSI (now the “post-fascist” Alleanza Nazionale); Berlusconi’s new Forza Italia; and the chauvinist Lega Nord.

In an interview with *La Repubblica*, on Sept. 28, 2003, Gelli said about Moro: “I went to Moro to present my credentials, when I was the consul for a South American country. He told me: You come in the name of a dictatorship, but Italy is a democracy. He explained to me that democracy is like a bean soup: To cook them, you must be very patient. I answered: Take care that your beans are not left without water, Signor Ministro.” The threat is clear, not only against Berlusconi, Fini, and Bossi, whom he named, but also others in the opposition, and Italian leaders opposing Cheney’s gang’s policies: You can end up as Moro did.—*Claudio Celani*

to the 1981 “Terror on Trains” operation. Interestingly, the German radio station Deutschlandfunk dedicated its early morning program Aug. 2 to a background report on the Bologna massacre, interviewing Bologna prosecutor Libero Mancuso, who referred to the “Terror on Trains” episode as a key piece of evidence against the P-2.

The program then briefly discussed the nature and history of the P-2 secret lodge as a leftover of fascism, organized by U.S. CIA head Allen Dulles, and his operations chief James Jesus Angleton, as an operation to rescue thousands of radical fascists and Nazi SS members, and to recycle them into the Western intelligence and military structure as “anti-communists.”

It is refreshing that such reports, which until now could only be found in publications associated with Lyndon LaRouche, are now beginning to be broadcast by public radio, like Germany’s Deutschlandfunk.

The Resurgence of International Fascism

Another angle of importance in the Bologna 1980 massacre concerns some neo-fascists who were indirectly involved, and who now play a role in the current reorganization of international fascist organizations: Roberto Fiore and his German ally Udo Voigt. In 1980, Fiore was a member of “Third Position,” one of the many organizations of the neo-fascist swamp, with contacts to Giusva Fioravanti, the Bologna-sentenced terrorist. At the same time, Fiore’s group had contacts with intelligence circles connected to P-2, who are suspected of having steered Fioravanti’s actions.

Fiore was forced to flee Italy after the Bologna bombing, for two reasons: One, to avoid questioning, and two, to conduct for the P-2 an “evidence-cleanup,” including assassination of embarrassing witnesses. Fiore fled to London, where he enjoyed protection by British intelligence’s MI-6, according to Italian security sources; as a result, 25 all extradition requests from Italy were turned down.

Fiore was also able to set up a business in London which made him a millionaire in a short period of time. When the statute of limitations for his crime (belonging to a terrorist organization) expired in 1996, Fiore came back to Italy. In the meantime, he had founded and directed from London a new organization, “Forza Nuova,” modelled after the Spanish Falangist organization of the same name, which was founded and led by former minister in the Franco government, Blas Piñar.

With his new organization and his new money, Fiore became a key organizer of the European alliance of neo-fascist groups, including Blas Piñar’s Fuerza Nueva, Jean Marie Le Pen’s National Front in France, and Udo Voigt’s National Democratic Party (NPD) in Germany. In the 2004 European elections, Fiore put together his Forza Nuova and other neo-fascist groups, and managed to elect their candidate, Benito Mussolini’s granddaughter Alessandra, to the European Parliament.