

the Christian Democracy (DC), and in particular on a campaign against the Italian President Giovanni Leone. The scandals, together with a financial depression that has squeezed the political kickbacks once forthcoming from U.S. sources to Italian bourgeois politicians dry, have crumbled the internal organic structure of the DC. Since the war, the Christian Democracy has been the mainstay of Italy's government and civil service.

Now, with the attack on the President of the Republic himself, the scandals have led to a full-scale constitutional crisis, cheered on by a chorus in the Italian press vaunting "the end of the First Republic."

Using accusations channeled through the Select Committee on Intelligence of the U.S. Senate (the "Church Committee"), Leone is being accused of corruption while in office. The charge is that an Italian premier, in office between 1968 and 1970, accepted kickbacks from the Lockheed corporation in exchange for Italian government contracts to Lockheed.

As the Turin paper *Stampa Sera* brazenly posed the matter on April 26, Wall Street was offering Italian politicians the "choice" of dissolving parliament for early elections, or having Leone resign. Now that Moro has bowed out, warning of the dangers of a fascist coup d'etat, the pressure on President Leone continues. *Stampa Sera*, which is owned by Wall Street-allied industrialist Agnelli, concluded its April 26 lead coverage of the "ungovernable" Italian political situation with the comment that "from a similar confrontation was born the fascist dictatorship of Chile." A second article discussed the terrorist escalation from the standpoint of provoking a deliberate civil war climate. Meanwhile, the Milan paper *Corriere della Sera*, also allied to Agnelli, called editorially for a "strong man" as the only solution for the country's political chaos.

Fuehrer Agnelli

There is no need to look far for the identity of the "strong man" evoked by *Corriere della Sera*. The French daily *Le Figaro* reported this week that Italy's top Atlanticists, Gianni Agnelli of FIAT, is planning to replace President Leone as

the head of a new coalition party composed of a fusion of small secular parties, all of which have enjoyed heavy American backing since World War II. (Republicans, Liberals, and Social Democrats) Agnelli himself summed up his position in an interview on April 27 with his own newspaper, *La Repubblica*. "We can rule either by consensus or brutality of force" — and, he added consensus has become impossible.

The PCI Question

The issue of staging a NATO coup in Italy has been under intense discussion over the recent period, and has featured as the main agenda item in a number of specially convened international Atlanticist policy sessions during April. The question debated at these meetings was whether the Italian Communist Party (PCI) could be relied upon to enforce Fourth World austerity levels in Italy by legal means. Both at the Rome International Affairs event and at similar meetings at Columbia and Georgetown universities in the U.S., the conclusion was the the PCI's base would make the party leaders ineffective as an Atlanticist tool under such circumstances.

At the Rome meeting, the decision for a coup had effectively already been taken. Agnelli flunkey Piero Bassette did not mince words: "If our Atlantic partners reject the decisions reached by Italian internal processes, that could lead to Chile. Italy could take the road of several models: Vietnam, Chile, Portugal . . . a violent clash may be inevitable."

According to the French press, the decision to give Italy the Latin American treatment — and the Spanish Civil War scenario — has thrown the Italian Communist Party leaders into a raging debate at the highest levels. European Labor Party field reports confirm that the coup threat has, over the past days, dramatically reversed the behavior of the PCI apparat. In Milan, PCI security and union squads who cordoned off thousands of Maoists and fascists from the small May Day demonstration, freely permitted Labor Party organizers to distribute 5,000 copies of a leaflet warning of the immediate danger of a coup.

Exclusive IPS Translation

Italian Paper Confirms: Brandt Threatens NATO Coup in Italy

May 1 (IPS) — The following is a full translation of an article appearing in the April 29 Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* by its Bonn correspondent, Vittorio Brunelli:

Interview to a German Newspaper

Brandt Like Schmidt:
No to "Eurocommunism"

The ex-Chancellor foresees a "new and harsher" American opposition to the entrance of the PCI into the Italian government.

Bonn — The circle has been closed. After his timid opening to the Western communist parties, Willy Brandt (Social Democratic Party Chairman) turned around and aligned himself with the positions of (Secretary of State) Henry Kissinger and (West German) Chancellor (Helmut) Schmidt. Perhaps he could not behave differently: even in the Federal

Republic (of Germany) the problems of internal politics and the reflections on the governmental action of the commitments agreed upon by the Chancellor with the American State Department have priority in regard to the general political question. Besides, Brandt had to end up bending in front of Schmidt, who, right after the defeat of the Social Democrats at the Baden-Wurtemberg elections, had been exhorted to straighten accounts with the party's chief, whom the Christian Democratic opposition suspected of having frontist (pro-popular front) with Communists tendencies.

Therefore, there was no surprise. Brandt expressed himself in an interview to the *Westfälische Rundschau* a West German newspaper dedicated mainly to the Portuguese elections. After rejecting the suspicions of his domestic adversaries as absurd, he answered the question of whether he also agreed with the Americans in criticizing the projected participation of Communists in certain European governments as follows: "Certainly. Even the Chancellor Schmidt

implicitly indicated that he considers that subject worthy of discussion. What the Americans say, we say it too: it is no good for there to exist Atlantic countries with Communists in the government. It is true however that the Portuguese case has demonstrated that it would have been a mistake to exclude Portugal from NATO, because in this country the Communists have participated temporarily at the government."

Another question: "Mr. Brandt, the criticism of Italy which the Chancellor (Schmidt) made during a recent TV interview have been criticized in the Federal Republic. Should the Chancellor not have expressed himself that way?"

Answer: "I believe that what the Chancellor stated was totally obvious. During a brief trip to Rome, I was able to convince myself that down there (in Rome) all the agitation which they speak of here (in West Germany) either was not there or it has run its course some time ago."

The worry about not appearing "different" from Schmidt is more than evident: Brandt could not show this worry in a

better way. The chief is Schmidt: there exists no remaining doubt about that. Brandt admist therefore, even if he did not say so explicitly, that the Chancellor's attack on the Christian Democracy, for the way it has indirectly favored the Communists by its conservative policy, did not do after all any thing but his duty as the head of a European state which believes itself to have special responsibilities."

In light of the discussions that he had in the past few days in Rome at the Institute of International Affairs (IAI) with different Italian politicians among whom it is said in Bonn, were some Italian Communist Party representatives, his words require a new political meaning. Brandt confirmed to his interlocutors that the formation of a government with Communist participation will be faced in the United States by a prejudicial opposition which is not limited to the Kissinger circles, and which could manifest itself in the month of May — after the foreseeable resignation of the Moro government — in a new and harsher form in connection with the NATO Naval maneuvers in the Mediterranean and the NATO land maneuvers in the area of Trento and Trieste.

Soviets Warn Against NATO Moves in Western Europe

May 1 (IPS) — Leading Soviet commentator V. Matveev warned this week of the threat of a Chilean-style coup in Italy accompanied by the establishment of fascist regimes in Western Europe.

This unprecedented article entitled "hot Spring of Western Europe" was printed in the official government daily Izvestia on April 27 and is excerpted below.

In the not too distant past, between the First and Second World Wars, the economic crisis in the capitalist camp evoked dictatorial fascist regimes in several Western countries, as a weapon to suppress the masses, repress the trade unions, and overcome the internal contradictions of the capitalist system through war.

It is beyond argument that the deterioration of matters in the economic area is, under present circumstances also, evoking a strengthened tendency in the bourgeoisie to use iron fist methods against the progressive forces and workers in general.

These are the intentions and plans of extreme reaction. However their opportunities are more limited compared to what they used to be.

The extreme reactionary circles applied maximum efforts to prevent the conviction of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, the Helsinki Accords), and when they failed, to undermine it and doom it to failure. But it didn't work! Now these same forces have made the results

of the conference the object of their attacks, insinuations and slander.

It cannot be said that this malicious campaign has been entirely without influence. It is disorienting a part of the public, and in some cases worsens inter-state relations also, as in the case where French television showed a film distorting our life ...

Unable to achieve the desired results on the international scene, the extreme reactionary forces are trying to compensate inside their countries. Here they have a broader field, since they have greater leverage domestically — at times acting jointly with groupings of the big bourgeoisie which have a more moderate position in questions of foreign policy.

The London bourgeois paper, the Sunday Times published an interview March 21 with former CIA chief W. Colby. The latter, not standing on ceremony, said that the CIA had spent huge sums in Italy to fan an anti-communist campaign there, not stopping at financing neofascist grouplets. Colby said meaningfully that Italy "has a Pinochet (the Chilean fascist dictator)."

The growth of influence and authority of the communist parties in the masses, the prospect of their participation in the governments of the West evoked barely veiled threats from NATO commander (Alexander) Haig and some highly-placed U.S. officials.

Johns Hopkins Dean Says Coup 'Very Real' in Italy

May 1 (IPS) — Robert Osgood, Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) this week granted the following interview on the Italian situation and the possibility of a coup in Italy to a source who passed it on to IPS. FIAT owner Gianni Agnelli, a principal in the Atlanticist coup plans for Italy, sits on the international board of directors of the SAIS.

Question: Dean Osgood, one of the major debates in U.S.

policy circles concerning how best to deal with the Italian crisis centers on the question of whether the Italian Communist Party (PCI) should be permitted to enter the government. What is your opinion?

Osgood: I think that PCI entry into the government, the "historical compromise," is definitely in the cards... it will possibly happen in the fall. The real question, however, is not whether the Communists enter the government, but what