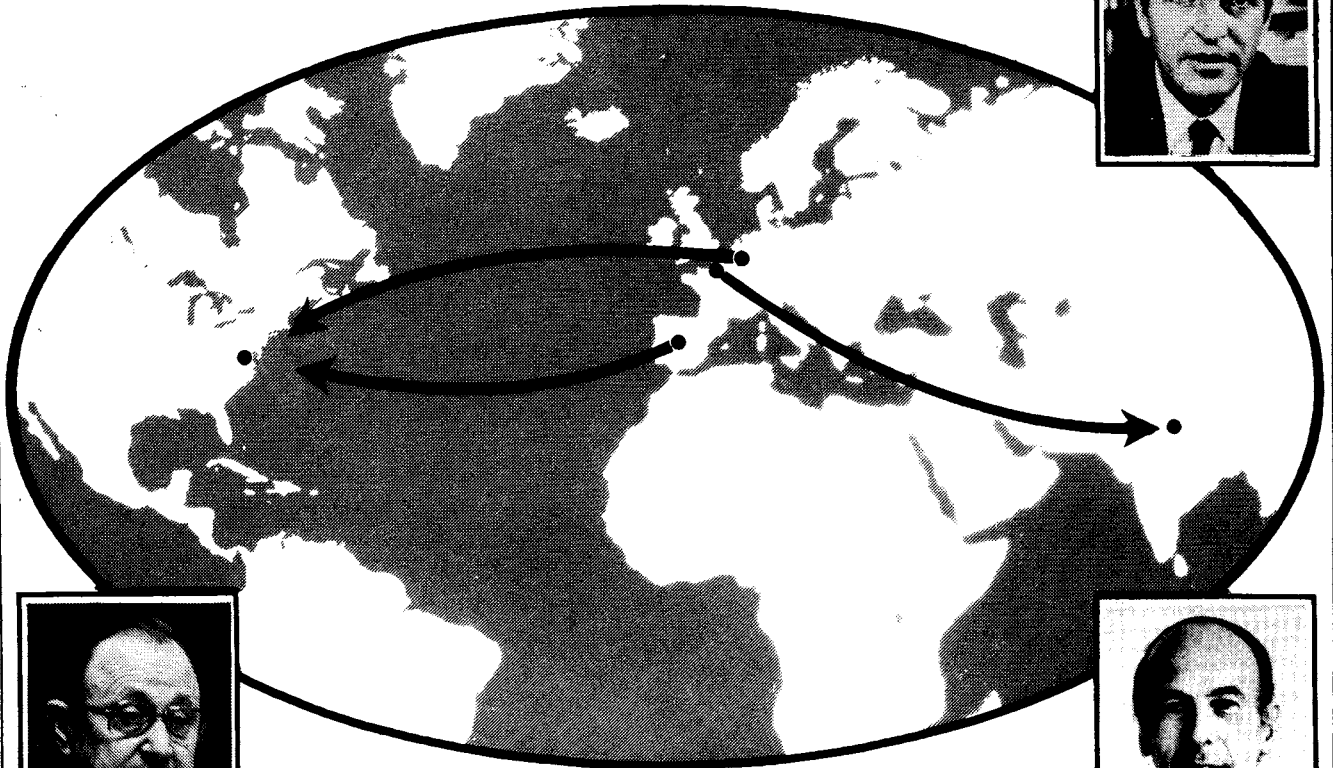
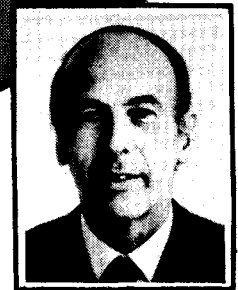


## A round of diplomacy

Adolfo Suarez  
Madrid to Washington



Hans-Dietrich Genscher  
Bonn to Washington



Giscard d'Estaing  
Paris to New Delhi

## Italy

### A pro-Carter government may not last long

In a Jan. 14 interview with the magazine *l'Espresso*, a notorious Italian terrorist identified Giacomo Mancini as the famous "Mr. X" who for years funded the terrorist movement from his position within the top leadership of the Socialist Party (PSI), the third largest in Italy. While Mancini vehemently denied the charge, the interview became a sensation overnight. With the charge made by jailed terrorist Fioroni, the many investigative clues leading to PSI involvement in terrorism had become concrete

tized in the role of Mancini as the financial backer of Potere Operaio, the outlawed organization that gave life to the notorious Red Brigades terrorist gang.

Two days before, Jan. 12, two dozen senators led by former judge Claudio Vitalone issued a formal Parliamentary question charging six top Rome magistrates with complicity in terrorism and specifically with the Red Brigades group. The magistrates, all members of the left-wing organization Magistratura Democratica, were identified to be the "leaks" known to exist inside the structure of the magistracy which carries out antiterrorist investigations. The Magistratura Democratica in turn is known for its close ties to the PSI.

These two developments indicate the seriousness of the fight currently taking place in Italy, a fight that will determine whether Italy lines up as a backer of the Anglo-American Cold War, proausterity sphere, or as a member of the Franco-German alliance still determined to maintain detente and deal with the Third World through an economic development approach.

The immediate form this political battle is taking at

this time revolves around the issue of the government. The current cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Francesco Cossiga, has been predictably resolute in backing American policy on questions of retaliation to the Afghani and Iran situations. This is in marked contrast to the Franco-German grouping, which has publicly denounced a return to the Cold War and has voted instead for pushing industrial projects in the Third World to stabilize potential hot spots. In a period like the present when France and West Germany are in opposition to the United States and Britain on matters of crucial strategic import, the alignment of Italy becomes a potentially decisive element on the chessboard as the third largest nation of continental Europe.

The tracing of terrorism into the highest levels of the Socialist Party therefore has much more significance than an especially thorough example of mere law enforcement efforts. The fact is, Christian Democratic premier Cossiga was the preferred choice of the highest levels of the Socialist Party. The Washington-aligned Cossiga government has, as one of its key props, a set of political forces on the verge of criminal prosecution for crimes against the Italian state.

The true political battle lines in the country may be easily examined through the statements of political leaders, irrespective of secondary party allegiances.

For example, the leadership of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) issued a resolution closely paralleling that of France and West Germany. The PCI delegation at the Strasbourg (European) Parliament condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, but proceeded to call for a "negotiating stance" from the West to ensure the continuance of detente. The PCI, like Bonn and Paris, also proposed an independent European initiative that would include economic aid as a weapon to secure peace.

The PCI was closely echoed by Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister and now key contender for that same post when the Cossiga government is collapsed. Andreotti dubbed a return to the cold war a terrible error, identifying detente as the cornerstone of Italian foreign policy. While firmly stating that Italy is irrevocably a part of the Western alliance, he added that the country's interests also lie in pursuing relations with the Soviet Union and the rest of Eastern Europe. The statement was a clear reiteration of the policies his own government had pursued prior to the coming of the Cossiga cabinet.

Not surprisingly, Andreotti has become the Socialist Party's target for a watertight meant to destroy his chances at the Prime Ministership with PCI backing. PSI Treasurer Formica responded to the revelations of Socialist Mancini's terrorist role by attempting to implicate Andreotti in a recent oil scandal. On Jan. 11, Formica charged Andreotti with accepting a kickback while

Prime Minister in a deal between Saudi Arabia and the Italian national oil company, ENI. Andreotti responded with a sharp counterattack, accusing the PSI of wanting to put Italy "in the hands of the international stranglers of the oil market," the oil multinationals. For good measure, he went on national radio to call for Communist participation in the government as a necessary step in the detente process.

### **The PCI question**

Indeed, the question of whether the PCI will or will not be allowed to participate in the next government has become the seeming central issue around which the process of government formation is being shaped. While it is true that for various internal reasons the PCI considers it important to gain at least one cabinet post in the next government, it would be deceptive to view the entire problem from this standpoint. Overriding the question of cabinet participation as such, the current PCI leadership's major concern is for a government ruled by forces sympathetic to the Bonn-Paris axis. For various reasons, Christian Democrat Andreotti is the leading figure capable of creating such a government.

As a result, the PCI over the past week, in particular, has begun a campaign of ridiculing Premier Cossiga and his political backers while openly threatening an immediate collapse of the government. Various Communist parliamentarians such as Di Giulio have stated in Parliament over the past week that Cossiga will be coming to the U.S. on Jan. 24 without any Parliamentary consensus on his (pro-Carter) foreign policy. The head of the PCI parliamentary fraction, Alessandro Natta, cited foreign policy considerations to say that there is "no time to waste" in removing Cossiga from office. Meanwhile, the PCI-allied national trade union confederation, the CGIL, held a national general strike on Jan. 15 as an explicit protest against the government.

Various rumors and theories now abound in Italy as to when the inevitable collapse of the Cossiga cabinet will occur. Some say that it cannot take place until after the June administrative elections because of the difficulties of solving the dilemma of the PCI's demand for cabinet participation in the near future. The other target date is late february, following the national congress of the Christian Democratic Party which will determine whether Andreotti can muster enough support inside his party to unseat Cossiga and set up a government on his terms. There is no question but that the relevant issue revolves around the success or failure of Andreotti's power play, which may be consolidated before, during or after the party congress. Certainly his success or failure, as part of a complex political struggle now in progress, can shape decisively the future off Europe and thus the world.

—Vivian Freyre Zoakos