

EIRSpecialReport

Will the U.S. join Italy's war against Dope, Incorporated?

by Nora Hamerman, Editor

Panic is spreading through certain circles in Washington and the U.S. media following the spectacular rescue of NATO General James Lee Dozier from his Red Brigades kidnapers on the morning of Jan. 28 in Padua, Italy. No matter how much the *New York Times* may try to portray the bloodless raid that freed the American officer as an inexplicable demonstration of brilliant police work by the Italians, with no broader implications for the future of terrorism, the fact is that the *methods* which saved Dozier's life threatens to bring down the entire international structure that has deployed the Red Brigades and other terrorists for over a decade.

The high-ranking protectors of the international illegal drug traffic that thrives on war in Lebanon and instability in Italy have been exposed, right up to the level of corrupt elements in the U.S. Justice Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation. U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has some very embarrassing questions to answer, as does former Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti.

The myriad of "sociologists" and "criminologists" who peddle the sociological origins of the terrorist phenomenon, along with such liars as Claire Sterling and Robert Moss, who have covered up for the collaboration between the Soviet KGB and the Israeli Mossad foreign-intelligence service, have not only seen their expert credentials ripped up by the events of recent days, but many of them may soon find themselves in the dock like their Italian "white-collar" counterpart Prof. Giovanni Senzani, answering for their complicity in the phenomenon they pretended to explain.

What actually occurred in Italy is simple and well-documented—although no one should expect the facts to appear in the major U.S. news media. A new nationalist force has come into being around the battle against terrorism, and it is applying the method that was introduced into Italy by *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., during and after the 1978 kidnaping and assassination of Christian Democratic party president Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades. Starting four years ago, LaRouche's collaborators in the leadership of the European Labor Party (POE) of Italy issued a series of



Italian counterterrorism specialists reconstruct a kidnaping.

dossiers, beginning with *Who Killed Aldo Moro*. The dossiers demonstrated that terrorism and the illegal drug trade are one and the same; that they have an international command center tracing back to the European oligarchy as directed by the British Crown; that the major Italian political protectors of this conspiracy are in the Italian Socialist Party; and that the motive for terrorism is to destroy sovereign republican government, in Italy and elsewhere. The dossiers also pinpointed the key role of the Israeli Mossad in the Moro tragedy.

The Haig connection

This method has brought together forces that Italy's enemies calculated could never work together. Most importantly, the Vatican and the Italian Communist Party, which are apparently unlikely partners but represent the largest mass organizations in Italy, have openly joined forces to rout the drug and terrorism apparatus including tainted elements in their own ranks.

Bettino Craxi, the Socialist Party head whose political ambitions have been promoted by Haig, is more likely to end up in jail than in the prime minister's chair he covets. Craxi's scheme to oust Saudi Arabia as the closest Arab ally of Italy in favor of a special relationship with Libya has foundered, and Italy, under the now-stable government of Giovanni Spadolini, is in a unique position to mediate peace negotiations between those Israelis and Arabs who are fed up with seeing their countries overrun by organized crime in its various "political" and "religious" guises.

In the United States, the events in Italy have a special

significance for the resistance to the creation of a fascist police state, which has come together in the defense of Abscammed Senator Harrison Williams. The daily revelations from Italy show that key figures involved in the Justice Department-Federal Bureau of Investigation frameup of Senator Williams are linked to the very same Dope, Inc.-terrorist conspiracy being routed in Italy. "Billygate" is on the agenda again.

It was, as we shall see, by cracking down on Billy Carter's friends in the Sicilian Mafia, the purveyors of Qaddafi Thought and heroin, that Italy tightened the noose around Dozier's captors. The relationship between these "Billygate"-tainted networks and the entire Abscam apparatus is so intimate that some wags have suggested the "sheikh" costumes used to try to entrap targeted Congressmen and Senators into accepting bribes from FBI agents masquerading as rich Arabs might have been borrowed from Libya as part of Billy Carter's oily deals.

Not only did former Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti *personally* oversee the coverup of the First Brother's influence-peddling for Libya, but Michele Papa, the Sicilian Socialist and mafioso who brokered Billy's 1979 trip to Libya, recently pronounced himself a "good friend" of Abscam Prosecutor Thomas Puccio.

The star witness in the Abscam frameup of Sen. Harrison Williams, convicted confidence-man Mel Weinberg, acknowledged in his biography that he had been involved in financing the Red Brigades—in an anecdote that can only be a tiny part of the real, as yet unrevealed story of international organized crime's infiltration of the U.S. Justice Department (see box).

The first big signal that the gloves were off came on Jan. 9 when Italian police captured Giovanni Senzani, a former professor of criminology in Florence and a fugitive from justice since he was indicted last year for the Aldo Moro kidnapping and murder of 1978. Senzani was well connected into the top ranks of the Italian Socialist Party, having long been associated with the current Italian Minister of Defense, Lelio Lagorio, who is considered to be the highest-placed friend of the Israeli Mossad in the Italian government. He also had many friends among U.S. "radical criminology" circles, having been a co-founder of the Euro-group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control, founded in Florence in 1973, which was the direct outgrowth of an early 1970s School of Criminology project at the University of California in Berkeley.

How Italy closed in

Senzani was picked up in raids against covens of the Red Brigades in the Rome area, shelters that included an impressive cache of heavy weaponry. Rome prosecutor Ferdinando Imposimato, who directed the raids, revealed that these weapons were to be used to kill the entire 80 person leadership of the Christian Democratic Party, Italy's biggest party, at its Jan. 22 National Council meeting.

The Senzani arrest sent tremors through the international terrorism support structure, especially when, on Jan. 17, Imposimato delivered a statement to the press charging that the Israeli Mossad, which had generally been portrayed as helping NATO countries against terrorism, was in fact abetting the Red Brigades, in company with Israel's putative enemies in the Soviet KGB and Libya's Qaddafi.

But the real bombshell of the Imposimato statement was his identification of the *motives* of the Mossad. The Israeli government, he charged, wanted to see Italy thrown into chaos in order to then present Israel as the only reliable U.S. partner in the Mediterranean. Meanwhile, Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini was warning that the kidnapping of General Dozier was intended to drive a wedge between the United States and its NATO allies in Europe. The outlines of a monstrous conspiracy to sweep the Mediterranean area with unrest and sabotage any potential for a Middle East peace settlement began to emerge clearly into view.

War on the Mafia

Meanwhile, in Sicily, another piece of this conspiracy was chopped off. In early December, the Sicilian Bishops' conference declared a "Day of War Against the Mafia." On Dec. 11, Pope John Paul II gave a speech endorsing the initiative (see box), calling on all Italians and Sicilians in particular to reject and outlaw the degraded conception of man embodied in the Mafia, and join with the State in combating it. It was not a

symbolic gesture; the signal had been given that the Vatican would in no way protect Mafia Kingpin Michele Sindona and his associates, even though Sindona had powerful connections in the U.S. government and had, at one time, been involved in handling Vatican investments abroad. On Jan. 24 Palermo's Cardinal Pappalardo reiterated that the Church is launching a "crusade against the Mafia."

Cardinal Pappalardo's statement came soon after Italian Prime Minister Spadolini had called a meeting of his national security council, composed of members of the cabinet and representatives of the various police forces and secret services.

The security council prepared a six-point plan to fight against organized crime, including, for the first time in Italian postwar history, the use of the army in special anti-terror and anti-Mafia operations. The national task force would also investigate particularly the banking side of the drug mafia, putting under severe scrutiny the firms and suspected export/import companies.

"Terrorism has numerous points of contact with the world of organized crime," said Spadolini, "like the Sicilian Mafia and the Neapolitan Camorra. We cannot underestimate the operational links existing among these criminal organizations, starting with the international traffic of weapons, done by the Mafia and used by the terrorists. . . . The state is threatened. Organized crime and terrorism are two interlinked aspects of the threat against our democratic institutions. The state must fight back with intransigent firmness."

And it did. On Jan. 25, Palermo, Sicily prosecutor Giovanni Falcone, proclaiming that there were no more "untouchables," handed down 75 criminal indictments against a heroin ring operating out of Sicily. Among the indicted was financier Michele Sindona, now serving a jail sentence in New York for stock fraud in connection with the bankruptcy of his Franklin National Bank in 1974. The 75 indicted criminals, according to Falcone, were trafficking in heroin to the United States to the tune of \$600 million, out of an estimated \$25 billion in illegal drugs that are processed, refined and smuggled out of Sicily each year.

Michele Sindona is an interesting individual. In 1979 he jumped bail and fled to Sicily during his trial for the Franklin National case, having arranged his own "kidnapping." The key conspirators in effecting Sindona's flight from the posh Pierre hotel in New York were Rosario and John Gambino, members of the "Gambino Family," which New York law enforcement sources have characterized as the most powerful organized crime syndicate in the United States. In Sicily, Sindona's flight was aided by Dr. Joseph Miceli-Crimi, later indicted for heroin running, and an aide to Licio Gelli—the Grand Master of the outlawed Propaganda Two Freemasonic lodge that was exposed last May in Italy.

In 1980, operatives of the Gambino syndicate in Brooklyn, N.Y. and Cherry Hill and Delran, N.J. were arrested for transporting millions of dollars of over 90 percent pure heroin from Sicily. Among those arrested were Rosario and Giuseppe Gambino.

The chief of Italy's heroin trade was—until his death last August near Palermo, in a “mob rubout”—Gaetano Badalamenti, an intimate of Dr. Miceli-Crimi, Francis Turatello, and Gerlando Alberti. After Francis Turatello, the mafia drug boss of Milan, was murdered in prison last August, the Italian press revealed that Turatello's “political guardian angel” was Bettino Craxi, the head of the Italian Socialist Party. Turatello's gangsters were often “lent” to the Red Brigades.

The third drug kingpin in Italy is the now jailed Gerlando Alberti. Alberti was arrested in August 1980 in a raid on the biggest heroin refinery in Western Europe, Ceresto Castle near Turin. Last month, Judge Caselli of Turin revealed that his investigation into the Alberti Mafia family produced overwhelming confirmation of the Mafia's interconnections with the Red Brigades. According to Judge Caselli, the Mafia has signed a deal with the terrorists, whereby the Mafia supplies weapons, money, safehouses, and men in exchange for political favors. The Red Brigaders even opened contact with “friendly” governments in the Mediterranean as new markets for the Mafia's weapons and dope smuggling.

On Jan. 28, Italian police rounded up 40 members of a heroin ring operating in Verona, the NATO base city where Dozier had been kidnapped on Dec. 17. The ring, a branch of the Calabrian ‘Ndrangheta’ (Mafia), was a textbook example of terrorist/organized crime collaboration. Socialist Party boss Giacomo Mancini runs the ‘Ndrangheta in his native Calabria, in southern Italy; his son-in-law, Paolo Lapponi, heads a terrorist band called Communist Combat Units which carries out kidnappings and other crimes with the ‘Ndrangheta and splits the proceeds 50-50. Raggio, the leader of the Verona heroin band, was a member of the Communist Combat Units *and* the Socialist Party.

Meanwhile, the indictment of Sindona has raised painful questions for U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. The questions center on Haig's relationship to the Propaganda-2 Freemasonic lodge of Licio Gelli, which, as this publication has previously documented, was behind every assassination, coup attempt, and drug running and kidnapping operation of importance that has occurred in Italy over the past ten years.

Not only has Haig's aide Michael Ledeen been charged by the Italian press and magistracy (see below) with having possibly received money from P-2 in return for promoting the ambitions of Bettino Craxi. But Haig himself, whose name appeared on one of the dossiers seized in Licio Gelli's villa last spring, was named by Michele Sindona as someone who could corroborate his

The Abscammers' ties to the Red Brigades

The anti-terrorist circles in Italy who on Jan. 24 rescued General Dozier from the hands of the heroin trafficking Red Brigades, have linked U.S. Eastern District Organized Crime Strike Force head Thomas Puccio to the Palermo drug mafia through the person of Michele Papa. Papa was the central figure in the Billygate affair and a bridge between the Libyan government of Muammar Qaddafi, the Palermo-reconstituted “French Connection” heroin mob, and “left” and “right” terrorists in Italy including the Red Brigades.

The bridge between Strike Force prosecutor Thomas Puccio and the Sicilian heroin mafia was further confirmed Jan. 25 by an Italy-based investigator for the National Democratic Policy Committee. The investigator contacted Michele Papa and was

overtly solicited by Papa to deliver a personal package to his “good friend” in Brooklyn, New York—Thomas Puccio.

Moreover, another part of the Justice Department's Abscam apparatus, Melvin Weinberg, is a self-admitted financier of the Red Brigades. In Robert Greene's book on Weinberg, *The Sting Man*, the DoJ's chief Abscam informant admits that shortly before Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro was murdered by the Red Brigades, he, Weinberg, was supplying the fundraisers of the Red Brigades with blank certificates of deposit from offshore banks, which the terrorists were using to raise money for their activities.

“Sting man” Weinberg in an earlier period ran a global scam operation for organized crime kingpin Meyer Lansky's “London Investors”—an international network which trafficked in phony certificates of deposit which were used to finance the same Red Brigades networks.

David Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan bank also enters the picture as it was Chase Manhattan that housed the fraudulent accounts of Abscam's Abdul Enterprises.

claim that he had traveled to Palermo in 1979 under orders of the CIA to raise money for a "Sicilian separatist" coup.

On June 17, 1980, FBI Special Agent Louis J. Vizi signed an affidavit detailing a lengthy interview he had held that day with Sindona, shortly after the Sicilian financier returned from his escape. Sindona had asserted that the coup plot aimed at preventing a communist takeover of Sicily and was being directed by "revolutionary Freemasons." In January 1981, five months before the public exposure of P-2 in Italy, Licio Gelli visited Sindona in his New York jail cell.

In his defense for the Franklin National fraud case, Sindona attempted to subpoena former CIA Director Stansfield Turner and Haig to verify this story. On Jan. 27, 1982 magistrates in Palermo confirmed that they have detailed proof that Sindona was indeed in Palermo to raise money for a coup.

If one thread from the Propaganda Two scandal leads to Alexander Haig, another leads into the Civiletti Justice Department which covered up "Billygate."

Billy Carter's trip to Italy was organized by a lawyer from Catania, Sicily, Socialist Party member Michele Papa. Papa, tied closely to the drug mafia, such as the Badalamenti clan, has repeatedly declared his purpose to be to annex Sicily to Libya. Whether this fits in with Sindona's "CIA coup plan" is not known. But Papa has been tape-recorded several times offering to send terrorists trained by him to Libya to fight alongside Qaddafi.

Italian authorities have determined that Qaddafi is the main weapons supplier to both the "left" and "right" varieties of terrorism. Although the Western media have portrayed Qaddafi as a fanatical communist and virtual puppet of the Soviet Union, he was trained from at least the late 1960s in preparation for seizure of power in Libya in 1969, by Propaganda-2 Grand Master Licio Gelli and Gelli's right-hand man, José López Rega. Gelli, a monarchist and former torturer in Mussolini's secret police, is hardly a "leftist."

Europeo reveals Haig aide's complicity with P-2

From the Italian weekly magazine Europeo, Jan. 18, 1982:

In Italy the name of Michael Ledeen is not unknown. Staff member at Georgetown University, Undersecretary

of State for European Affairs, traveling to Rome at least five or six times per year, Ledeen not only has top level contacts with the American community with Republican sympathies in Rome, such as Robert Cunningham—rich editor of the English language daily *Daily News*—but also within Italian politics. He is also one of the staunchest supporters, within the entourage of the White House, of Bettino Craxi [Italian Socialist Party general secretary].

Ledeen's relations with the Socialists did not begin yesterday. It was Ledeen who received Claudio Martelli in the U.S. when the deputy-secretary of the PSI attended Reagan's inauguration. Ledeen has also maintained good relations with the PSI through the mediation of Francesco Pazienza, to the point where he [Ledeen] became the leading backer within the administration of a possible Craxi prime ministership. The same position is held by the former U.S. Ambassador to Rome, Richard Gardner and, but with much less enthusiasm particularly in the more recent period, by Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

This sympathy for the Socialists is not shared by the [current] American Ambassador to Rome, Maxwell Raab, who instead over the past days has sent worried messages to Washington and the advice to be cautious because, in his judgment, the PSI now finds itself in trouble and it is not certain that it will emerge clean from the polemics around the clamorous return to the offensive on the part of Licio Gelli.

The situation is not very different for Ledeen. He too has some thoughts which disturb his dreams. His good friend, Francesco Pazienza, flew to the U.S. over the past few days to comfort him.

The investigation initiated by General Nino Lugaresi, director of the Sismi [the military counterespionage agency] on the administrative management of his predecessor Santovito [who was involved in the Propaganda-2 scandal], has led to an American line of inquiry which may lead to the explosion of a new scandal inside Ronald Reagan's staff.

While investigating the river of money spent by Santovito during the years in which he headed the Sismi, Lugaresi discovered the existence of an interesting bank account outside the country, probably in Switzerland. From this account were drawn huge sums for the payment of the Sismi adviser hired by Santovito: Francesco Pazienza. But part of these monies instead ended up with Pazienza's good friend: Professor Ledeen, to be precise.

Hence even in Washington some people are beginning to worry. It is being asked, naturally, whether these payments were made by the Sismi in recompense for services effectively rendered to the chief of Italian counterespionage, or whether for some entirely personal business. Whichever it is, the situation is highly embarrassing.