
INVESTIGATIVE LEADS

NATO implicated in Italian terror case

by Vivian Freyre Zoakos, European Editor

The case against one of Italy's top trade-union leaders, Luigi Scricciolo, which exploded with his arrest of Feb. 4, is daily acquiring more devastating dimensions linking him and his collaborators to the controllers of international terrorism and drug and arms trafficking. The chief of international affairs of the UIL national labor confederation, Scricciolo was arrested on charges that he is a member of the notorious Red Brigades terrorist gang that kidnapped American NATO Gen. James Dozier last December. In the latest development, he is now expected to be charged with passing secret NATO documents to the Warsaw Pact.

The two judges in charge of the case note that they expect shortly to issue a formal indictment against Scricciolo on these grounds. General Dozier's jailer, Antonio Savasta, together with Scricciolo's own cousin Loris—himself a jailed Red Brigades member—have offered detailed accusations that Scricciolo was passing secret NATO documents to the Red Brigades leadership. Loris testified that on several occasions Luigi Scricciolo orchestrated meetings between Red Brigades members and officials of the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome where the NATO documents were turned over.

Judge De Sica, who has been in charge of the case, announced on Feb. 15 that the Scricciolo investigation was being broadened to encompass the Propaganda-2 Freemasonic scandal. The Propaganda-2 (P-2) lodge was exposed last year to be at the top of the interlinked global network that deploys terrorists and runs the world dope and arms smuggling traffic. When the scandal emerged last May, its repercussions into NATO circles were quickly squashed. The Scricciolo case has resurfaced this heretofore buried dimension of P-2.

Judge De Sica has learned that as early as 1979 Greek intelligence had sent an urgent communication to the Italian secret services documenting the likelihood that Scricciolo was a ranking member of the Red Brigades. That information was buried by the two commanders of the Italian secret services, the SISDE and the SISMI, who at that time were prominent

members of the P-2 lodge. Both were forced to quit their posts last year when their membership was revealed. The fact that both were protecting Scricciolo is being viewed by Judge De Sica as grounds to open an investigation into Scricciolo's ties with Italian military and civilian intelligence, particularly given the fact that Scricciolo had apparent access to NATO secret documents which easily might have been procured through the military intelligence branch.

It is little wonder then that the Scricciolo affair has led to a rapid attempt at coverup on the part of his associates elsewhere in the trade unions.

Within hours of his arrest, there was a flurry of telephone activity between Italy, the AFL-CIO headquarters in Paris headed by Irving Brown, and the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington. Investigations by this magazine, corroborated by sources at the AFL-CIO headquarters, confirm that the American labor federation and its leaders not only knew Scricciolo, but collaborated with him on joint projects, including support for Solidarność in Poland.

At the time of his arrest, these sources report, there was correspondence from Scricciolo on the desk of officials of the AFL-CIO International Affairs Department, headed by Ernest Lee.

"If you call here next week," said a source at the AFL-CIO headquarters, "No one will admit to knowing him or working with him." It has also been learned that the case officer in charge of this coverup is Irving Brown, the federation's long-time European operations chief, who has flown to the United States for "emergency consultations."

France: as bad as the 1960s

Terrorism has broken out in France on a scale not seen since the 1960s, when the Secret Army Organization went on its rampage to assassinate President Charles de Gaulle and otherwise disrupt the state. Only this time, many of those involved in the terrorism were released from their jail cells by the same government they are now attacking.

On Feb. 11, the Front for the National Liberation of Corsica (FNLC) claimed responsibility for 26 bombings on the island of Corsica and on the mainland, as well as several attacks on Foreign Legion outposts that left one dead and two injured. The FNLC proclaimed the end of a "truce" it had put into effect after the election of the Socialist government, announcing that it was unsatisfied with the government's halfway measure giving Corsica a special semi-autonomous status. Five days later, another 17 FNLC bombs were set off.

The Corsican terrorists were among the leading beneficiaries of the government's broad amnesty of terrorists after Mitterrand's inauguration. At least 20 Corsicans, many of them members of the FNLC who

had been tried for bombings and kidnappings, were freed from jail last June.

Another group went into action the same week. The little-known anarchist "Bakunin group," which is also calling itself "Bukunin-Gdansk-El Salvador," bombed the offices of several foreign companies working for the United States and Latin America.

The extreme right-wing *parti des Forces Nouvelles* (PFN) was on the streets Feb. 13. Two gangs of 30 men each, armed with crowbars, smashed the windows of the Ministry of Transport (currently occupied by a member of the French Communist Party) and the Ministry of Solidarity (one of the Mitterrand government's Aquarian Age concoctions). The PFN announced later that this was only the beginning of a campaign to get the Communists thrown out of the government (there are four Communist ministers), which campaign culminated Feb. 17 in a rally in Paris.

All the above incidents reflect the intensifying warfare between rival intelligence-drug-terror networks since last year's elections (see *Report from Paris*).

Haig friend interrogated on P-2

The Propaganda-2 investigating committee of the Italian parliament interrogated Francesco Pazienza, a close associate of Licio Gelli, the former head of the P-2 lodge, and friend of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, for several hours on Feb. 11. Pazienza is also a relative of Gen. Giuseppe Santovito, the former head of the Italian military secret service SISMI, and a P-2 member.

Pazienza's task was to organize, in conjunction with Haig's adviser Michael Ledeen, the expansion of the power of the Socialist Party in Italy. Pazienza was forced to acknowledge his close friendship with Haig to the investigating committee. He admitted that when Christian Democratic Party Secretary Flaminio Piccoli went to the United States in 1981, Pazienza organized a brief meeting between Piccoli and Haig. "Haig was leaving for Camp David, but he agreed to delay his departure for a few hours in behalf of an old friendship," Pazienza stated.

The fact that the close relationships between himself and the P-2 network are re-surfacing has frightened Haig into a reckless effort to cover up many incriminating documents. The Italian press reports that he sent Ledeen on an urgent errand to Uruguay, to buy for \$15,000 the documents that the police had confiscated from Gelli's Montevideo villa. Ledeen claims that it was only "his interest in history" that inspired the purchase, but there are many indications that the Uruguay dossiers contain evidence of Haig's involvement with P-2.

The Italian parliament member Bassanini posed the question to the government of whether "opportune steps" will be taken to have Ledeen and the U.S. State

Department deliver the documents to an Italian magistrate investigating P-2, given how extremely important those documents are to the entire investigation.

"Billygate" scandal resurfacing

The Billygate scandal has re-emerged in Italy as Italian investigators continue to explore the full ramifications of terrorism and its deployers at the highest levels. On Feb. 9, the newspaper *La Repubblica* published quotes from a dossier authored in 1975 by Bernardino Andreola, the noted terrorist who provided the police with information proving that Michele Papa, Billy Carter's Sicilian liaison to Libya, is a core member of the terrorist and arms-smuggling apparatus.

As Andreola documents in his 1975 testimony given to the police following his capture, the Sicilian-Arab Friendship Society, headed by the attorney Michele Papa, was from the outset the core of a terrorist recruitment operation. The organization also functioned as one of the central coordination points for the lucrative illegal trafficking in arms from Libya into Italy to supply the terrorists' requirements. Michele Papa was the individual who first contacted Billy Carter, and later organized Carter's trip to Libya.

Andreola documented for the police his role in the terrorist recruitment process. In 1973 Michele Papa joined forces with the Calabrian mafia and the networks of Feltrinelli to relaunch Sicilian separatism and at the same time generate the capability for the recruitment of terrorist guerrillas for importation to all parts of the Mediterranean, including the Middle East. The networks of aristocratic publisher Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, who until his death was known to police agencies throughout the world as one of the top names in international terrorism, supplied a protégé for deployment into Sicily to aid in this effort. That man was Bernardino Andreola.

Andreola and a group of cronies founded in Sicily the "Alpha group," setting up 42 propaganda cells and 18 armed terrorist cells on the island. The propaganda cells organized the population around the slogan of freeing Sicily from Italian domination with the help of "Arab friends."

This mass organizing functioned as a screening process through which the more radical elements within the impoverished Sicilian population could be passed on to the clandestine terrorist cells. Andreola testified that he had meetings with both the Calabrian mafia and Carter's friend, Michele Papa, in the course of this operation. In 1978, Papa's activities led to a criminal investigation which was, however, dropped eventually because of the delicate international implications of his activities and their connection to the Billy Carter affair—all of which was carefully covered up by the U.S. Justice Department.