

## Report from Italy by Umberto Pascali

### Andreotti plants a bomb under NATO

*The foreign minister's attacks on "Pan-Germanism" are having reverberations throughout the Western alliance.*

The Soviet Union received full support for its anti-German, Goebbels-like propaganda from Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti on Sept. 13, when, speaking before 2,000 Communists at the Italian Communist Party's Unità Festival in Rome, he stated that the Soviet Union is indeed justified in its fear of a new "Pan-Germanism," since the danger of Pan-Germanism does exist, and therefore Germany must remain split into two states.

The Italian ambassador in Bonn, Luigi Vittorio Ferraris, was immediately summoned into the West German foreign ministry for urgent clarifications, opening the way for a major clash within the Atlantic alliance.

"I do not want to be the public defender of the Soviet Union," said Andreotti, whose speech was often interrupted by applause. "I am not against good relations between the two Germanies. But I think that it is necessary to use a great deal of caution in these things. . . . We must recognize that 'Pan-Germanism' must be overcome. There is a risk, a temptation of 'Pan-Germanism' today. It must be defeated. There exist two German states, and two must remain!"

Andreotti was referring to the scheduled and then abruptly canceled visit of East German leader Erich Honecker to Bonn. "I think that someone, on one side or the other, attributed too much importance to this meeting. And I want to underline one point: To revive discussion of the re-

lations and the borders between states is a very serious danger—in my opinion, more serious a threat to peace than nuclear arsenals!"

In reality, Andreotti knows very well that the psychological warfare game around the announced visit of Honecker, is aimed at provoking the destabilization of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Atlantic Alliance. Accusations of "Pan-Germanism" and even "Nazi revanchism" have been launched by Soviet press and Soviet spokesmen, in the context of a war buildup against NATO countries and against Germany in particular.

The Italian minister also stated that the Soviets are right in insisting that British and French nuclear missiles be counted in arms-control negotiations. "I too believe that in defining the strategic equilibrium, one must take the British and French missiles into account. It is necessary realism, required in order to negotiate. Andropov some time ago made a realistic proposal. Why did no one take it up?"

Andreotti also had some critical remarks for NATO's Gen. Bernard Rogers, whom he accused of taking too tough an attitude toward Soviet expansionism. "As for Rogers, I think he is a good technician; better he took care of military technology rather than strategy!"

While the Andreotti scandal was exploding all over Europe, the Soviet press praised him to the skies, and *Neues Deutschland*, the organ of the

East German communist party, headlined on its front page: "Giulio Andreotti for Peace and Cooperation, for the Creation of Mutual Trust"!

Andreotti, who left immediately after his speech for Gedda, Saudi Arabia, was attacked by the president of his Christian Democratic party, Flaminio Piccoli, in an editorial in the party paper *Il Popolo*. "An intervention from the outside on the issue of unification—which sounds like eternal condemnation—is a wrong-headed suggestion made by one who does not realize that this could become the breeding ground for a real tragedy. Pan-Germanism does not exist, although Pan-Sovietism never ceased in the East." The secretary of the Italian Social Democratic Party (PSDI), Pietro Longo, stated that what Andreotti had done jeopardized the survival of the Italian government, while another PSDI leader, Luigi Preti, asked for an immediate statement by the Italian prime minister "to make clear to the government of the allied German nation that the Italian government does not share the personal opinion expressed by Andreotti, who forgot that he was our foreign minister, by damaging the credibility of Italy vis-à-vis the allies." At the same time, representatives of the German Christian Social Union party requested the resignation of Andreotti from the position of chairman of the European Union of the Christian Democrats.

Andreotti managed to find some supporters, like the secretary of Italian Christian Democracy, Ciriaco De Mita, and the leadership of the West German Social Democratic Party. And although after a meeting between the Italian foreign minister and his German counterpart (and fellow "decoupler") Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the crisis was officially "solved," yet what Andreotti has set into motion remains one of the most dangerous "mines" inside the alliance.