

Report from Italy by Liliana Celani

Are Bulgarian agents in the UIL?

The international desk of the third largest Italian trade union should be declared persona non grata in Peru.

Readers of *EIR* may remember that in 1982 Luigi Scricciolo, then head of the international desk of the UIL (Unione Italiana del Lavoro, Italy's third-largest trade union, led by socialist Giorgio Benvenuto), was arrested by the Italian police during the investigations into the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II by Mehmet Ali Agca, and the subsequent kidnaping of NATO general James Lee Dozier by the Red Brigades, in December 1981.

Scricciolo was accused of belonging to the terrorist Red Brigades and of being an agent of the Bulgarian secret services involved in the preparations for the attempt against the life of Pope John Paul II that occurred on May 13, 1981.

Some trade unionists inside the UIL had asked at that time for an investigation to find out whether other trade unionists had any connection to Scricciolo's activity, but the leadership of the UIL forbade such an investigation, and the Scricciolo case was soon forgotten.

However, in the context of the preparations for the international conference on St. Augustine sponsored by the Schiller Institute that was held in Rome on Nov. 1-3, 1985, the Schiller Institute was forced to deal with Scricciolo's successors inside the UIL as the Institute was organizing telegrams of support for Peruvian president Alan García and meetings between Ibero-American trade unionists attending the conference and their Italian counterparts.

Unfortunately Schiller Institute representatives were faced with Stalinist methods of intimidation and hostile reactions toward Peru from the same international desk known for the Scricciolo arrest, indicating that a Bulgarian connection inside the UIL still exists.

When asked to join the Schiller Institute mobilization in support of President García, many UIL trade unionists in Rome, Naples, Florence, and Genoa had enthusiastically agreed to come to the conference and take initiatives on behalf of Peru, and had agreed fully that Italy is one more victim of the genocidal policies of the IMF, which has demanded from Italy heavy cuts in health spending and pensions, as well as in wages.

Some trade-union sectors, with excellent links to Ibero-America, had even sent their admission fee to the conference, and were ready to speak in front of the hundreds of participants from five continents, but had asked for the authorization of the international desk, which is the only body that can decide where international support will be granted. But when the Schiller Institute called the international desk, it got the following response:

"The international desk of the UIL does not intend to meet with the Schiller Institute, nor to participate in the conference. The International Monetary Fund cannot be considered genocidal just because it wants its debts repaid; you people see too many conspiracies. President García will fall—and rightly so—into isolation if he

follows the policies of the Schiller Institute. He had invited us to his inauguration but we could not go because we had other things to do."

Other UIL trade unionists loyal to the international desk were still more explicit: "We cannot participate in the conference because the Schiller Institute is in the other camp. We have excellent relations with the Eastern European and Soviet trade unions. The Soviet farmers' trade union invited us to Moscow and will come to Rome in a few weeks. We do not want to have anything to do with you or Peru."

Another trade unionist even said: "If these Latin American countries are not able to manage their economies, they should not then come to us and ask for help."

The UIL trade unionists who had given assurances that they would participate were prevented from coming, and the international desk said that "even if they had come personally, they would not be shot immediately, but be aware of the fact that they go against the official policy of the UIL." The international desk even had the audacity to give orders to the Schiller Institute not to make any more contacts with any UIL sector asking for support for García. Schiller Institute representatives replied that, luckily, Italy is not Bulgaria, and is still inspired by the values of political freedom. Moreover, the Schiller Institute announced that it would inform all the trade unions in the world, and the governments of Ibero-America, of the UIL's hostile reactions to García's courageous fight.

It would be more than justified if these countries were to deny entry visas from now on to the international spokesmen of the UIL, unless they decide to clean out the Soviet and Bulgarian agents still in their midst after the Scricciolo case.