

## Report from Rome by Antonio Gaspari

### Bulgarian connection pops up again

*Mafiosi and functionaries of the Bulgarian embassy join forces in the "Isis 2" lodge of Trapani, Sicily.*

**A** most interesting and key part of investigations into the traffic in arms and drugs which runs through Trapani, Sicily, and involves the mafia, the Freemasonry, and functionaries of the Bulgarian government, was reopened recently, as Prosecutor Daniela Pellingra issued 34 arrest warrants for politicians, journalists, suspected mafiosi, and professionals.

The case hinges on the secret lodge of "A-2" brothers called "Isis 2," hidden behind the front of the "Antonio Scontrino" cultural circle in Trapani. According to justice officials, the reputable members of this Masonic lodge belong to an international organized-crime network.

The case traces back to investigations started by Judge Carlo Palermo and continued by the late Assistant Prosecutor Ciaccio Montalto. Montalto had found a tie between the mafia of Trapani and the Freemasonry of Tuscany, the region of north central Italy whose capital is Florence.

The story goes back to October 1981, when two gangsters from Trapani were killed near Florence: Giuseppe Milazzo, the father of the owner of a drug refinery discovered at Alcamo, and Salvatore Mancino, the mafia boss of Castellamare del Golfo. Prosecutor Montalto found two letters in which Mancino had recommended two "pigeons" to Riccardo Catalanotti, a Los Angeles mafioso.

In his written reply Catalanotti had stated, "Regarding my lodge, only the members are recognized to have assistance of any aid whatsoever, but no others. Are these two friends enrolled in our company? Answer so that I can

arrange the situation."

After these discoveries, Montalto was murdered, and Judge Palermo is alive only by a miracle.

There was no doubt that the investigation was on the right track: It turned out that the initiates in the secret lodge included one of the executors of the massacre of Pizzolungo, which was set up to try to kill Judge Palermo; and the fugitive Mariano Azaro, who belongs to the Minore mafia clan, recently identified as involved in drugs- and weapons-trafficking with Syria.

Although the Freemasonry has tried to present the Isis 2 lodge as a rogue operation, magistrates probing the case stress that the A-2 fraternity was inaugurated by men linked to Licio Gelli, the Venerable Master of the powerful Propaganda 2 lodge, and that the 100 "Isis 2" brothers are also enrolled in four other official lodges, which have their offices close to Scontrino Circle, on Carreca Street in Trapani.

But the most interesting element, which we hope will not be underestimated by the magistrates, is the fact that among the secret lodge's members are functionaries of the Bulgarian embassy. Moreover, there were frequent "cultural" trips by lodge brothers—to Sofia!

The precedents for links between mafia and Freemasonry are vast and well documented. These satanic bedfellows have been in cahoots since the 19th century, when the mafia first appeared in Sicily, and reached the United States through the Freemason Giuseppe Mazzini.

Mazzini's front man was named

Giuseppe Esposito. He left Sicily around 1870 and reached New Orleans where he contacted Joseph Macheca, who ran a company of 150 Sicilians known by the name of "Innocenti," who fought for slavery against Lincoln under Confederate General Pike—a Freemason.

Via Macheca, Esposito made a tour of the United States pulling together the secret societies of Italians, who from that time on became linked to organized crime. Macheca also linked up with a Romanian Jew named Samuel Zemurray, who merged his shipping line with four others to make United Fruit Company, today United Brands. This corporation has been repeatedly accused of conniving in the drug traffic.

Esposito reported to Mazzini, and Mazzini reported to British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, a high-degree Scottish Rite Freemason.

These ties have continued, and become so vast that even the Bishop of Cefalù, Sicily, Msgr. Emanuele Caltanicchia, recent denounced the meddling of the "two Ms," mafia and Masonry, into the city's political and administrative life.

As for Bulgaria, it has been a center of gnostic cults since Roman times, when the castrated priests of the cult of Ceres came from this area, called Thrace. The advent of the Communist dictatorship changed nothing. The late daughter of President Todor Zhivkov, Ludmilla, founded the Universal Gnostic Church, whose members include leaders of the Colombia cocaine mafia. Moreover, the Bulgarian government's import-export firm Kintex is well known for involvement in arms- and drug-trafficking. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reports say that Kintex answers directly to the first division of the Derzhavna Sicurnost, the Bulgarian secret service.