

Report from Rome by Giuseppe Filippini

Return of the vampire: Guido Carli

The new Andreotti government of Italy has as its treasury minister a madman from the Last Days of Rome.

Giulio Andreotti, one of the old Christian Democratic standbys of Italian postwar politics, has just formed a new government. What characterizes it fundamentally is the nomination of Guido Carli to be the treasury minister, a position from which the ex-Governor of the Bank of Italy will be able to determine the future of Italian economic policy—just as he did in the 1960s from the helm of the Bank of Italy.

It was Guido Carli who in 1964 destroyed what had been called the Italian Economic Miracle, with a massive, and totally unjustified, credit squeeze. Till that time, the Italian economy had marched forward at rates of real productive growth in the range of 10-12% per year; millions of workers had left behind the poverty of subsistence farming to go to work in industry, where it was not a problem to find a job.

Then came the assassination of Enrico Mattei, the pillar of the state energy sector; some carefully ignited scandals; the growing power of the chief of the small, CIA-backed bankers' party called the Italian Republican Party, Ugo La Malfa; and the activities of Guido Carli at the Bank of Italy. And the "miracle" ground to a halt.

Carli works for international high finance (the International Monetary Fund, the Rockefeller group, FIAT, Kissinger Associates), and his actions are decided, not on the basis of the interests of Italians and their economy, but by the obsessions of genocidal, malthusian circles determined to hang on to their power. According to

early indiscretions, Carli is preparing to carry out the decapitation of much of the nation's productive activities, in order to reorganize the Italian economy according to the dictates of speculative, high-profit finance. This is the project of the international financial wizards for Italy for the Europe Single Market of 1992.

A foretaste of the drastic cuts in investments which Carli is getting ready to impose is seen in the "Aug. 15 maneuver for cooling down internal demand." Press leaks say there is talk of 30-40 trillion liras in cuts in public spending, and a freeze on the investments which the previous government was getting ready to make (which had been appropriated by the Finance bill of 1988). Also being discussed are raising taxes and tightening credit (decided by the Bank of Italy). But that is just the beginning.

Carli is . . . well, a creep. Morally, he belongs to the late Roman Empire. Suffice it to recall that his name came out in the scandal of Rome's Number One nightclub, one of the steamiest tales of trading in sexual erotica to come out of Italian political life in the last decade. A painting of Saint Sebastian, shown as an athletic young nude man shot full of arrows, hangs over his desk.

But as he has said, he has nothing to lose. He's not worried about being unpopular, and is ready to carry out cuts in living standards and productive activities, turning the Italian economy into the Hong Kong of the Mediterranean, dedicated to speculative activities at the outer edges of legality (recycling of money, stock manipula-

tions) in which only five or six of the big-time multinationals (Italy's are Agnelli, De Benedetti, Gardini, the Generali insurance giants) can steer through good weather and bad, while the last lira will be wrung out of the individual worker to pay ever more incredible taxes.

The question is whether the Andreotti government is going to be strong enough to support this madman, just one year before the deadline for major elections. And whether the Italians will be willing to swallow these useless sacrifices.

Carli De Benedetti, the Italian financier from Olivetti so much admired by Henry Kissinger, had already presented his "solution" to the dilemma, a Red-Green alliance: referendums against everything and everyone, against agriculture, against chemicals, and against industry; using the Communist Party, the major press outlets he controls, and the Green Party to impose economic fascism.

De Benedetti is from the "universalist" wing of fascism, otherwise known as the cold, enlightened branch of gnosticism; Carli, together with playboy-financier Gianni Agnelli and the new foreign minister, Gianni De Michelis, are the "hot" branch of occultism, complete with all of its typical manifestations, hard rock, extreme political Jacobinism, sexual libertinism, and drugs.

Wherever the government doesn't reach with its taxes, cuts, and credit squeeze, the opposition reaches—the Communists and the Greens—and they will shut you down for polluting, if you breathe. A nation like Italy, which is today controlled both by the government and by the "opposition" in a division of labor between the official and shadow governments, is a nation careening toward totalitarianism.