

Venice meeting plots 'the death of Italy'

by EIR Staff

The geopolitical magazine *Limes* sponsored a conference in Venice on Oct. 28, on the theme, "What Is Italy For?" Among those attending were senior Italian politicians and government ministers, Catholic Cardinal Silvestrini, former Bush-era U.S. National Security Council figure Richard Haas, and influentials from France and Germany. The word *Limes* refers to the wall that was built by the Romans to keep barbarians out of the Empire—a racist, imperial concept that was much in evidence at the Venice gathering.

The *Sunday Telegraph* of London, in a report on the conference published Oct. 30, concluded that Italy is not "for" very much at all. Wrote correspondent Robert Fox: "Death in Venice looked the only possible outcome of the weekend of conferences, devoted not just to the breakup of Italy but to the end of the dream of Unity and the Risorgimento of Garibaldi, Cavour and Co. after barely a century and a quarter." The *Sunday Telegraph* is owned by the Hollinger Corp., a Canadian-based mouthpiece for British intelligence.

Fox described the frescoes in Palazzo Labbia on Canal Grande, where the conference took place, and jumped from there to forecast the demise of the Italian Republic: "The fresco cycle was painted by Tiepolo's team in 1757, exactly 40 years before the Most Serene Republic of Venice fell to Napoleon's troops. By all accounts, it will take rather less time for the ceiling to fall in on the postwar Italian republic. According to several speakers in the Palazzo Labbia conference, the rites of passage have already begun."

Two speakers at the conference, Venice Mayor Massimo Cacciari and diplomat Sergio Romano, presented their "solutions" to the Italian crisis. Cacciari urged a new, "federalist" constitution, as the only way "to prevent explosions of local antagonism," while Romano called for re-education of the Italian population from the collective sin of fascism.

Detailed projects

The latest issue of *Limes* publishes a number of detailed projects for a federal Italy. One, from the Agnelli Foundation, proposes that Italy should split into three federated republics, with separate powers for the big islands and the northern frontier regions.

Another speaker, Sabino Acquaviva, a sociologist at the University of Padua, announced a new book in which he explains why Italy's postwar system was "so successful so

long. Largely it was for three reasons: the Mafia, which has an annual turnover of several billion dollars. Secondly, the success of petty crime in the poorest regions. Thirdly, there was uncontrolled public expenditure, perhaps the extreme example of Keynesian deficit budgeting."

An oligarchical mouthpiece

Limes, a quarterly magazine, is a creation of Lucio Caracciolo, a member of the famous Caracciolo oligarchical family which runs Italy's radical-liberal media cartel. Caracciolo's father is manager and co-publisher of the daily *La Repubblica* and the weekly *Espresso*; his aunt is the wife of Gianni Agnelli, who owns the dailies *La Stampa* and *Corriere della Sera*. Co-owner of Caracciolo's group is financier Carlo de Benedetti, manager of Olivetti Corp. On the editorial board of Caracciolo's *Espresso* is Bruno Visentini, chairman of the Cini Foundation. The Caracciolo family thus controls the most powerful media group in the country, which has played a crucial role in both the secularization of the country and the demolition of the Christian Democratic-centered political system.

The *Limes* initiative came out of a "left-wing" magazine called *Micromega*, of which Lucio Caracciolo was co-editor. Caracciolo is proud of having established a geopolitical journal which draws both from the "left" and from the "right." *Limes* is publishing a French edition and plans a German one. The *Limes* group is working to establish in Rome a "European Geopolitical Watch."

According to a *Limes* source, "Italy should be seen as useful for Europe. It must become a true 'Limes' barrier against the balkanization of Europe. There are threats at our frontiers, if Europe lets these threats penetrate through Italy, it will be a disaster. The problem is not only the Balkans as such, but also instability in eastern Europe and problems from North Africa. Italy and other countries should be working out what we at *Limes* like to call 'areas of geopolitical responsibility.' For example, Italy can have an important role to play in the Maghreb, not only France."

The most immediate threat

The most immediate strategic threat to Europe is posed by the "civil war" in Algeria, said the source, and the solution is a *Limes* wall. "Inside the Algerian military," he said, "there is a growing mood for a showdown with the Islamist rebels, and that would be a disaster. Meanwhile, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] is losing control of the GIA [Islamic Armed Group]. FIS is no more a coherent group, but is rather an incoherent mix of different feelings and strategies. As a result, we now have a civil war threat coming from Algeria, and Europe must prepare for the consequences of that."

In Italy, media scare stories are proliferating these days, talking about the need to keep out refugees from Morocco, Albania, and other countries, since they are supposedly bringing cholera into Italy.