

Oligarchs dominate Italian government

by Claudio Celani

The new Italian government led by Lamberto Dini is described by media as a technocratic cabinet free from "party influence"; apart from virtual reality, it turns out to be mostly influenced by a very definite party: the oligarchical party. Starting with Dini himself, a product of Countess Donatella Pecci Blunt's Roman salon, behind the technocratic image of his "party-less" ministers and state secretaries, emerges the dominating presence of Prince Philip's Club of the Isles and 1001 Club.

Dini: up the social ladder

Dini is a simple servant of the international oligarchy. Son of a Florentine fruit-monger, he made his way up inside the Italian banking world, to become executive director of the International Monetary Fund in 1970. In 1974, Dini negotiated the first IMF loan for Italy, whose conditionalities are responsible for Italy's turn away from a growth policy into a post-industrial, debt-ridden economy. From 1975 to 1983, Dini oversaw the IMF Africa program, which turned the continent into a net capital exporter with catastrophic consequences for its economy and a genocidal effect on its population.

In Countess Pecci Blunt's salon, Dini was selected as husband to Donatella Zincone, the heiress of an Italian businessman who transferred his activities to Costa Rica in the 1970s. Mrs. Dini-Zincone's Gruppo Zeta is so influential in the Central American country today that she is called "The Queen of Costa Rica." Gruppo Zeta's secret: cheap labor in Costa Rica's tax havens, created by the local government just for Mrs. Dini-Zincone.

Thus, we have the peculiar case of the prime minister of a country who has announced an austerity program with \$10-15 billion in tax and budget cuts, who at the same time is raising his own private fortune overseas, by not paying taxes! So much for a "technocrat" who is supposed to be immune to political "corruption." Dini, who was voted in by a left-dominated coalition in the Parliament, has also announced a radical pension reform, to shift from a public system to an increasingly private one, through the introduction of pension funds. The aim is to drastically decrease state entitlements for pensions, and pension levels overall. Also, the minimum retirement age will be shifted upwards. Meanwhile Mr. Dini,

in addition to his other revenues, is enjoying his Banca d'Italia pension which he got after just 15 years of employment, amounting to \$10,000 a month.

Puppets and puppeteers

No surprise, therefore, that the technocrat whom Dini appointed as finance minister, Augusto Fantozzi, developed his expertise as a years-long tax adviser to the (Venetian) Benetton financial group. In Italy, the economics portfolio is split into three ministries: Treasury (gives out the money); Budget (planning), and Finance (enforces taxes). So, Mr. Fantozzi, who has been advising his rich customers on how to pay less taxes, now has the task of enforcing an "equal" round of sacrifices on the Italian population.

More directly representative of the oligarchical party is Dini's Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, almost a blueblood herself. Sister to FIAT owner Gianni Agnelli, the foreign minister is married into the Rattazzi oligarchical family and, like her two brothers Gianni and Umberto, is one of the few Italian members of Prince Philip's 1001 Club. The Agnelli family is totally integrated into the London-centered international oligarchy. Not accidentally, Agnelli's first action in office was a visit to British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd.

While it is possible that she will not profile herself as too pro-British, at least publicly, Agnelli's intentions are indicated by the person she appointed as Italian representative in the group preparing the next European Union Treaty, which is supposed to update criteria for European monetary and political integration. Livio Caputo, Agnelli's choice, is a member of the Milan-based Center of Studies of Geopolitics, Strategic Security, and Ethno-Nationalism (CSGSSE). This center is led by Carlo Maria Santoro, another member of the Dini government.

Santoro is deputy minister for defense. In an interview with the magazine *L'Italia*, Santoro stated: "The concept of Fortress Europe (*Festung Europa*) created by Haushofer and Hitler is a formula based on an idea of Europe which I consider very timely, as offensive-defensive. I explain: The German unification in 1990 has made possible the unification of western Europe and has reconfirmed the prominent role of Germany as defensive first line of Europe against the East and maybe also against the Far West, the United States. Here we are inside a *Festung Europa*, almost without realizing it."

Santoro draws a Limes (Latin for border, but also implying the Roman walls to keep out "undesirables") between Europe, including non-Slavic eastern countries, and Russia; he draws the same Limes between Europe and the United States, "as the American continent can never be essentially European." By denying common European and American roots, Santoro denies the Christian roots of western civilization as a whole. That is the basic oligarchical way of thinking, which invented geopolitics as an instrument to manipu-

late nations against each other.

'Mario of England'

Let us end our short tour of the gallery of horrors with Dini's deputy minister for foreign trade, banker Mario D'Urso. Since Dini abolished the Foreign Trade Ministry and put it under the Industry Ministry, D'Urso will probably end up by having the same powers as a minister. D'Urso is nicknamed "Mario of England" for his close relationships to the Windsor family. A friend of the British Queen's sister Margaret, he recently beat up a paparazzo who snapped a photo of D'Urso with the Duchess of Kent.

According to *EIR's* book *Dope, Inc.*, banker D'Urso is tied to networks accused of drug-money recycling. A member of Kissinger Associates, he is also Italy's representative for Shearson Lehman investment house. D'Urso played a prominent role in the merger and acquisition merry-go-round that brought the old-line German-Jewish Wall Street houses Kuhn Loeb, Lehman Brothers, and Shearson Hayden Stone under the American Express umbrella at the outset of the 1980s. D'Urso came to Shearson Lehman American Express through the old Kuhn Loeb firm, whose international department he directed before it merged with Lehman. Currently he's the New York chief of Jefferson Insurance Co., the joint arm of the Venetian insurance giants Assicurazioni Generali and Riunione Adriatica di Sicurtà, the central clearing-houses for the ancient Venetian *fondi*. The board of Assicurazioni Generali reads like the "Who's Who" of the Central European oligarchy. It is a typical expression of the Windsors' Club of the Isles.

Last September, D'Urso organized an Italian trip for his boss Henry Kissinger. Fat Henry lectured a group of bankers and businessmen including Luigi Spaventa, a senator in the leftist bloc and D'Urso's partner in the speculative venture Finanza & Futuro, belonging to Carlo De Benedetti (another character orbiting around the Generali pole). Finanza & Futuro is the third biggest Italian fund investing in financial derivatives. Among the other guests at the meeting with Kissinger, were banker Mario Sarcinelli (Banca Nazionale del Lavoro), publisher Carlo Caracciolo (of the princely Caracciolo family intermarried with the Agnellis), and businessman Antonio D'Amico, a member of Prince Philip's 1001 Club. At that meeting, Kissinger dared to give an interview on Aldo Moro. Moro was the Christian Democratic leader who was killed by the Red Brigades in 1978, concretizing earlier threats to Moro from Kissinger himself. Kissinger boasted: "Aldo Moro did not understand what foreign policy is."

D'Urso is chairman of Italy Funds, a New York investment fund dealing only with Italian equities. The annual reports of Italy Funds boast that the company has always performed better than the Italian Stock Exchange, i.e., it has regularly drawn profits out of the country. In Dini's reversed-qualifications cabinet, the best place for a flight-capital entrepreneur is, of course, the Foreign Trade Ministry.

Will Poland once again cave in to false ideas?

by Anna Kaczor

It is quite possible Cervantes himself would agree that the Poles have a true Sancho Panza for a President. He has been promised delicious food by his advisers trained in the London and Harvard schools of economics, if he fights wholeheartedly against imaginary windmills, now in the form of budgetary problems, now taxes, now nominations, and reforms. He has combatted with true zeal; unfortunately, he has never checked what the promised goodies look like, and if he ever gets them, he will realize that they belong to virtual reality—just like the hot speculative money which is forming an ever more enormous bubble over our heads.

After the blowup of the debt bomb in Mexico, which was the symptom of the coming crash of the global financial system, Poland, one of the "emerging markets" in line for the Mexico treatment, is being pushed into a state of chaos with the help of President Lech "Sancho" Walesa. It seems that the panic among international financial institutions caused by the Mexican crisis resulted in a frenzy to loot whatever is left of the productive economy through a process of so-called privatization, which is a part of free market reforms in the post-communist countries. Walesa, a self-proclaimed supporter of those reforms, serves the international looters' interests quite well by helping them to eliminate any potential resistance to the process of dismantling of the Polish economy. In a dramatic move on Feb. 4, he refused to sign a state budget for 1995, which he claims gives him a way to dissolve the Parliament.

It became obvious almost immediately that the real issue is not the budget (which was "approved" by International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus during his December visit to Poland, which should have satisfied Walesa), but rather the fight to accelerate free-market reforms by forcing Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak out of office, thus reducing the influence of the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) in the government. That is what finally happened on Feb. 7, when the two ruling parties agreed to remove Pawlak and replace him with Jozef Oleksy of the SLD, currently the Speaker of the Parliament. Oleksy was a minister in the last communist government headed by Mieczyslaw Rakowski, who already in 1988 discussed shock therapy for Poland with international speculator George Soros.

Until Feb. 8, the government consisted of members of