

Italy: The acquittal of Andreotti and the crisis of D'Alema's government

by Claudio Celani

On Oct. 22, a three-judge panel in Palermo voted to acquit former Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, thus exonerating him fully from the allegation of being the political leader of the Sicilian Mafia. A month earlier, a jury in Perugia also acquitted the 80-year-old leader, on a murder charge stemming from the Palermo trial. As we analyzed in an earlier article (*EIR*, Oct. 8), both the Perugia and the Palermo cases were built almost exclusively on statements released by *pentiti*, or “repentant” Mafia members, the most famous being Tommaso Buscetta, a “former” member of Cosa Nostra, the U.S. branch of the Sicilian Mafia.

From a legal standpoint, the acquittal is the best possible outcome in a case that should have never been brought to trial in the first place. Whereas the role of the Sicilian Mafia in the political destabilization of Italy has never been fully clarified, and several questions about that could undoubtedly be answered by Andreotti himself, the attempt to obliterate the question with a criminal trial against the seven-time Prime Minister was a legal atrocity and a political deception.

The Andreotti case has been the expression of the tectonic changes that occurred in Italy in 1992-93 as a consequence of what *EIR* has exposed as the “*Britannia* plot”: the effort on the part of the Thatcher-Bush circles to eliminate national forces which, up until the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, had represented a bulwark against Communism. Such forces, represented in Italy by the Christian Democratic party (DC) and its government allies, had become an obstacle to the British strategy of privatizing Italy's state-sector industries, discussed in a meeting off the Italian coast on board the royal yacht *Britannia* on June 2, 1992.

As an element of that strategy, the case against Andreotti, a Christian Democrat, was built through the efforts of a section of the “permanent bureaucracy” in the U.S. Department of Justice. A key person in this effort has been Dick Martin, a former special representative in Rome of George Bush's Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and the person who, after the murder of Italian anti-Mafia prosecutor Giovanni Falcone, managed star *pentito* Tommaso Buscetta, who had been a protected witness in the United States.

In a television interview given after the Palermo verdict, Andreotti referred to Martin, without naming him, by hinting at a “prompter” behind the *pentiti* revelations against him. Andreotti, who was asked if he thought that the American

government or government agencies were behind his prosecution, denied it, saying that one should rather think of “pieces of intelligence.”

A new phase begins

The implications of the Palermo sentence are numerous. First, Andreotti can now have a comeback on the political scene, not excluding a government role (as a matter of fact, in recent years, Andreotti has continued to play a decisive, although behind-the-scenes, role in matters of foreign policy, for instance in the development of relations, through Italy, between the European Union and Iran). Second, through the rehabilitation of Andreotti, the DC, which dissolved in 1993, will be rehabilitated, thus opening the door to some sort of rebirth of the old Catholic party.

A new phase is now beginning for Italy, which portends both opportunity and danger. The opportunity is that the most positive tradition of the Christian Democracy, that of Andreotti and the late industrialist and nation-builder Enrico Mattei, can be revived, and pro-national forces can join in a fight against the Anglo-American oligarchical enemy, adopting initiatives consistent with Lyndon LaRouche's indicated solutions to the world crisis. The danger is that the forces defeated in the 1992-93 *Britannia* coup, instead of following this path, could move to take revenge in a classic left-right conflict, manipulated by the City of London—thus further ensuring the doom of the nation.

Government crisis looms

Andreotti's acquittal was made possible thanks to a change of political climate, which started when current Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema became secretary general of the former Communist Party, now the DS (Democratici di Sinistra), and became evident when D'Alema took office as Prime Minister last year. D'Alema is an adversary of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's “Third Way” current in the international Social Democracy, and has attempted to stabilize the Italian political scene by avoiding the most radical economic recipes of the Blair sort, at the same time as intervening to reverse the “purging” of political adversaries, of which the Andreotti case was an example.

The rehabilitation of Andreotti and the strengthening of the Catholic faction means, strategically, a potential strength-



Former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. His acquittal on trumped-up charges brings Italy to a new phase in its political strife, providing both an opportunity and a danger for the nation.

ening of D'Alema. It is not clear, however, whether this will succeed in changing the trajectory of the current government, which seems headed toward an inevitable crisis, by the beginning of next year at the latest. As we wrote one year ago, the D'Alema government was based on a compromise among at least three factions, whose fundamental conflicting interests would explode sooner or later. That is exactly what has happened.

Key to the destabilization of the government, as we predicted, is Francesco Cossiga, the former President who is an asset of the City of London, and whose faction is part of the current government coalition. Cossiga launched the latest threat against D'Alema with the official help of British intelligence, which fabricated what has become known as the "Mitrokhin dossier." The dossier contains lists of alleged KGB spies in the West during the Cold War, and was released by British MI6 with the primary aim of destabilizing continental Europe.

At the beginning of October, when the British leaked word that the dossier contained the names of 300 Italian politicians, journalists, and diplomats who had allegedly worked for the KGB, and that the Italian government had received the list, London's assets in Italy started to demand that the government make it public, while the media wrote that the publication of such a list could have the same effect on the D'Alema government that the famous Propaganda-2 list had had in 1981 (at that time, the publication of the names of members of the secret freemasonic P-2 Lodge led to the fall of the government of Christian Democrat Arnaldo Forlani). It was expected, in fact, that the list would contain names of members of the former Communist Party who are now part of the government coalition.

The government delivered the list to the Rome prosecutor's office, which in turn gave it to the parliamentary investigative committee on terrorism. A faction on that committee pushed to make the list public; and that faction is steered, according to information received by *EIR*, by former leaders of the NATO "stay-behind" organization called Gladio. As soon as the committee received the list, on Oct. 11, it was made public and became the dominating political issue in Italy.

On one side, the list contains banalities such as the revelation that Armando Cossutta, chairman of the Communist Party (PDCI), is a KGB agent. Cossutta has been for decades the recognized leader of the pro-Soviet faction of the former Italian Communist Party (PCI), and has made no secret of having, in that function, received financial support from Moscow. It is clear that by targetting Cossutta, the MI6's fabricated list is actually intended to target the government.

The dossier contains such deceptions as a report which exposes the "American connection" behind the kidnapping and assassination of Aldo Moro, in 1978, as actually the result of a KGB black propaganda operation. The dossier refers to the alleged success by the KGB in convincing Christian Democratic leaders, a few months after Moro's murder, that the U.S. government was behind the assassination. Thus, in an oblique way, the MI6 dossier tries to discredit the central issue of the Moro case: the role of Henry Kissinger, as it was exposed by the LaRouche movement with the publication, in September 1978, of the famous report, "Who Killed Aldo Moro?" This publication, which had a decisive influence on Christian Democratic circles, exposed Kissinger not as a representative of the U.S. government, but as an agent of influence of the British oligarchy.

The Mitrokhin hoax exposed

Paolo Raimondi, chairman of the Italian Civil Rights Movement Solidarity, the Italian branch of the LaRouche movement, has issued a statement calling for the establishment of a parliamentary committee to investigate why MI6 is releasing the "Mitrokhin bomb" just at the present time. "How is it possible," Raimondi asks, "that even the most naive political observer does not realize that the Mitrokhin operation is a hoax fabricated by London?" Raimondi exposes the attempt to destabilize the Italian political system in particular, because "the current government, which did not embrace Blair's Third Way, has lost London's support." Raimondi connects the Mitrokhin case to the current British campaign against the Vatican, and indicates that the current destabilization is "a repeat, in different ways, of the *Britannia* operation." Raimondi also blasts the cover-up of Henry Kissinger's role in the Moro case. Kissinger, Raimondi says, "is a confessed London agent, who often threatened Aldo Moro and opposed, with London and the Moscow hard-liners, Moro's policy of national unity and real East-West détente."

The Mitrokhin dossier was exposed as a hoax by, among others, journalist Gianni Cipriani, who wrote on Oct. 13 in the

pro-government daily *L'Unità*, an article under the headline: "The Dossier Crime Story: Russian or British?" "After the orgy of revelations," Cipriani writes, "a more careful reading of the 645 pages prompts the discovery that the so-called Mitrokhin dossier . . . is nothing other than the product of a collection of reports packaged by British counterintelligence. It is worth repeating: packaged by British counterintelligence, on the basis of no-better-specified notes supplied by the KGB defector." Cipriani indicates that British intelligence has other interests than establishing the truth. "With all due respect for an allied service, it is clear that the British have elaborated what they have seen, since, although allied, the task of a secret service is above all to protect national interests." With a slight correction, namely that the task of MI6 is to protect the interests of the Crown, Cipriani hits the mark. His opinion is shared by a member of the Parliament investigating committee on terrorism, Senator Pardini, who says that the "value of the dossier is practically zero," and that the source is not only Mitrokhin: "They gave us only reports written by British agents."

That the Mitrokhin dossier is an MI6 hoax is a fact recognized in all political circles. Nevertheless, the British action has manipulated the opposition (and part of the government coalition), into supporting the use of the fraudulent story for an electoral crusade.

The effort was launched by Cossiga, who published an "Open letter to the Government" on Oct. 14, in which he threatened D'Alema with creating a government crisis, unless the government supports the establishment of an investigating commission. The idea would be to have a sort of "Truth Commission" to investigate, not just the content of the Mitrokhin dossier, but the role of the KGB in postwar Italy. Such a commission would focus on the fact that the Left, during the Cold War, was financed by Moscow; this—and not the economic crisis—would become the dominating issue in the months leading into the important administrative elections which are scheduled for next spring. The target of these electoral manipulations could be even higher, since it is not to be excluded that, in case of government crisis, early general elections would be called.

Despite the farcical character of Cossiga's initiative, the government accepted the idea. Currently, the two branches of Parliament are discussing various options for the committee requested by Cossiga, going from an all-encompassing "Truth Commission" to a smaller one, limited to the content of the Mitrokhin dossier.

According to an informed source, the most probable outcome will be that no committee will be formed, but that the process will lead to a government crisis anyway. The government has been at a dead end for weeks, mainly as a result of D'Alema's refusal to face the real challenge facing Italy: the economic crisis. On one side, one has to recognize that the D'Alema government, since its inception, has been forced to deal with an array of other issues, ranging from the case involving the arrest of Kurdish separatist leader Abdullah Ocalan, to the Kosovo War, and now the Mitrokhin dossier—all stemming from British geopolitical games and manipulation. However, D'Alema gives no indication of readiness to change his course in the near future. His latest attempt to survive has been to try a government reshuffle by including the Democratic Party, a newly born entity founded by Third Way puppet Romano Prodi, in the government coalition—but this seems doomed to fail. Our sources indicate that D'Alema might decide to anticipate a crisis by resigning after the budget is voted on by Parliament, at the end of December, and try to force early elections. The Left would therefore accept a vote on the "communist" issue, confident that its base would close ranks behind it.

However, another scenario could be that President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, instead of dissolving Parliament, would replace D'Alema with a technocratic cabinet, and blackmail Parliament to support it, lest Italy should lose the "confidence of the markets." Since the practice of imposing technocratic governments on Parliament has not been the exception, but the rule in Italy in the last seven years, this scenario could materialize, unless the forces around D'Alema and the rehabilitated Catholic factions decide to wage a winning war for economic liberation against the dictatorship of the global financial markets.

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