

motivation for a DCEr to accept this ploy now is the fear of the unknown alternative.

The same terror permeates the national leadership of the Communist Party of Italy. Devout centrist bureaucrats, they will do everything possible to keep the DC together, because without the DC they are face to face

with the question of seizure of state power. In this political vacuum the European Labor Committees' proposal of an immediate moratorium on foreign debt, and the building of international support to defend it, is reaching the politicized layers of the working class with the sole real alternative.

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## IPS book review:

### Mussolini's Widow Remembers Papa

*MUSSOLINI: An Intimate Biography*

*By His Widow Rachele Mussolini as told to Albert Zarca.*

Morrow \$8.95.

July 8 (IPS) — "Duce, you are too kindhearted," Hitler told Mussolini during the troubles of 1943. "You'll never make a dictator." Mama — Benito's pet name for his wife Rachele — agrees: "he was opposed to hurting people. . . . His philosophy was such that he felt a more intimate bond with someone like Ghandi or Francis of Assisi...than with someone like Stalin or Hitler..." Too tender to cut off the wart on his neck his children loved to play with, a man afraid of ghosts and the evil eye,

Benito is posthumously rehabilitated and castrated by Rachele's almost embarrassing mass of clinical evidence exposing the **bambino** behind the brawling, dueling **cazzisto**. Rachele sacrificed herself by tolerating his liaison with Claretta Petacci, but he always loved Mama best and she, unlike Petacci, survived. "The Italian is a great big well-meaning baby" — at the age of 83 Rachele views the Italy of strikes and Bolshevism as a crowd of children in need of "a stern father figure." Basically, she declared, "Mussolini did more for his country than all his successors," but fell through soft heartedness. Next time no more nice guys. Mama, a patron saint of Italy's fascist MSI movement, knows best.