

# Italians want U.S. ambassador out

While Italian Prime Minister-designate Giulio Andreotti has still not presented a proposal for a new government, the Italian press has broken a scandal that may result in the recall of U.S. Ambassador to Rome, Richard Gardner.

The Rome daily *La Repubblica* on Feb. 13 published part of an alleged secret report to the U.S. State Department prepared by the U.S. Embassy in Rome, on the security, intelligence and antiterrorist operations apparatus in Italy. Singled out for special attention is Carabinieri General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, who, according to the report, has taken over the country's counterespionage apparatus with his antiterrorist activity. The general is presented in the embassy report as ambitious and not overly concerned with legality in his operations. He has also been the object of attacks by the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) because he is not accountable to any of the country's democratic institutions in

the exercise of his plenipotentiary powers.

*L'Unita*, the newspaper of the Italian Communist Party, responded to the report with a front-page story under the headline "This Country Is Not Latin America." *L'Unita* demanded an immediate reaction from the Italian government: "Imagine what would have happened if ... such a thing were discovered in Paris or Bonn. The least that would happen is that the Ambassador would be called before the President or Chancellor and told that he is *persona non grata*."

The ruling Christian Democratic Party responded today with a Feb. 14 article in their daily paper *Il Popolo*. The U.S. interference, says *Popolo*, "must be seen not only as an obscure operation to discredit the Italian Secret Services, but it must be seen in the context of an overall destabilization of the country."

The European Labor Party first called for Gardner's ouster from Italy

in January, 1978, when the ambassador was part of a successful destabilization of the government. Reliable sources report that high government circles are now considering acting on the ELP's demand; and the author of the document, Dominic Perrone, left Rome shortly before Andreotti officially requested his departure as *persona non grata*.

General Dalla Chiesa, who was appointed to head a special operations task force against terrorism following the Aldo Moro kidnapping last summer, has in the past month captured approximately 40 terrorists and terrorist supporters, including 27 attendees of a terrorist-support conference in Rome. His team has also discovered half a dozen Red Brigades or Prima Linea (Front Line) hideouts containing printing presses, arms, false identification and hit lists with dossiers of victims.

event with some political and emotional content can trigger off the process. The execution of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto can provide much more than a detonation. The subdued reaction can become vocal and ultimately turn militantly violent. The resultant chaos will certainly fulfill the wishes of national enemies." To Gen. Zia Chaudhury he stated directly: "A head of state who is the symbol of unity of the country must take note of it, and it is for him to reconcile both points of view to some extent by tempering justice with mercy, in the exercise of his constitutional prerogatives."

Informed sources suggest that Zia intentionally made himself unavailable to receive Chaudhury's statement because his mind is set on the hanging, and he is not willing to be swayed. One military source described his predicament to the *London Guardian*: "It is dangerous to hang Bhutto, it is more dangerous not to."

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