

4. Italy: a nation's future at stake

In a May 23 appearance before foreign journalists, Italian Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi bristled when asked if his party would win the same number of seats in Italy's upcoming parliamentary elections as the miniscule Radical Party. Rumors, Craxi responded, that the PSI is finished as political force in Italy, are unfounded.

In fact, the predictions that the PSI will be the big loser in Italy's June 3 and 4 parliamentary balloting seem very well founded. The irony of this is that the elections, which neither of Italy's two dominant parties, the Christian Democrats and the Communists, wanted, were provoked precisely in order to restore the PSI to its onetime role as the "swing" party, the minority partner which traditionally wielded influence by black-mailing the larger DC with the threatened withdrawal of its support.

Under the PSI scenario, the elections were to break apart the DC-Communist tacit coalition that had ruled Italy since 1976, and usher in a period of "controlled chaos"—with the PSI, backed by American ultimata barring the Communists from a role in any government, providing the margin of rule for the post-election Italian government.

Instead, Craxi is weary and on the defensive, finessed, as he bitterly complains, by a combination of caretaker Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, whose government Craxi helped topple in January, and the forces of Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer. Unless Craxi pulls magic out of his hat between now and June 3—magic which could include one of the U.S. embassy's famous Italian vote fraud operations—it seems certain that 1979 will see the disappearance of both of the fixtures of British influence over Italian politics, the tiny Republicans (whose leader Ugo La Malfa died days after attempting to form a cabinet to succeed Andreotti) and the PSI.

Craxi blames his troubles on Andreotti's shrewdness in holding the Italian elections one week before the June 10 European Parliamentary balloting, where the PSI was expected to do

PSI's difficulty is the ruthless political offensive against terrorism conducted by the Communists, Andreotti's allies in the Italian police and judiciary, and by the European Labor Party, which began the unraveling of Craxi's political operations last year with the issuance of a dossier, "Who Killed Aldo Moro," which tied leaders of the Socialist Party directly to the terrorist networks responsible for the Moro murder and other acts of terrorism on behalf of British and allied U.S. policy toward Italy.

Not only is the campaign against terrorism hitting the PSI, but it is also drawing the dividing line between DC factions committed to industrial progress and the EMS strategy, and oligarchist-allied DC figures such as Amintore Fanfani, who has lined up squarely in the camp of the embattled Craxi.

Because so much is at stake in the Italian national elections—the very survival of the Italian nation—the parliamentary campaign has eclipsed the European Parliament balloting a week later. But the issues of the national election dominate those of European voting.

Offensive against terrorism

"Today's main enemy is terrorism," says Luciano Lama, a Communist leader and Secretary General of the Italian CGIL trade union confederation. Terming the fight against terrorism the center of Italian politics at the European trade union meeting in Munich May 16, Lama called for the European labor movement to "cooperate in the fight against terrorists in Italy, and to help find those pulling the strings." Lama's analysis is echoed by the president of the Christian Democratic Party, Flaminio Piccoli. In an editorial published by the party's paper *Il Popolo* on May 21, Piccoli belied the "anticommunist" profile that the major foreign and most of the Italian press have been giving the general elections. "The real question," said the DC leader, "is not whether Berlinguer will enter the government or not. The real issue is the risk that the offensive by the armed [terrorist] party and radical anarchism" could destroy the very basis of the Italian state.

At the level of the judiciary, the antiterrorist effort is being efficiently and successfully conducted by Carabinieri General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa (associated with DC circles) and Judge Calogero, (associated with the PCI). The police/judicial antiterrorist drive has produced dozens of arrests of key terrorists, with the biggest catch being a "former" PSI member and political science professor at the University of Padua, Antonio Negri. Particularly damaging to the DC in the Negri case is the fact that throughout his career, Negri has been the protégé of a prominent PSI Central Committee member, Norberto Bobbio. Negri is accused of having directly helped mastermind and execute the kidnapping and murder last year of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro.

Through a broadly targeted campaign using television, radio, and the press, the European Labor Party has been a key factor in the linking of Craxi and company to the Italian terrorists. The ELP campaign has forced the issue into the open: there is barely a

press conference or party event where Craxi is not called upon to answer the ELP charges. "If I were to believe what is said in the piazzas about me," Craxi blurted at his May 23 appearance before foreign journalists—in answer to a question on his party's election day prospects—"I would lose the elections.... The public is saying that I am a friend of the terrorists." The night before, ELP leader Fiorella Operto had declared on nationwide television that "the ELP supports the antiterror operations conducted by General Dalla Chiesa and the magistrates. A party such as the PSI which is placing all sorts of obstacles in the way of their job is not qualified to be in the Italian parliament.... We call on Craxi to answer clearly whether he supports Dalla Chiesa or not.... The presence of the PSI in any post-election government is a threat to the state, and the issue must be discussed." Operto's statement was reported in full by the national daily *Il Tempo*, a paper associated with the DC tendency headed by Prime Minister Andreotti.

Also being drawn into the scandal surrounding the terrorist fights are DC circles associated with Italy's Hapsburg-allied "black nobility" families. The leading casualty here may be former Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani, whose career has been based on his association with the Pallavicini family.

A proposal by Fanfani that the new government by a DC-PSI government with Craxi as Premier has

backfired, making Fanfani and Craxi the target of enraged attacks by both DCers and the Communists. In an interview in the weekly *L'Espresso*, Andreotti's cabinet secretary Franco Evangelisti commented, "Craxi in the place of Andreotti? I cannot even begin to imagine it.... Fanfani has committed another one of his mistakes: it does not make sense to ask for more votes and then to say that the DC is willing to hand the Premiership to the Socialists.... Fanfani has confused his role as president of the Senate with that of president of the Republic."

The Communist paper *Unità* has run articles detailing the "lies of Fanfani," while *Pease Sera*, a Communist-oriented paper, ran a more pointed front page cartoon showing a puffing Fanfani running down a road with the sign "London 2536 kilometers."

And the party originally responsible for exposing the PSI's links to terrorism, and to British intelligence, the European Labor Party, intends to become the new "swing" party, replacing the flagging PSI as the intermediary force between the DC and the PCI. With such a combination, the DC forces around Andreotti and the PCI grouping of Berlinguer will be able to form a stable ruling majority for development and progress.

—R.D. Cedeño

ELP knocking out Socialists

The European Labor Party's role has become a defining feature of the Italian national parliamentary elections June 3 and 4. The key issue is terrorism, and the ELP in Italy is known all over Europe for exposing the British and Israeli intelligence networks behind the "Red Brigades" assassination of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro.

As a result, it is widely expected that this year's Italian elections will witness the political death of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), which the Labor Party has identified as the party supporting terrorism in Italy. It is also expected that the European Labor Party will replace the PSI as the third major party in Italy, electing several candidates to the parliament.

It is ELP candidates who have gone on television to implicate PSI leaders, including party secretary-general Bettino Craxi, in the activities of jailed "intellectual" Antonio Negri, whom police are holding as one of the masterminds of the Aldo Moro assassination.

Last year the ELP published a 100-page pamphlet titled "Who Killed Aldo Moro," exhaustively docu-

menting the connections of Italy's royal House of Savoy and other "black aristocrats" to British intelligence projects including Red Brigades terrorism and the "Autonomy" leftists who support it. The complicity of U.S. Carter Administration officials, including Ambassador to Italy Richard Gardner, was also documented. Recently, the ELP published a "second volume" of the Moro dossier, documenting the scope of Negri's national and international connections as identical with the British-controlled "terrorist international."

As the arrest of Negri and 22 others shows, Italian government officials and security police are acting on leads the ELP has provided. ELP charts of who is behind terrorism are so well known that they are even seen painted on the walls of vacant buildings in Italian cities.

Leading the ELP electoral list is Marco Fanini, ELP candidate from Ascoli-Piceno in the Marches district southeast of Rome.