



Italy

The next premier pledges a return to detente

by Umberto Monteverdi

Former premier Giulio Andreotti, in an interview given this week to *L'espresso* magazine, virtually declared his candidacy for premier of a new government when the present government of Francesco Cossiga falls—a development expected in the near future. He made clear that he not only intends to have Italy play a mediating role between the United States and the Soviet Union to promote a return to detente, but to couple that with promoting the economic development of the Third World to ensure peace.

At one point, he was asked his response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. "I am not in the business of making moralisms," he said. The world is facing a crisis of major proportions, without precedent in the post-war period. "We must promote detente."

There are few persons in Italy who do not expect Andreotti to assume the position of head-of-state again, and very soon. Andreotti used his interview to make perfectly clear that this will mean a reversal of the unabashedly pro-Carter foreign policy of the Cossiga government.

'National Unity' and detente

Andreotti spoke of his "past policy of national unity"—a reference to the experience of his government during the period 1976 to 1979, when the support of the Italian Communist Party was essential. The goal of Andreotti's "national unity" policy was to bring the Communist Party into full participation in the government at the cabinet level. Agreement to form such a coalition was in fact reached at the end of 1977, through the mediation of former premier Aldo Moro, who thus transformed the PCI's posture of "abstention" from the government into one of open support for Andreotti. But

Moro's kidnapping and assassination prevented the realization of the full "historic compromise."

The policy of national unity is not, however, only for the internal purpose of stabilizing the Italian government, declared Andreotti. It and the policy of detente in the foreign field are the same policy. "This will allow Italy to play again its historic role for East-West detente and to promote a dialogue between Europe and the Third World."

Andreotti has obvious strong support from the Vatican. Pope John Paul II, who attempted to stop the NATO decision to deploy medium range ballistic missiles on European soil—the immediate trigger for the Soviet Union's recent political-military policy shift—is personally prepared to go to both Washington and Moscow, according to press reports. Last week, as the American government was denouncing the U.S.S.R. and calling for embargoes with the support of the Cossiga government, the Vatican received a Czechoslovak government delegation for discussions on "improved relations."

Andreotti's policy-pledges for a new government are closely coordinated with Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist leader, who told a mass rally Jan. 20—the party's 59th anniversary—that the key to peace is a new world economic order, based on East-West cooperation for the development of the Third World. Andreotti has said that will be his policy.

Berlinguer, unusual for a Communist leader, quoted directly from the appeals of the Pope, as well as the French and German governments. The Communists must not fear an alliance with "bourgeois forces," said Berlinguer, when what is at stake is "the supreme value of peace."

Communist praise for Giscard

The Communist newspaper, *L'Unita*, has given almost daily coverage to the detente-statements of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, and also covered his recent trip to India. Europe must follow Giscard, states one commentary in *L'Unita* this week, and distance itself from the Anglo-American policy of Carter and Thatcher.

The most recent Andreotti government collapsed at the beginning of last year, largely due to the withdrawal of PCI support on the issue of the French-led European Monetary System, which Andreotti supported. Berlinguer's current policy statements thus constitute a major PCI shift toward support of the EMS.

When will Cossiga fall?

Most of Italy's political parties are now in rebellion against Francesco Cossiga. The inflation rate of this January is estimated at the highest level in decades.

Cossiga's policies damaged industry badly, and in the case of ENI, the state-owned petrochemical concern which is the backbone of Italian industry, Cossiga himself is suspected of being involved in the concoction of a bribery scandal that resulted in the cancellation of oil shipments by Saudi Arabia, badly damaging Italy's oil-supply position. The Socialist Party, a key pillar for his government until recently, passed a resolution on Jan. 17 declaring that its "ceasefire" with the government is now over. Even the Republican party, a creation of the British Secret Services during World War II, declared a few days ago that it can no longer accept the premier's policies. The trade unions recently expressed their dissatisfaction with a day-long general strike.

Industry was enraged by Cossiga's support for Carter's economic sanctions against the U.S.S.R. Fiat, took the occasion to conclude an agreement with the Soviets for construction of a "new Togliattigrad"—the huge auto plant built in the Soviet Union. Similar negotiations with the Soviet Union for major deals are underway by virtually all major Italian industries.

At present, Andreotti has a clear majority of the delegates that will attend the next congress of the Christian Democracy. The only question is when that Congress will occur. The small, Radical Party—prominently associated with its advocacy of drugs and homosexuality as political policy—launched a campaign of obstruction in parliament preventing action on new laws against terrorism. The Radical Party's actions were then used by Cossiga to postpone the Christian Democracy's congress, in order to "first deal with the Radicals."

On Jan. 29, Cossiga visited London for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who became furious with him, first, for being two hours late, and then, when he announced that he was politically unable to go along with Carter's policies of sanctions against the U.S.S.R. Then, he made the error of explaining his lateness by reporting that he was detained for a last-minute conversation with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who is openly flaunting the Carter-Thatcher policy. At the end of the talks, Thatcher declared that she "doesn't see any way out of the many conflicts that oppose Great Britain to France and Germany."

There is only one thing that could keep Cossiga in power—the same thing that ultimately knocked Andreotti out of power late last year: terrorism. Signs that the Anglo-American faction will use that option came last week, when Sergio Gori, a vice-president of Montedison, was killed by the Red Brigades. *L'Unita*, the PCI paper, called the killing "not a simple act of terrorism, but a 'mafioso signal....'" Montedison is the Italian industrial group with the strongest commercial ties to the East bloc nations—and a sure backer of a new Andreotti government.

A new Viet invasion?

Chinese mass a

by Richard Katz

China has prepared a million-man strike force—45 main force divisions—for a new invasion of Vietnam, according to Vietnamese intelligence reports relayed to *EIR* through diplomatic sources. China plans a three-prong attack: a new invasion of Vietnam along the same route as last year, a naval-amphibious assault from Hainan Island opposite the Gulf of Tonkin, and an invasion of northern Laos. A U.S. State Department official disingenuously disavowed all knowledge of the Chinese military buildup.

Southeast Asian diplomats confirmed that China was preparing for a new invasion on the assumption that Peking would receive support from the United States, including military if necessary, even if the Soviet Union intervened. The Soviet Union has been sending out signals that it will respond militarily to a new Chinese invasion, unlike last year. Two weeks ago, a Soviet naval flotilla arrived in the South China Sea, near the area from which a Hainan Island based assault would occur. U.N. diplomats report that Soviet representatives informed them that the troops now in Afghanistan can be moved, should China invade Vietnam again.

According to the Vietnamese sources, the new Chinese deployments parallel those just before last year's invasion. U.S. Defense Secretary Brown's visit to Peking parallels Premier Deng Xiaoping's visit to the U.S. last year.

- In December, China held combined land-sea maneuvers off Hainan Island practicing amphibious assaults and similar operations. Prewar military maneuvers took place last time.
- Hainan Island itself has been reinforced, including a Marine division and paratroop units.
- Reinforcements of Chinese forces on the Laos border has stepped up along with Chinese armed forays on the Vietnam-China border.
- Thousands of trucks a day are going into the