

Will Ronald Reagan anoint Craxi?

The Socialist chief's links to drugs and terror are further exposed, reports Umberto Pascali, yet he moves closer to power.

Revelations in the Milan-based daily *Il Giornale Nuovo* Aug. 30 on the relationship between the general secretary of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), Bettino Craxi, and the boss of the Italian drug lobby, Francis Turatello pose the possibility of blocking the sweep to power of "the new Mussolini," as Craxi is increasingly termed here.

A day after these explosive revelations, the magazine *Espresso* reported that Craxi will soon meet with President Reagan—the first Italian politician to receive that honor—and will receive directly the White House "seal of approval" to become Italy's first Socialist prime minister.

The great majority of the Italian population was already well aware of the PSI leadership's thoroughgoing ties to the drug mafia and terrorism; and unlike its French counterpart, the party is a small one without a real mass base. Both Catholic and trade-union elements are now shocked to see that it is the most corrupt Italian politician who has been chosen, not only by Alexander Haig and Henry Kissinger, but by President Reagan as well, as their man in Rome. The hopeful expectations aroused by Reagan's electoral victory, especially among the leadership of Catholic and growth-minded conservative forces, are being transformed into demoralization, or, in some cases, into sheer anger; these circles are asking themselves whether Mr. Reagan is really going to give his blessing to an individual protecting the drug traffic and the so-called Kidnaping, Inc. in Italy.

The file on Craxi and his ties to organized crime and drugs was reopened after the assassination in the maximum-security prison in Nuoro, Sardinia, of the boss of bosses of the narcotics business, Francis Turatello, or "Angel Face."

In jail since 1977, Turatello was murdered in the most savage imaginable way; the four executioners were carrying out an order. The question that appeared throughout the press was, who gave that order? The first answer that circulated among journalists was that "Turatello knew too much about some very important politicians." A fuller story was then published in *Il Giornale*: "Turatello's patron saint was Bettino Craxi, about whom the criminal boss used to speak as if he were someone he had helped greatly in the past and

thus was expecting some help from in return now.

"When Turatello was arrested in Piazza Duomo in Milan, together with a Socialist lawyer, he was convinced that he would be able to leave prison shortly. He was counting on his political friends, on the good offices of powerful characters who frequented his illegal gambling casinos. . . .

"There are many rumors that Craxi used to visit the Brera Bridge, probably without knowing what the club actually was," the journalist pointedly adds. The Brera Bridge was the most important gambling casino in Milan, and a center for drug distribution. What the article reports was generally known within certain Italian circles. Until now, no one has had the courage, or the political backing, to publish such information.

The story of the Craxi-Turatello relationship dates back to the beginning of the 1970s, and further. Craxi was then the leader of the Milan Socialist Party. The city's mayor was Aldo Aniasi, a Socialist politician constantly accused of links with the Calabrian mafia that ran Milan's brisk drug and kidnapping business. In 1980 Aniasi became Italy's health minister, whence he promoted the liberalization of heroin laws.

It was during the period in which Craxi and Aniasi dominated Milan that Francis Turatello, stepson of the veteran Sicilian mafia boss Frank Coppola, emerged in control of organized crime in the city. With the casinos as his base, Turatello moved into drugs, kidnappings, and so forth, up to the point that no criminal activity escaped his hands. His allies were the "Marseilles Clan" gangsters; this was during the period of the French Connection, the huge transshipments of heroin refined in Marseilles and smuggled to the United States.

It was obvious enough that, without political protection, Turatello never could have built his empire, and without such protection he never could have enlarged the drug-consumption market to its present dramatic dimensions in Italy. When he was arrested, his Socialist lawyer companion was one Lombino, who more precisely was a PSI councilman for the Sicilian town of Augusta. Lombino himself evaded an arrest warrant by claiming that he had been in the company of the fugitive criminal for "professional reasons."

But there were other very evident Socialist tracks. In Turatello's personal datebook police found the private phone numbers of Aldo Aniasi and Craxi's brother-in-law Pillitteri, a Milan city councilman whose name had already gained some notoriety when his personal secretary was arrested as a terrorist who specialized in weapons supplies. The association with these individuals could not be explained during Turatello's trial, which took place at the beginning of this year, although during the trial Pillitteri was officially interrogated.

Turatello began to lose some of his powerful protection. This summer, he was sent to the Nuoro prison, in an area outside his *capo dei capi* reach; previously, he had decided what prison he would take temporary residence in. "What happened?" asks *Il Giornale*. "Someone invokes the name of Licio Gelli and his P-2 lodge, and explains that the explosion of that scandal forced Turatello's protectors to be more circumspect in order not to become exposed themselves." The Propaganda 2 scandal to which *Il Giornale* refers provoked a real earthquake within the PSI leadership. Recent reports in the Italian press state that the P-2's banker, Roberto Calvi, president of Banco Ambrosiano, revealed while in jail that he had given 20 billion liras to leaders of the Socialist Party through Swiss banking channels; and the names of many PSI leaders appeared on the P-2 membership list. Reports were also published that Bettino Craxi used to meet with Licio Gelli.

According to investigators, the Turatello murder should also be seen in the context of a gigantic restructuring of drug traffic throughout the Mediterranean. Turatello wanted to direct that restructuring, but "this is too big a business to be managed by someone far from the real power that controls the heroin market." He knew too much; he could have begun to speak out against his protectors. The protectors decided to silence him.

Whether Bettino Craxi is a crucial participant in this "restructuring" is very difficult to clearly deny. In any case, Craxi is not simply an Italian asset; along with François Mitterrand, he is the most prominent instrument of the Socialist International's project for the region and for all of Western Europe.

This is the Craxi of whom, in *The Washingtonian* magazine, Ray Cline, director of the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and former deputy director of the CIA, wrote that "Bettino Craxi is a young, energetic leader likely to become the next prime minister."

Reagan, who has refused to meet with the Christian Democratic party secretary, Flaminio Piccoli, or even to receive Prime Minister Spadolini in the White House, is now reported to be welcoming Craxi this fall. Can it be in the interests of the United States to endorse one of Turatello's erstwhile protectors?

Science & Technology

Saturn findings are vindicating Kepler

by John Schoonover

Results from the latest Voyager mission to Saturn are a crucial experiment confirming the bankruptcy of Newtonian physics. Not only did physicists fail to predict the existence of Saturn's finely ordered ring system first seen on Voyager 1's approach to the planet, but further results this time are unaccountable under the assumptions of Maxwell and Newton, conventionally accepted by physicists today. The data returned from the Voyager 1 and 2 Saturn missions now cry out for scientific interpretation based on the superior approach of the 16th-century founder of modern astronomy Johannes Kepler.

Detailed study of the rings, using precise measurements of the brightness of starlight passing through them reveals that the structure persists down to a spacing of about five kilometers, or three miles. This means that there are probably about 10,000 rings in all. Conventional theory asserts that over billions of years, perturbations would have erased any tendency to ordered differentiation. Ordering on the scale that we find would be impossible.

Prior to the Voyager 1 trip, authoritative sources were ridiculing those few scientists who claimed the existence of more than the three rings observable from Earth-based telescopes. Just before the Voyager 1 arrived, some scientists were predicting there might be a few more, perhaps 10. No one ventured as radical a guess as 50.

When first several hundred, and then a thousand were counted, a wild attempt was made to salvage Newton by hypothesizing that each of the rings was shepherded by unseen moons which stabilized and kept them in orbit. But as Dr. Schoonover had already predicted in the May 1981 issue of *Fusion* magazine, and as Dr. Bradford Smith of the NASA imaging team has now confirmed, no such moons exist.

The changing rings

The experimental instruments aboard the Voyager 2 have allowed scientists at the Pasadena, California Jet Propulsion Laboratory to get a much more detailed look at the Saturnian system. Based on the results from last fall's encounter with the planet, a trajectory was established that would allow Voyager 2 to approach