

claim that he had traveled to Palermo in 1979 under orders of the CIA to raise money for a "Sicilian separatist" coup.

On June 17, 1980, FBI Special Agent Louis J. Vizi signed an affidavit detailing a lengthy interview he had held that day with Sindona, shortly after the Sicilian financier returned from his escape. Sindona had asserted that the coup plot aimed at preventing a communist takeover of Sicily and was being directed by "revolutionary Freemasons." In January 1981, five months before the public exposure of P-2 in Italy, Licio Gelli visited Sindona in his New York jail cell.

In his defense for the Franklin National fraud case, Sindona attempted to subpoena former CIA Director Stansfield Turner and Haig to verify this story. On Jan. 27, 1982 magistrates in Palermo confirmed that they have detailed proof that Sindona was indeed in Palermo to raise money for a coup.

If one thread from the Propaganda Two scandal leads to Alexander Haig, another leads into the Civiletti Justice Department which covered up "Billygate."

Billy Carter's trip to Italy was organized by a lawyer from Catania, Sicily, Socialist Party member Michele Papa. Papa, tied closely to the drug mafia, such as the Badalamenti clan, has repeatedly declared his purpose to be to annex Sicily to Libya. Whether this fits in with Sindona's "CIA coup plan" is not known. But Papa has been tape-recorded several times offering to send terrorists trained by him to Libya to fight alongside Qaddafi.

Italian authorities have determined that Qaddafi is the main weapons supplier to both the "left" and "right" varieties of terrorism. Although the Western media have portrayed Qaddafi as a fanatical communist and virtual puppet of the Soviet Union, he was trained from at least the late 1960s in preparation for seizure of power in Libya in 1969, by Propaganda-2 Grand Master Licio Gelli and Gelli's right-hand man, José López Rega. Gelli, a monarchist and former torturer in Mussolini's secret police, is hardly a "leftist."

Europeo reveals Haig aide's complicity with P-2

From the Italian weekly magazine Europeo, Jan. 18, 1982:

In Italy the name of Michael Ledeen is not unknown. Staff member at Georgetown University, Undersecretary

of State for European Affairs, traveling to Rome at least five or six times per year, Ledeen not only has top level contacts with the American community with Republican sympathies in Rome, such as Robert Cunningham—rich editor of the English language daily *Daily News*—but also within Italian politics. He is also one of the staunchest supporters, within the entourage of the White House, of Bettino Craxi [Italian Socialist Party general secretary].

Ledeen's relations with the Socialists did not begin yesterday. It was Ledeen who received Claudio Martelli in the U.S. when the deputy-secretary of the PSI attended Reagan's inauguration. Ledeen has also maintained good relations with the PSI through the mediation of Francesco Pazienza, to the point where he [Ledeen] became the leading backer within the administration of a possible Craxi prime ministership. The same position is held by the former U.S. Ambassador to Rome, Richard Gardner and, but with much less enthusiasm particularly in the more recent period, by Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

This sympathy for the Socialists is not shared by the [current] American Ambassador to Rome, Maxwell Raab, who instead over the past days has sent worried messages to Washington and the advice to be cautious because, in his judgment, the PSI now finds itself in trouble and it is not certain that it will emerge clean from the polemics around the clamorous return to the offensive on the part of Licio Gelli.

The situation is not very different for Ledeen. He too has some thoughts which disturb his dreams. His good friend, Francesco Pazienza, flew to the U.S. over the past few days to comfort him.

The investigation initiated by General Nino Lugaresi, director of the Sismi [the military counterespionage agency] on the administrative management of his predecessor Santovito [who was involved in the Propaganda-2 scandal], has led to an American line of inquiry which may lead to the explosion of a new scandal inside Ronald Reagan's staff.

While investigating the river of money spent by Santovito during the years in which he headed the Sismi, Lugaresi discovered the existence of an interesting bank account outside the country, probably in Switzerland. From this account were drawn huge sums for the payment of the Sismi adviser hired by Santovito: Francesco Pazienza. But part of these monies instead ended up with Pazienza's good friend: Professor Ledeen, to be precise.

Hence even in Washington some people are beginning to worry. It is being asked, naturally, whether these payments were made by the Sismi in recompense for services effectively rendered to the chief of Italian counterespionage, or whether for some entirely personal business. Whichever it is, the situation is highly embarrassing.