

The Bulgarian connection leads back to Western terror networks

by Umberto Pascali in Rome

Following the investigation of the Italian magistracy into the murder attempt against John Paul II and the biggest illegal drug and weapons traffic ever discovered in Europe, the expression "Bulgarian track" became familiar to the public at large.

"Bulgarian track" indicates the fact that the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, emerged as the center of a criminal network controlling terrorism, drugs, mafia organizations, and weapons smuggling. The Sofia center was also a crucial base of operations for several secret services and for the planning of political destabilizations and assassinations. The findings on the illegal activities carried out from Sofia confirm the involvement of the Bulgarian secret services and the Soviet KGB. While nobody at this point can deny that involvement, the whole story cannot be presented in terms of the scenario of "the Eastern plot against the West" as such.

Sofia and the KGB, no doubt, are crucial elements in the command structure of the network that has been destroying the youth of Western Europe and America with drugs for the last 15 years, but they are just elements. There are other forces besides the East closely collaborating with the Sofia center. The investigations, as we shall see in detail, show that a large part of the weapons illegally smuggled were coming from NATO depots in West Germany. The incredibly large amounts of morphine coming from Turkey and Sofia arrived undisturbed in one of the most highly NATO-militarized areas of Western Europe, the triangle of Bolzano, Verona, and Trieste.

And who came out claiming that the Italian investigations had to be considered "non-serious"? It was the West German, Israeli, and U.S. secret services, in a departure from standard procedure, let the world media know that they are "skeptical." The British press in particular tried every means to ridicule the investigations. The *Daily Mirror* even delivered what is believed to be a threat against Rome Prosecutor Illario Martella, who is in charge of investigating the attempt against the Pope. The British paper wrote that Martella felt tired and was going to resign. The magistrate immediately answered, making clear his determination to arrive at the truth. Attempts to block the investigations are increasing. On Jan. 3, the

Brussels correspondent of *La Stampa*, Renato Proni, reported in the front page of the FIAT-owned daily that "considering all the implications, NATO allies would be happier if the Italian magistrates had never lifted the veils of this alarming affair."

This is also the position of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and the U.S. Vice-President and former head of the CIA, George Bush.

At this point the banalities reported by the press on the Bulgarian track begin to look more and more like a cover for something much more explosive, a cover based on the delphic principle: if you are under pressure, reveal a part of the truth in order to divert the attention from the whole truth. For the puppet-masters of the traffic of death, this is a very delicate and a very dangerous moment. A large part of their dirty game is being discovered. For the broad public it has begun to become clear that mafias are just instruments, and that the accumulation of money through these illegal activities is an instrument to establish a new order, something that the world already has known partially in the form of Fascism and Nazism.

We will put together here the pieces of this sinister death puzzle of drugs, terrorism, arms smuggling, separatists, and "peace movements," secret services, and Mafias, up to the highest level of oligarchical control, up to the head of the octopus. It is here at the highest level that it is necessary to strike.

From Ankara to Trieste: weapons for drugs

Last November, the Italian press reported that Trento Prosecutor Carlo Palermo had discovered and begun to dismantle what the magistrate defined as "the biggest network of weapons-smuggling ever discovered in Europe." A few days earlier, Palermo had succeeded in arresting the boss of the traffic, the 70-year-old Syrian citizen Henri Arsan, who had been living in Italy for the last 20 years. Arsan's operative center was the company Stibam International Transport, based in Milan at Via Oldofredi 20, in a building owned by Banco Ambrosiano. In the same building was the apartment of the vice-president of the bank, Roberto Rosone. From the small

offices of the Stibam, Arsan was leading a huge network smuggling weapons in exchange for drugs and taking care of all the immense financial problems involved.

To say that Arsan enjoyed high-level protection is euphemistic. The Syrian was able to deal directly with governments, in addition, of course, to his capability of moving mafias, terrorist organizations, and so on. The gang of Arsan (and of his puppet masters) is responsible for the drugs that have flooded Western Europe in the last 15 years. The drugs refined by the Sicilian Mafia, for example, were coming from Arsan's well-oiled machine.

Thanks to the work of Judge Palermo, it is now possible to reconstruct the map of this immense traffic. The starting point for the drugs, in form of morphine, was Turkey. Here the Turkish Mafia collected the opium produced in Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, and other areas of the Middle and Far East. In Turkey, the opium was transformed into morphine by the powerful Turkish Mafia that collaborates closely with the Bulgarian secret services and thus with the Soviet KGB—led for the last 15 years by the present head of the Soviet Communist

One of the key centers of "negotiation" was Sofia, Bulgaria, where one of the most important bosses of the Turkish mafia, Bekir Celenk, lives under the protection of the Bulgarian authorities. From Turkey, the drugs were shipped to Trieste, through Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. For the transport they used the big international trucks of the TIR company; finally the "commodity" was deposited in the Verona-Trieste-Bolzano triangle. It should be underlined again that this area is one of the regions most controlled by the NATO military. Verona, the Italian city most victimized by drugs, is the NATO center for psychological warfare, which was already involved in a famous coup d'état attempt together with Licio Gelli and his Propaganda-2 Lodge.

From this area the drugs were shipped, mostly through Milan, to Sicily, where they were transformed into heroin in the refineries controlled by the Mafia and finally shipped to North America. So the quasi-totality of the drugs consumed in North America was coming from the Arsan gang. From the northeast of Italy, part of the drugs was also sent north towards Munich, Stuttgart, Hamburg, and Scandinavia. Another part was sent to Marseilles. Some of these drug shipments were also circulating in Belgium and Holland; Bulgarian trucks had been seen in the vicinity of NATO facilities in Belgium. Were these trucks delivering drugs and getting weapons? For the moment, although many signs would tend to confirm this hypothesis, it is not possible to answer this question.

The organization of Arsan collaborated closely with Sicilian Mafia boss Gerlando Alberti, who was in charge for the Sicilian refineries. To have an idea of the dimensions of this traffic, suffice it to say that one of the smugglers working out of Bolzano, Karl Kofler, succeeded in smuggling around four tons of drugs into the Milan area in one year.

But drugs were only one aspect of Arsan's activities. The

drugs were paid for with the "most requested currency": weapons! In 20 years the Arsan gang smuggled to the Middle East hundreds of millions of tons of weapons. Arsan was not just dealing in light weapons and guns. He used to smuggle Leopard tanks and U.S.-produced military helicopters, the "209 AHIG Cobra." The weapons firms involved in the illegal traffic are Colt, Agusta-Bell, Krauss Maffei, Smith & Wesson, Mauser, Mannlicher, and Beretta. Weapons produced in the Soviet Union and Bulgaria were also involved.

Mafioso Gerlando Alberti, who worked together with the Turkish Mafia family Wakkas, used to collect money coming from kidnapping ransoms and other criminal activities, which was then deposited in banking accounts in New York, Zürich, Frankfurt, London, and elsewhere, in order to buy up weapons to be sent to the Middle East.

The principal point of arrival of the weapons was the Sharadon region, in the Syrian territory bordering Turkey. From there, the weapons were smuggled to the different "clients" that included terrorist gangs, military groups, and governments. These weapons continuously stoked the fires of local wars and terrorism of every type.

Arsan owned trains and even a fleet. His weapons were smuggled especially through the Tyrrhenian ports of Genoa and Leghorn. But above all, he enjoyed the support of the international Masonry and more directly, as we shall see, of the infamous P-2 Lodge of the "Venerable Master," Licio Gelli.

Sofia and the attempt against the Pope

According to many witnesses interrogated by Judge Palermo, Sofia was, with Milan, the most important center for these illegal businesses. Tens of "businessmen" used to meet in Sofia in the Café Berlin or in the "Japanese" Hotel to conclude contracts for weapons or drugs. One witness reported that he was present at a discussion where it was decided to establish a big drug center in Frankfurt.

In Sofia the whole traffic rotates around the Turkish mafioso Bekir Celenk, who lives in the best hotel of the Bulgarian capital, the Vitosha Hotel, well-protected by local authorities. Celenk decided to settle in Sofia after an arrest warrant was issued against him by the Turkish authorities. The director of the Vitosha Hotel, a former colonel of the Bulgarian army, is reportedly on the best of terms with the Turkish mafioso; to better illustrate the protection enjoyed by Celenk, it is enough to mention the fact that in 1981 a journalist who tried to approach Celenk was stabbed by one of the mafioso's bodyguards.

In reality, Bulgaria is used by the KGB for operations considered "delicate." These operations of course include the immense traffic of drugs and weapons, and beyond that also play a particular role in protecting terrorists. The huge amount of money obtained through the dirty traffic goes into financing important destabilization operations such as the "peace" and green movements. This fact is well known. What has prevented an adequate reaction is the fact that the KGB of

Andropov has always found allies in the West, in particular in British-KGB network, which brings us directly to the upper level of the operation, the Scottish Rite Masonry.

The findings of Judge Palermo on the Sofia center have been fully confirmed by the investigations carried out by Rome Prosecutor Ilario Martella on the attempt against John Paul II. Martella found out that Mehmet Ali Agca, the terrorist who tried to kill the Pope on May 13, 1981, had been trained in Sofia and had been offered 3 million deutschmarks by Bekir Celenk! Agca was helped to escape from his prison in Turkey (where he was detailed after he killed the director of the newspaper *Milliyet*) by the Turkish Mafia and then helped to cross the Bulgarian border and finally to reach Sofia. Here Agca remained for six weeks and was introduced by Celenk to three Bulgarian citizens: Serghey Ivanov Antonov, head of Balkan Air in Rome; Teodor Ayavazov, treasurer of the Bulgarian Embassy; and Vassiliev Kolev, aide to the military attaché at the same embassy. According to the confession of Agca, Antonov and Ayavazov helped him to prepare the attempt. Judge Martella issued arrest warrants for the three Bulgarians and for Celenk. Antonov is the only one who could be arrested in Rome. The Bulgarian authorities finally decided to arrest Celenk (or, rather, to open an "investigation" while Celenk could continue his activities from the Hotel Vitosha), but are now threatening to free him if Martella does not provide evidence.

The involvement of Bulgaria is also coming out clearly in the investigation by Rome Judge Ferdinando Imposimato on the former head of the International Department of the socialist trade-union federation UIL, Luigi Scricciolo. Scricciolo had been arrested when he was discovered to have been "foreign minister" of the Red Brigades and one of the kidnapers of the U.S. Gen. James Dozier. Scricciolo confessed to having been paid by the Bulgarian secret services.

The Masonic connection

The Bulgarian connection is only a first level, which could not explain the whole network behind the drug traffic or the plot to assassinate the Pope. The scenario of the "Eastern plot against the West" is a demagogic explanation to cover the deeper truth.

What we find if we just scratch the surface is a network that goes through the East *and* the West. Already at the beginning of the investigations, we found the P-2 lodge, the Masonic lodge responsible for the last 15 years of terrorism and destabilization in Italy (see *EIR*, Feb. 9, 1982). The lodge was created by former Fascist torturer, Licio Gelli, who was in close contact with the former Italian royal family, the Savoy, but had at the same time close links with the East, to the point of being accused of being a KGB agent. In reality Gelli has always been an agent of the "black" oligarchical families whose titles predate the founding of the Italian nation. Very close to the Duke of Kent, the Grand Master of the United Lodge of London and cousin of Queen Elizabeth of England, Gelli was able to restructure his lodge in 1969

thanks to the help of Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig. Soon Gelli became one of the most powerful figures in Italy and not only in Italy. As the scandal that finally in May 1980 erupted showed, Gelli had made a large part of the Italian leadership members of his lodge.

The first evident point of contact between the investigation of Judge Palermo and P-2 was the fact that Arsan's company, Stibam, was not only located in a building owned by Banco Ambrosiano, but also had other very close links to the bank that became known as the "bank of P-2." The late president of Banco Ambrosiano, Roberto Calvi, was one of the closest contacts of Licio Gelli, who himself "initiated" Calvi into the Grand Lodge of London on behalf of the Duke of Kent in a hotel in Geneva. Calvi was found hanged under Blackfriars' bridge in London June 18, 1981. After the initial verdict of suicide, the London magistracy had been recently forced to re-open the case, apparently because of the researches of the Milan magistracy, which is also following up an *Esposito*, or legal brief, introduced into the courts by European Labor Party General-Secretary Fiorella Operto, charging that Calvi's death was a "ritual Masonic assassination," which was decided on after Calvi had "betrayed" his former masters.

The banalities reported by the press about 'the Bulgarian connection' begin to look like a cover for something more explosive, a cover based on the delphic principle: if you are under pressure, reveal a part of the truth in order to divert attention from the whole truth. For the puppet-masters of the traffic of death, this is a very dangerous moment. The broad public has begun to understand that mafias and their money are only instruments to establish a new order.

Ritual assassinations are not new in this story. On March 7, 1981, one of the top individuals in Arsan's gang who had been arrested by Judge Palermo, Karl Kofler, was found dead in his cell in the Trento jail. Officially it was a suicide. But Kofler had been killed with a long needle passed through his heart! He was a key witness, and it seems he was going to confess. The group of "suicides" also included Herbert Hoberhofer, a former neo-Nazi terrorist in the Bolzano area, then magically turned into an informant of the Finance Ministry's tax police, just at the time when its leadership was fully controlled by P-2. Hoberhofer was closely linked to the lodge of Gelli.

A very interesting case showing the connection between the high levels of the Masonry and the gang of Arsan is that of Stefano Delle Chiaie. The notorious Black International leader involved in every major terrorist attempt from the 1969 Milan bombing to the bloody massacre of the Bologna train station on Aug. 2, 1980, Delle Chiaie is a henchman of the P-2 lodge's Licio Gelli. Bologna Magistrate Aldo Gentile, before being ousted from the case, obtained the evidence showing the involvement of Delle Chiaie and his group in the atrocity that led to the issuing of an arrest warrant against him. Moreover, Gentile discovered that the attempt had been planned in March 1980 in the Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo in a session of the Comité Executif Masonique or Comité Montecarlo. This Comité, presented by the press as "a super P-2 lodge," had been created by Gelli around 1979 when rumors about his P-2 had begun to surface publicly. The Comité includes European and North American figures, especially people linked to the Trilateral Commission, among them Henry Kissinger, the same Kissinger who reorganized the P-2 lodge in 1969. Gelli personally went to meet Delle Chiaie in Bolivia to deliver the order of the Comité. In La Paz, Delle Chiaie was working as a senior official of the fascist regime of Bolivia, before the new President Siles Zuazo took power. The Italian terrorist worked inside the Interior Ministry and was "protecting" the planting and traffic in cocaine. He was also involved in weapons traffic and specialized in torturing political prisoners.

But Delle Chiaie was also working for the Arsan network. Arsan was able to supply American weapons to the Iranians just when Iran was at war with Iraq. Another "operation" consisted in organizing an exchange of "oil for weapons" between Iran and Israel. According to the magazine *Middle East*, this exchange permitted the Iranian offensive against Iraq and supplied the oil for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. British Petroleum and Royal Dutch Shell collaborated in the operation, which was led by a Swiss financial holding owned by Ambrosiano bank, and the diversified Swiss financial company Dreikot, whose boss is Hans Albert Kunz, the same individual involved in the last tragic journey of Robert Calvi to London.

Recently Kunz and Delle Chiaie met in Switzerland with Sadegh Tabatabai, the son-in-law of Khomeini who is the top person responsible for collecting weapons for the Iranian regime. A few weeks ago Tabatabai was arrested at the Dusseldorf airport with one and a half kilos of heroin. Immediately afterward, he was freed. It is believed that the son-in-law to Khomeini enjoys high-level protection in the Federal Republic, and that he had been close to the Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher.

To understand more clearly the very close connection between the gang of Arsan and the highest levels of the Scottish Rite, it is necessary to direct our attention to the dirty activities centered over the past 15 years (at least) around the port of Leghorn in the Tuscany region. A large part of Arsan's weapons were smuggled through this port. "Behind Arsan,

Gelli Emerges," recently headlined the Italian press; "From the Port of Leghorn, Weapons to the Whole World." The traffic of Arsan in the Tuscany region was well protected by the P-2 umbrella. The Italian authorities have proved that Arsan used an export company of Leghorn owned by Maurizio Bruni, member of the P-2 lodge. Another top P-2 member recently indicted for illegal smuggling of weapons is Alessandro Del Bene, also an owner of an import company in Leghorn and very close to Licio Gelli. Some of the weapons shipped by the Arsan/P-2 network from Leghorn ended up in the hands of terrorists. Well known is the case of Lauro Azzolini, a Red brigader arrested in possession of a gun traced back to a stock of weapons shipped to the Middle East from Leghorn by the weapons-exporter Eugenio Sacchi on behalf of Arsan. The company of Del Bene smuggled highly sophisticated military material through a British firm, the Independent Trading Company, based in Jersey.

Tuscany is the Italian region where the roots of the Scottish Rite are deepest. The first Italian masonic lodge was created in Florence in 1733; two hundred and forty years later, the Grand Lodge of London recognized the Italian Grand Orient. To celebrate that event, two of the most important leaders of the Grand Lodge came to Tuscany. The visit took place in 1973, and the prestigious delegation included the Grand Secretary, James Stubbs, and the President, Jeremy Pemberton. The two represented the highest degrees of the Scottish Rite immediately after the Grand Master, the Duke of Kent.

Stubbs and Pemberton met the political leadership of Tuscany, especially the Socialist Party. In particular, they had a cordial meeting with the president of the region, the Socialist Lelio Lagorio, the present Italian Defense Minister, whose name has already appeared in the press for his connections (never fully clarified) with Red Brigades leader Giovanni Senzani.

The two bosses of the Grand Lodge had been guests during their stay in Tuscany at Alessandro Del Bene's house. In late January 1983, Licio Gelli, his son Raffaele, and Alessandro Del Bene were indicted by Judge Pierluigi Vigna for illegal weapons trafficking.

The oligarchical hard core

Above and behind the networks we have briefly identified, there is a much more powerful and older structure, the Families. These are Families whose power and assets encompass every institution, agency, and secret service without respecting any "geopolitical border." The existence of this structure often constitutes an insuperable obstacle to investigations. Often the well-intentioned investigator or magistrate cannot even identify the head of the octopus.

There are several leads around the "Bulgarian connection" which go directly into this structure. What emerges most prominently is the former Italian royal family, the House of Savoy. The so-called crown prince, Victor Emmanuel, was a member of the P-2 lodge; he was even considered by

Gelli and the P-2 leadership as "Victor Emmanuel IV," new king of Italy! There are letters written by Gelli to former King Umberto, in which the Venerable Master made clear that his aim was to restore the monarchy in Italy to "save" it from chaos, corruption, and terrorism—the chaos, corruption, and terrorism that the Gelli lodge was pushing to destabilize republican institutions.

One of the collaborators of Arsan, arms-industrialist Renato Gamba, arrested by Judge Palermo, was allegedly the lover of Gabriella of Savoy, Victor Emmanuel's sister. Gamba was a close friend of Victor Emmanuel, who has been himself accused several times of arms smuggling, above all to Iran. Gamba was arrested together with the German-American Reginald Allas (who was known because he used to introduce himself with a letter of presentation demonstrating his good relations with U.S. Vice-President George Bush) and Francesco Dalla Zorza, leading field executive for Bernie Cornfeld's IOS gigantic financial swindle. Dalla Zorza and Cornfeld were and still are very close business and personal associates of Victor Emmanuel.

There is another leading European oligarchic family whose name had been mentioned by several sources in the context of the investigations, a name that has never appeared in the press in connection with the attempt against the Pope: Thurn und Taxis. According to these sources, the mafia boss Bekir Celenk had a bank account at the Bayerisch Vereinsbank, one of the most important banks of Bavaria. According to the sources, behind this bank is Prince Johannes Thurn und Taxis, of the ancient family of Italian origin that used to head the intelligence of the Serenissima Repubblica of Venice. Prince Johannes Thurn und Taxis claims today to be the richest man in the world. It seems that through the Bayerisch Vereinsbank, 3 million deutschemarks had been paid to Ali Agca as a contract to kill the Pope. The Italian magistracy is investigating the Munich Bank and its London branch, the United Bank of Bavaria. Although asked to give documentation on the movement of its checks over the last period, the bank refused, claiming this would take too much time because the bank does not have a computer system!

There is a link between the two attempts against the Pope which is under scrutiny by several journalists and researchers. Both the attempts in 1981 and 1982 took place on May 13, Fatima Day, opening up room for a wave of irrationalism on the so-called Third Secret of Fatima. The killer who tried to get the Pope in Fatima in 1982 is a former Spanish priest called Juan Fernández Krohn. Krohn was a follower of the arch-feudalist Bishop Marcel Lefebvre, run by the networks of Rome "black" noblewoman, Princess Elvira Pallavicini. The Thurn und Taxis family is one of the most important sponsors, together with the former Portuguese royal family, Braganza, of the Fatima cult and of the parallel fundamentalist organization, Tradition, Family and Property, founded by a German priest with the aid of two Braganza princes. The Thurn und Taxis are also supporters of the Lefebvrian networks.

ANGLO-SOVIET DESIGNS ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA



EIR has just released a new Special Report on "**Anglo-Soviet Designs on the Arabian Peninsula.**" The report is the companion to the "**Prospects for Instability in the Arabian Gulf,**" an invaluable counterintelligence manual.

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