

British millionaire arms-trader, Ian Smalley, went to trial in February for his role in the biggest arms conspiracy case in American history. Smalley allegedly was the middleman who sold Tabatabai howitzers and recoilless rifles from Israel, and who is charged with planning to pay massive bribes to U.S. government officials to complete an illegal \$560 million arms deal for Ayatollah Khomeini.

This gives an initial glimpse into Tabatabai's involvement in the international arms-smuggling trade. As Italian investigations have shown, weapons are usually paid for by funds from the drug traffic. Fascist delle Chiaie is one of the top dealers in the Latin American cocaine market. *EIR* is preparing a comprehensive dossier on Tabatabai's international arms and drug network.

Neither Genscher nor Tabatabai has yet explained what that opium was doing in the "secret diplomat's" suitcase.

Drug Traffic

Italians catch the 'men above suspicion'

by Marco Fanini in Milan

Inaugurating the judicial year of 1983, the attorney general of Milan, Antonio Corrias, gave advance notice of explosive initiatives against the so-called *finanza della droga*—the "holding company" of the drug cartel. In fact, Operation Saint Valentine's of Feb. 14 has shown itself to be the most spectacular anti-drug action ever to take place in Italy, and perhaps in the world.

The data are impressive, not so much for the quantity of arrests, but for the fact that what was hit were those financiers of the mafia in charge of recycling dirty money from illegal-drug trafficking, kidnappings, and so forth.

One hundred sixty-four arrest warrants, 40 real-estate companies indicted in Milan alone, 600 businesses linked to the mafia placed under investigation, 200 searches in Rome, and wall-to-wall investigations among the financing companies and the export-import firms with a mafia smell to them. Arrested in Milan, Antonio Virginio, owner of four big hotels in the center of the city; shut down, the best known hangouts in Portofino and Santa Margherita on the Italian Riviera; arrested in Milan, Luigi Monti, president of Italian Sanyo and Panasonic as well as owner of the holding company "Mo Fi Na" which in turn headed up 40 companies, all involved in the recycling of dirty money.

Other stunning arrests: the brothers Alfredo and Giuseppe Bono, trustees of the Bonanno family, sent from New Jersey

to put the Italian Cosa Nostra back into shape; Gian Pasquale Grappone, who functioned in Naples as the financier of that city's underworld, the Camorra, through the bank Credito Campano and Lloyd Centauro; and Nicola Capuano, owner of a well-known jewelry store at the Spanish Steps in Rome.

But how was this important result achieved? Dr. Antonio Fiori, of the Criminal Police in Milan, had turned a voluminous report over to the attorneys general of Milan and Rome in April 1981. From that report the judges had drawn up a document of 500 pages which led to Operation St. Valentine's. In an interview with the press an officer of the tax police (an arm of Italy's Ministry of Finance) said: "About two years ago Criminalpol started to sketch the outlines of the big mafia groups, establishing the links and contacts. [What ensued was] a long labor of checking and wiretaps, undertaken together with the Americans, to identify the connections with the groups in the U.S.A. . . . The new anti-mafia law was the decisive card; it was that law that permitted us to go into the banks, all the banks of Italy. With some of the small-change banks, little banks, there were some problems in getting cooperation. The explanation is simple: certain institutions were kept in business strictly with mafia money."

But if the new anti-mafia law approved after the assassinations of parliamentary deputy Pio La Torre and Carabinieri General Dalla Chiesa in Sicily last year was indubitably an important factor, as the investigators report, even more decisive was collaboration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. In fact, the battle against the mafia is a predominantly political problem and the work of the Italian prosecutors has been able to proceed in virtue of the existence of a determination on the American side to conduct the war for which a cabinet-level coordination center has been set up in the Reagan administration, known by the name of "war on drugs."

Dr. Fiori of Criminalpol stated in this connection to *Il Giornale Nuovo* of Feb. 17: "In our report there are references to the ties between the mafia now in jail and politicians. The subject is very hot."

A blow against Cosa Nostra

In confirmation of what has been said, let us analyze the most decisive arrests of Operation St. Valentine's: the brothers Alfredo and Giuseppe Bono.

It is necessary to know that the big European criminal machine which is in the business of drugs, arms, and kidnappings was set up for Cosa Nostra by Joe Adonis in 1956. The role of liaison between Cosa Nostra and the Sicilian Mafia, initially covered by Luciano Liggio and Frank Coppola after the death of Adonis, ended up in the hands of the Sicilian bosses Gerlando Alberti, Tomaso Buscetta, and Gaetano Badalamenti. For about two years the Sicilian Mafia has been torn by internecine battles which Cosa Nostra would like to end at all costs: this was the reason Giuseppe Bono was sent at the beginning of 1982 by the Bonanno family from New

Jersey to Milan to act as a "mafia judge," an assignment of the highest priority. (It is also said that Tano Badalamenti is in the United States to attempt to mediate and reestablish the Pax Mafiosa.)

In addition, Bono had made an alliance with the families of the New Camorra, Zaza and the Nuvoletta, who are challenging the gang of Raffaele Cutolo for dominion over Naples—Cutolo being a boss best known for his operational ties to the terrorist Red Brigades. Despite the fact that the wars between the *cosche* or local gangs have continued (and in truth these internal struggles are typical of the mafias), the Bono brothers had succeeded in making sure that the flows of dirty money from the various gangs, even if they were bitter rivals, were recycled into a single financial circuit which leads via holding companies and banks to Switzerland and the City of London, and returns to hundreds of construction companies, nightclubs and corporations, all charged with laundering the large sums of money. Hence one can see the importance of the arrest of the Bono brothers who acted as the lieutenants of Gerlando Alberti, recently accused by Judge Carlo Palermo of Trento of being the boss of the heroin market.

During the trial going on now in Trento, proof of the enormous trading between Middle Eastern heroin and the

weapons traffic emerged into the public domain. The Turk Mehmet Cantas confessed that weapons were unloaded under covers provided by the most diverse secret services.

Mafia and Masonry

Other investigations which the Italian judges are carrying forward (like the ones around the death of banker Roberto Calvi of the P-2 Masonic Lodge, and the assassination of Italian Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro) have confirmed the thesis of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., co-founder of the United States and European Anti-Drug Coalitions, that the drug and arms traffic, run by the mafia at the operational level and by the British Freemasonry at the financial level, is politically directed by those "Anglo-KGB" sectors typified by the link between KGB General Kim Philby, Soviet party chief Yuri Andropov, and Henry Kissinger.

According to some observers the Italian judges, who will shortly be holding a national summit to evaluate the results of Operation St. Valentine's, will pose the problem of how to hit the "political level" of the drug mafia. Considering that many of them regard *Dope, Inc.*, the book commissioned by LaRouche, as a kind of manual of the anti-drug fight, it is possible that LaRouche's hypothesis may be pursued all the way.

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