

Italian civil war slated to launch destabilization of Europe

by Vivian Freyre Zoakos

Extraordinary general elections have been scheduled for Italy June 26, following last month's collapse of the government at the instigation of the Socialist Party. Covering this situation, the leading international press has pretended that nothing is actually amiss. Italians are simply slated to approve yet another government among the 40-odd which have ruled since the end of the war.

Such spurious nonsense is of a piece with the same journalists' assertions that Italy is not truly undergoing an economic crisis, despite the admitted collapse of its industrial base. Heavy industry is being "replaced," it is reported, by a black market economy of light manufactures offering employment at slave wages.

The current Italian crisis is not business as usual, nor is it Italian in origin. Italy is being used as a pawn in an international strategic game. In the pattern of European destabilization set off by the British, the Soviets, and such "Anglo-KGB" assets as Henry Kissinger, described in this week's International lead article, Italy may be the first Western European government to be toppled. Collaborating in its destruction is the ancient Italian "black" oligarchy, the feudal *fondi* that never approved of the creation of an Italian state in the first place.

Political institutions destroyed

Italy is now slated to undergo nothing short of a civil war, made possible by the gutting of its political institutions. The two mass-based parties, the Christian Democracy, which has ruled Italy almost continuously since the war, and the Italian Communist Party (PCI), whose base in the trade unions and Catholic-nationalist traditions have made it quite independent of Moscow (until now), have both begun to undergo a radical transformation.

The PCI has recently become the willing pawn of Soviet party secretary Yuri Andropov and the same black nobility that promoted Benito Mussolini into power. The Communist Party has recently decided to "bleed off" its vote—around 30 percent of the electorate—in favor of the much smaller Italian

Socialists. The significance of this is appreciated when one considers that it was the Socialists who collapsed the recent government. They did so after their general secretary, Bettino Craxi, met with Henry Kissinger in Milan. He sought Kissinger and the U.S. State Department's support for a prospective Craxi government.

In exchange for its votes, the PCI is hoping to be granted greater voice in the government, including, possibly, some cabinet positions on the "French model."

The Christian Democratic party, which controls approximately 35-40 percent of the vote, has been internally destroyed, over the past six months in particular. What has been destroyed is the party's complex internal system of factional "machines." With the collapse of its internal constituency politics, the party has come under the increasing domination of the same oligarchical families now running the PCI.

The Italian neo-fascist MSI party (Italian Social Movement) is simultaneously being groomed for a significant spurt of growth at the June 26 elections. Their electoral campaign will center around the fact that one of Mussolini's sons, Vittorio, will be included in their electoral slate. The voters are being urged to "Vote MSI: Vote Mussolini into Parliament."

On top of all this, a new phenomenon has entered Italian postwar politics, the "party of the scheda bianca," referring to the "white ballots" which 6 million, or 18 percent of the population, are predicted to cast come election day. In a country with an historical voter turnout of 98 percent or more, the refusal of 18 percent of the population to cast its ballots for any candidate is being analyzed as symptomatic of an incurably diseased political system.

But the relevant perception is that the Italian media, led by the Agnelli press, are actually organizing on behalf of the "white ballot."

It was FIAT magnate and Trilateral Commission member Gianni Agnelli who said at the meeting of the Italian industrialists' association (Confindustria) on April 13: "Italy risks ending up like Turkey. But after all, Evren did excellent

things there. These Turkish generals are good; they are fine people, really fine people.”

Agnelli and his fellow Confindustria executives at that conference, as the statement would indicate, were discussing the necessity of a coup d'état. In the guise of reporting on the disaffected “white ballot” vote, the press mafia controlled by these gentlemen, such as the “prestigious” *Espresso* and *Panorama* magazines and the daily *La Repubblica*, have published editorial on top of editorial in which leading journalists explain how they themselves intend to cast white ballots given the current, untrustworthy character of the political parties.

PCI: new Andropov-Venetian instrument

The single most serious destabilizing event in Italy over the recent period was the takeover of the Italian Communist Party by the Andropov and Venetian crowds. The phenomenon was amply clear during the PCI party congress of two months ago, and even before, when party leader Enrico Berlinguer and one of the leading Venetian spokesman, Republican party president Bruno Visentini, suddenly publicly revealed their agreement on all areas of policy. Simultaneously, Berlinguer, whose profile has always been “conservative,” became the unlikely spokesman for New Left radicalism.

Becoming explicit in a recent speech, Berlinguer identified the American Euro-missile deployment scheduled for later this year, with one site to be Sicily, as the leading issue of the electoral campaign. He declared his willingness to have the PCI work closely with the radical leftists to prevent the deployment of the missiles and to achieve a nuclear freeze. Thereupon, the PDUP and Manifesto radical parties—well-documented breeders of Italian terrorism—began to self-dismantle. Their leading members are entering the PCI.

The second-largest party in Italy, the PCI is almost equal in size to the ruling Christian Democrats. Now, it has put itself forward as the Italian branch of the peace movement—financed throughout Europe by the Soviet Union, although organized by the fascist international. This development is emphatically not mere opportunism “as usual” for the PCI. During the postwar period, the party has been mainly free of Soviet control, and has behaved repeatedly as the defender of Italian national self-interest in most important areas.

The PCI's descent into Andropovian and Venetian control carries with it innumerable penalties for Italy. The PCI controls the largest part of the national trade union movement. Last January, for the first time ever, the trade unions agreed to cut the cost of living escalator in wage negotiations with Confindustria—on orders from the PCI. Suddenly, the party has begun to preach the gospel of austerity. Since then, the predictable collapse of once-strong Italian trade unionism has become increasingly apparent. For example, over the recent past, Confindustria has broken off one after another round of contract negotiations with impunity. The trade unions, already suffering an enormous loss of credibility due

to their betrayal on the cost of living issue, have been unable to respond effectively.

With the economy collapsing ever more rapidly, that is only the beginning. Italian industrial production for the first two months of 1983 showed an average 8 percent decline relative to the previous year. The most important sectors, such as machine tools, showed an incredible 20 percent collapse, compared to already disastrously depressed levels in 1982. The “black market” cottage-industry phenomenon so insistently discussed by the international press not only cannot substitute for industry; it is indicative of the increasing anarchy of the trade union situation. The conservatively estimated 25 percent of the work force now employed by black market cottage industry is not under trade union control. In those remaining industrial sectors still nominally under such control, the trade unions have adopted austerity as their own policy, and are rapidly losing the support of the labor force.

It is under these conditions that the PCI, controlling the CGIL trade union confederation, has transformed itself into the spokesmen for left-wing radicalism—that political fringe which generated the internationally infamous Italian terrorist gangs. That political fringe, however, was from its inception nurtured by the true party of terrorism in Italy, the Socialists. This being the case, it is perfectly lawful that, among the other cited turns of the PCI, the party is also making a deal with the Socialists to turn over to them a significant percentage of Communist votes in the upcoming elections.

This deal has been given a name by the press. It is called, appropriately, the “bleeding” policy; the PCI bleeds itself of its own votes in the hopes that the U.S. State Department will allow Communist entry into the government, if a strong-enough Socialist party is there to guarantee “democracy.”

The election scenario

The most likely scenario for the June 26 elections is that the “radicalized” PCI will “lose” a significant percentage of its vote to the Socialists. Most informed observers put the likely Socialist vote at 20 percent—meaning about an 8 percent increase, courtesy of the PCI. The MSI neo-fascists, under the Mussolini banner, would also gain, while the Christian Democracy would stay more or less stable.

Then there is the “white ballot party” as the third largest in Italy. This would represent a ready force for chaos in the second phase of the destabilization. That phase would see a large neo-fascist movement pitted against the radicalized Communists in an unfolding civil war. Craxi may or may not achieve his dream of becoming the new Mussolini.

An Italy in chaos would act as the launching pad for parallel destabilizations of its European NATO allies. Under such conditions, Yuri Andropov might well gain a much-coveted divorce between Europe and the United States. As for the oligarchy, their insane ambitions were laid out by Olivetti chairman De Benedetti in an interview earlier this year: global economic collapse and chaos are the needed precondition for reorganizing the world on a new model.