

How linguistics is used to control ethnic separatists and terrorists

by Muriel Mirak

The Sept. 20 issue of EIR contained portions of a new dossier on the Nazi-Communist controllers of both the "peace movement" and ethnic separatism in Europe. The following article, part of the EIR Special Report titled "The Hot Autumn: Separatism, Pacifism, and Terrorism," analyzes the way separatist terrorists are manufactured through the promotion of ethnic dialects, by "linguists" who are nothing other than brainwashing experts. The report is now available from EIR at \$250.

Why do the separatists insist so fanatically on the right to speak a local dialect, often known to only a few thousand souls, rather than maintain the communicative means afforded by a national language? Such insistence is not only a further indication of the intellectual backwardness of separatist leaders such as Aureli Argemi and Ivan Illich; it also identifies a conscious plan to subvert the integrity of the nation-state, through the destruction of its language.

Dante Alighieri was the father of the Italian language, and as such, the spiritual father of the unity of Italians in the Italian nation. His explicit aim, through his poem the *Commedia*, as well as his groundbreaking theoretical treatises on language (*De Vulgari Eloquentia, Il Convivio*), was to overcome the state of isolation and backwardness imposed by the continuing existence of thousands of regional and local dialects along the 13th-century peninsula. He knew that there would be no hope for Italians to create a nation if they were straitjacketed by dialects shaped by brutish sounds, like the "sad speech" of the Romans, the "ugliest of all Italian vernaculars," or the Sardinian dialect, which "imitates Latin, just as monkeys imitate men," or the Genoese, whose sound system offends the ear. Dante sought to develop the illustrious vernacular, Italian, as the national language which "appears in every city but rests in none," that is, which is common to every local area but limited to no single one. It is only through such a language, polished and ordered through

poetic expression of universal ideas, that the individual brought up speaking a native dialect can develop his mind to contribute ideas of universal importance to his fellow man. That mankind has proven capable of creating great literary tools has been the prerequisite for science, and thereby for the continued progress of human society.

Destroy national languages, and the progress of human thinking, technology, and science, is destroyed. That is the ultimate policy objective of the separatist linguists. They have expended massive efforts on cultivating local and regional dialects, under the guise of protecting threatened languages, and have lobbied to gain legislative equality vis-à-vis the national tongue, as the first step toward outright autonomy. By fostering the use of such parochialized and limited dialects, they have effectively condemned entire populations to backwardness. Among the leadership strata of separatist organizations, local dialects are used as veritable brainwashing programs, to maintain top-down control over hard-core terrorist components.

The importance of linguistics for separatism is underlined by the fact that Barcelona's Ciemen center for ethnic minorities, on the initiative of Benedictine leader Argemi, will dedicate its next annual conference to "Semiotics and Social Language" (Aug. 16-22, 1984).

It should come as no surprise that the think tanks dedicated to spreading dialect use are integrally connected to those running separatism and terrorism. Under the overall control of the United Nations' UNESCO, which has financed and staffed studies of local dialects (even of tiny communities, like the 700-person Occitanian-speaking region of Calabria!), the major associations involved are the Ciemen and the Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker (Society for Threatened Peoples, GfBV), as well as the Association for the Defense of Threatened Tongues. The principal areas of activity of Ciemen are the dialects of France, Spain, and Italy. In addition to Ciemen secretary Aureli Argemi's personal linguistic

studies on Corsican-Genoese and Sardinian, Ciemen concentrates on the Occitanian dialects, on the Basque (Euskera), and on Venetian.

In Milan, Italy, Ciemen shares its offices with the magazine *Emie*, whose founders include Roberto Sonaglia, a partisan of the Movimento Federale Padano, and Guido Aghina. Aghina is the city councilman responsible for cultural affairs in Milan for the Italian Socialist Party, whose links with terrorism have been amply documented.

Jesuit linguist Ivan Illich's Center for Intercultural Documentation (CIDOC) in Cuernavaca, Mexico, which works with the Ciemen networks through the GfBV and the Club of Rome, is dedicated to undermining national languages in the North and South American continents, promoting the revival of Indian dialects. Illich takes his attack against Spanish to extreme lengths, targeting Elio Antonio de Nebrija, the 15th-century humanist collaborator of Erasmus, who circulated the first Spanish grammar among the dominions of Queen Isabella. Illich attempts to destroy first the national language, then all language. His claim is that in the medieval world, to which he and the Club of Rome want to return, languages are unnecessary. "In the essentially sun-powered cultures of the past, there was no need for language production. Language . . . was learned from the encounter with people whom the learner could smell and touch, love or hate."

Basque: language for feudal backwardness

Basque separatism actually began with a language project headed by a Pamplona lawyer named Arturo Campion. Writing in 1876, Campion stated: "So long as Euskadi [Basques] keep their original and personal tongue, there need be no fear that their passion for their envied feudal privileges should decrease, for each word they pronounce will remind them of the political and social condition of their ancestors, and will encourage them never to falter in the claims to their undeniable rights." Another lawyer, Sabino Arana y Goiri, founded the Basque Nationalist Party in 1892 on a program which included the following demands: independence of French and Spanish Basques from their respective nations; ruralism, to defend Basque purity against capitalism; radical defense of Euskera (Basque dialect) against Castilian, the vehicle of the state.

The Sociedad de Estudios Vascos was then created as the vehicle for organizing the first autonomy projects in the twentieth century. In 1931 they announced that "the national language of the Basques is Euskera."

The main institutions currently promoting Euskera studies as a part of the Basque separatist movement are the Institut per a l'Estudi del Basc (Basque Studies Institute) and the terrorist-linked Academia de la Lengua Vasca. MIT linguist Noam Chomsky, who works with the Academia, has documented relations to terrorist groups through the Washington, D.C. Institute for Policy Studies (IPS). Pierre Vilar,

a Catalan separatist collaborating with the Academia, is the author of numerous pro-terrorist articles published in the Basque paper *EGIN*, which supports the terrorist ETA.

Several of the directors of *EGIN* have been called upon to testify in ETA murder cases and have been fined by the interior ministry. Federico Krutwig, who has presided over the Academia, is also reportedly linked to ETA assassins in Paris and Brussels. The case of Krutwig is particularly significant. Son of the representative of Krupp in the Basque, Krutwig is said to be fluent in most Western European, Middle Eastern, and Slavic languages. In 1942 he was elected to the Academia de la Lengua Vasca, but was forced into exile in 1953. At the World Basque Congress of 1956, it was Krutwig who pushed for the creation of a guerrilla movement to fight for autonomy. In 1965 he traveled to Brussels, where he worked for the Chinese Embassy, translating the texts of Mao Tse-tung into Euskera. In exchange, the Chinese Foreign Language Institute of Peking translated his books on the Basque question. Krutwig is a close associate of Ernest Mandel, the leader of the Trotskyist Fourth International; both were linked to top Spanish terrorist José Maria Escubi.

Linguistics is deeply rooted in ETA's history. One of the group's co-founders was Alvarez Empanza (code name Gxillardegui), a linguist who wrote in Euskera. It was he who succeeded in 1965-66 in convincing the Bishopric of San Sebastian to ordain priests only if they knew the Euskera language. In June 1965 he wrote a letter to ETA stressing the importance of language in the separatist struggle, saying that those who could not speak Basque should be cast aside as "prostitutes" and that only those fluent in the language could work to recruit peasants.

Despite the massive input into Basque studies, the language has not spread very rapidly. There are an estimated 600,000 speakers in Spain and only 100,000 in France. Of the 22 percent of the Spanish Basques who speak the language, only 56 percent of them (or 12 percent of the total) write it. A dictionary and grammar were developed in the last century, providing a written form for the language for the first time.

Ciemen promotes Catalan

Catalan, which the Basques hold up as a model, was the official language of Catalonia until 1716, and continued to be used as the language of the courts and schools until the nineteenth century. About 8 million people speak it as their native language. Exploiting the emotional response to the fact that dictator Franco outlawed Catalan, forbidding newspapers, radio, and TV to use it through the 1970s, the Catalan separatists have pushed for broad use of the language. Not only are most courses in Catalan universities conducted in the dialect, but the separatists through Ciemen demand that all Catalan-speaking regions be unified in one "nation." This would include large areas of France, as well as 20,000 people in Alghero Sardinia.



Ivan Illich, the Jesuit linguist who wants to eliminate the national languages of North and South America.

The two institutions which work with Ciemen through the Defense et Promotion des Langues de France organization are the Barcelona-based Institut d'Estudis Catalans and its French offshoot, the Institut d'Estudis Occitans, both dedicated to literary and linguistic studies of Catalan history. Links to terrorism are run through the Catalan-Provençal theatre group called Els Joglas, in Barcelona.

One member, Andrés Solsona, was arrested in July 1983 for harboring an ETA terrorist in his home. He was also a member of the Liga Comunista Revolucionaria, a Trotskyist group promoting separatism on both sides of the Spanish-French border.

Occitania: a proliferation of dialects

Occitania, whose name was coined by a Benedictine monk in the 17th century, is a Franco-Italian region stretching across about 190,000 square kilometers, and home of 12 million people. Known as the region of the *langue d'oc*, Occitania proliferates with dialects, including Provençal, Delfinis, Guinese, Limbuine, Auvergnat, and Gascon. The Movimento Autonomista Occitano (MAO), or Occitan Autonomy Movement, works closely with Ciemen and with the Piedmont regional government, both of which are promoting study and use of the *langue d'oc* as the common language.

Occitan was the language of the religious sect founded by Pietro Valdes, until the Synod of Chanforan in 1532. In this century, François Fontan rehabilitated the old Valdesian language and founded the Parti Nationalist Occitan. After the death of Fontan in 1979, the Parti, which had won a seat in the Cuneo city council, became the MAO, under the leadership of Ignes Cavalcanti. Cavalcanti led the mobilization to have the Italian parliament recognize the use of Occitan in the region, and to gain the same legal status that Sicily enjoys. The dialect is now taught in elementary schools throughout the Italian Occitan valleys. Children who learn Occitan are assigned to reconstruct the history of their valleys by interrogating their grandparents. Vittorio Caraglio, who initiated the project, motivated it as a means of "rebuilding Occitania," after a history of exploitation and looting.

On the French side of the Occitan operation, the Ciemen, whose Italian operations are based in Milan, also works to "promote the development of the consciousness of Occitans that they are Occitanians." Ciemen also operates in Carcassonne and Montpellier. In Beziers, France, they have a Centre Internationale de Documentation Occitane, which is slated to become the "national library of Occitania." Other institutions of Ciemen are the Conservatoire Occitan, the Centre d'Estudes Occitanes Universita Paul Valéry, in Montpellier, the Escola Occitana d'Estiu Villeneuve-sur-Lot, all of which study and teach Occitan. The Université Ardechoise d'Ete at Aubenas in the Ardeche is run by a collective review called Vivares, Terra Occitana. Another Occitanian group operating in Toulouse and Barcelona is the CAOC, dedicated to reuniting the *paisos cantans* (France and Spain).

Closely linked to the Occitans is the Franco-Provençal movement. Spread throughout France, Switzerland, and Italy (Piedmont), they are valley populations speaking a mixture of *langue d'oc* and *langue d'oïl*. According to Franco-Provençal linguist Edoardo Ballone, "It is a neo-Latin tongue of an ancient population who lived, in the dark night of time, in a part of the western Alpine region."

Organized in the research and study institute known as EFFEPI, the Franco-Provençals organize cultural events to bring together the disparate valley populations and to create in them a sense of common Franco-Provençal or "patois" culture. Ornella de Paoli, secretary of EFFEPI, organized the first such event in Val Soana in 1980, gathering people from Aosta, the Savoy, and Switzerland. She wrote, "It was a moment of rediscovery of collective consciousness, a rediscovery of our own ethnia. . . ."

The Turin University Linguistics Department is instrumental in promoting the patois cause. Under the leadership of Prof. Gianrenzo Clivio (who also teaches at Toronto University), the department has put out a Linguistic Italian Atlas, the atlas for the patois.

In addition to the major linguistic separatist operations mentioned above, the Ciemen and Piedmont regional associations are also actively engaged in promoting "linguistic consciousness" of other ethnic group languages, including

among speakers of Sardinian, Calabrian, Corsican, Slovenian, Alemany (South Tyrol), and Albanian. The last is particularly promoted by Ciemen, through the Palermo-based Associazione de Insegnanti Arbesch, which aims to unite the estimated 80,000 Albanian speakers spread throughout southern Italy.

Other university institutions which are involved in the Ciemen network include the Philology Department of Milan State University, the Oriental Institute of Naples, and the Language Department of Venice University (whose halls were recently given to the KGB-controlled Pugwash Conference proceedings).

Separatists make gains

The separatist linguisticians have been at the forefront of a drive to legislate ethnic autonomy. In Italy, after the national Parliament institutionalized regional relatively autonomous government in 1970, the push for linguistic independence was accelerated. First to strive for special status was Sardinia, whose dialect was the first to be officially proclaimed a language.

As far as the Sardinians are concerned, it was at Heidelberg University in West Germany that the earliest linguistic research was carried out, on which the separatist movement was built. Prof. Max Leopold Wagner was the author of the 1921 *Studien über den sardischen Wortschatz*, of *La lingua sarda* and the *Dizionario etimologico sardo*—works which led to establishing the reputation of the Sardinian dialect, which Dante so correctly ridiculed, as a bona fide language.


Early in the 1970s, the faculty of the Literature Department of Cagliari University, which houses an International Center of Sardinian Studies, voted a resolution demanding that Sardinian be accorded parity with other neo-Latin languages and thereby juridical-administrative recognition. Later in the decade, it was proposed that the Sardinians organize a "people's initiative," a mass petition, to introduce a bilingual regime on the island. Although the bureaucrat-

ic process lagged, bilingualism was established de facto, rendering legal action essentially superfluous.

The Partito Sardo d' Azione, recently elected to the national parliament, has demanded that parliamentary debate be carried out in dialects. The Liga Veneta, which has entered national parliament for the first time, is also demanding recognition of the local dialect. The umbrella group which organizes such legislative actions in Italy is the Association for the Defense of Threatened Tongues, headed by Prof. Alessandro Pizzorusso, of the University of Pisa. Pizzorusso has prepared a bill which would allow mandatory dialect teaching in elementary schools, optional instruction at the university level, use of minority dialects in courts, public offices, and banks.

But the ultimate court for airing the complaints of the separatists is the European Parliament in Strassbourg, itself a synthetic institution created to engi-

neer the destruction of the European nation states. On May 26, 1981, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on the Catalan separatists. Entitled "Lengues Minoritaries i Dialectes a Europa," the document, authored by Spanish senator Cirici i Pellicer, included the following demands: 1) the progressive adoption of the correct forms of toponymy (place names) from the original language of each territory, no matter how small; 2) progressive adoption of the maternal language in the education of children (use of dialect orally in the pre-school stage and the normalized forms of the mother tongue in primary education during which the majority language of the country will be gradually introduced); 3) public assistance for the local use of the normalized minority languages in higher education and communications media of concerned territories according to the will of the communities which speak them.



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