

Report from Italy by Umberto Pascali

Pertini attacks beam weapons

In Lausanne, the Italian President gets the Coudenhove-Kalergi award and meets the ex-Queen of Italy.

Seventy years ago President Pertini was fighting the soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Yesterday afternoon Otto von Hapsburg, the grandson of Emperor Franz Joseph, granted him one of the most prestigious continental awards, the Coudenhove-Kalergi gold medal established in honor of the Austrian Count who dedicated his life to the "political construction of Europe." Thus commented *La Repubblica* on the visit of President of the Italian Republic Alessandro Pertini on July 6-7 to the headquarters of the Coudenhove-Kalergi Foundation in Lausanne, the Swiss city known as the center of the Nazi International.

The smug words of the liberal newspaper sum up the tragedy into which the Italian Republic risks falling at this moment. Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi was the founder of the Pan-European Union, an association sponsored by the self-described "Middle European" oligarchy. The Union was instrumental in creating Nazism to destroy European nations, part of its plan for the "political construction of Europe" on the basis of regional ethnic, religious and language groupings. A "Europe of the Regions" would lead to a resumption of power by Europe's old feudal families, happily unfettered by national constitutions and laws.

Today the president of the association is Otto von Hapsburg, who represents the oligarchical interests seeking a deal with Moscow and a decoupling of Western Europe from the

United States. Both policies are aimed toward the same ultimate goal of regionalization in a "post-industrial" society. Otto's Hapsburg family and the Austro-Hungarian Empire they ruled are the historical enemy against which Italy fought its three "Wars of Independence."

But President Pertini, who has been accused of having aided the victory of the Italian Communist Party in the recent European Parliament elections, did not limit himself to symbolically assaulting the moral foundations of the republic. He explicitly attacked the U.S. beam-weapons defense strategy. "The two superpowers," Pertini declaimed, "are divided by hostility and misunderstandings, and the atomic buildup continues. And now they have reached the point of preparing star wars! But we must say clearly that with the missiles there will never be peace!" In a clear reference to "decoupling," Pertini said that "Europe must be an equal pillar of the Atlantic Alliance, must become the most advanced point in the fight for disarmament, able to play a role of support for détente and guarantor of peaceful mediation." He also praised the appeasement policy of Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

As if this were not already enough, on Saturday July 7 Pertini met for two hours with Maria Jose of Savoy, the former queen of Italy. "We had a lovely and cordial meeting," Pertini declared. The press leaked immediately that Pertini and Maria Jose discussed how to change the constitutional law

that prevents male members of the Savoy family, who brought Mussolini to power, from returning to Italy.

Of course the performance of the President provoked the glee of the Italian Communist Party, which reminded Italians in the party press *Unita* that just-deceased party secretary Enrico Berlinguer had proposed renewing Pertini's mandate. *Unita* also painted the proto-Nazi Coudenhove-Kalergi as an anti-Nazi hero.

The Swiss visit of Pertini gives the best reading of what the oligarchy has planned for Italy. The situation only appears "unclear" after the European elections because the usual infighting among the parties continues. In reality, what has emerged is the alliance between Giulio Andreotti and the Communist Party (PCI). They are trying to collapse the Craxi government, considered no longer useful, and to set up a cabinet based on a coalition between the Christian Democracy and the Republican Party of Giorgio La Malfa and Giovanni Spadolini, with PCI support. Already Naples Christian Democratic Mayor Vincenzo Scotti, an Andreotti protégé, announced he will resign because it is impossible to govern the city without the PCI. Finance Minister Bruno Visentini, a Republican, said that he will not present any financial plan until a more stable government is achieved.

Prime Minister Craxi is sending signals that he is ready to do anything to keep his post. At this writing he is in East Berlin with Andreotti meeting party boss Erich Honecker. Craxi has also decided to speed up his lawsuit against Fiorella Operto, the leader of the POE, the party associated with Lyndon LaRouche and his pro-beam weapons policy. Two weeks ago, Craxi met Kissinger; now he is letting people know that he wants to destroy the POE.