

---

## Investigative Leads

---

# 'International' trail in railroad bombing

by Liliana Gorini

This was a bloody Christmas for Italy. On Dec. 23, fifteen people were killed and 112 wounded when a powerful bomb exploded inside the Naples-Milan train between Florence and Bologna. It was supposed to be a much bigger massacre: In the terrorist plan, the bomb placed on the train was supposed to go off inside a tunnel while the train was meeting another train going in the opposite direction, derailing both trains and making rescue operations inside the tunnel impossible. Only the fact that the Naples-Milan express was three minutes late prevented a worse tragedy.

The bombing, which took place in the same tunnel where the Italicus massacre had taken place in 1980, was claimed immediately by almost every known right-wing and left-wing terrorist group in Italy, from the fascist Nuclei Armati Rivoluzionari (NAR) to the Red Brigades. But according to the Italian government and the secret services, the coincidences with the black terrorism wave in 1980 were intended to distract from the real authors and controllers, who "are not to be found in Italy, but abroad," according to both Interior Minister Oscar Scalfaro and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi.

"Whoever ordered the massacre does not understand the importance of Christmas for Italy," declared Prime Minister Craxi to the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, hinting at what the press called the "Great Old Man from the East."

The Italian government and secret services, basing themselves also on various warnings which had come from Washington, are now following all possible trails, from the fascist terrorist groups to the Islamic fundamentalists to the drug-mafia networks. The international terrorism track is, according to them, the most credible, since the bombing coincided with a series of similar atrocities in West Germany and France. Testifying before Parliament, Scalfaro said that a few days before the massacre Italy had been threatened by the Islamic Jihad terrorists in Beirut for having arrested seven Lebanese terrorists in Rome who were planning to blow up the U.S. embassy.

Two days before the bombing, another Lebanese terrorist had been arrested in France, Abdallah George Ibrahim, the head of the Lebanese Revolutionary Army who was in Beirut when the American ambassador Francis Meloy was killed in 1976 and who had met with the Red Brigades in Italy at the time of the Leamon Hunt assassination, claimed by both

terrorist groups. The French and Italian secret services had met to discuss the danger of retaliation by Khomeini's and Qaddafi's fundamentalists.

One of the suspected passengers on the train, who boarded at Chiusi with a bulging sports bag and got off in Florence with an empty one, was identified as a Libyan citizen living for some time in Italy. Speaking to the Senate, Craxi also emphasized the similarities between this Christmas massacre and the New Year's massacre on the Paris-Toulouse train last year, claimed by the Islamic Jihad.

### Communists protest international track

Despite all these elements, and many more which have not yet been revealed by the secret services, the Bologna judges who were assigned to investigate the bombing, and the Italian Communist Party controlling them, still refuse to accept the hypothesis of international terrorism and plan to limit their investigation to the black terrorism track, covering up completely the fact that both the "red" and the "black" terrorists in Italy are on the payroll of Moscow and Qaddafi, particularly through the Nazi-Communist connection of François Genoud's and Ben Bella's Nazi International in Lausanne, but also in the "narco-terrorist" connection of Stefano Delle Chiaie, former head of the fascist terrorist group Ordine Nuovo-Ordine Nero and now on top of the cocaine and weapons traffic in Bolivia. The Italian Communists even attacked the government for defending the fascist terrorists when it speaks of "international terrorism," and accused the secret services who are looking into this connection of complicity in the bombing attempt.

Even the funeral of the victims of the terror attack was used by the Communist mayor of Bologna Renzo Imbeni to accuse the state of attacking only red terrorists and not black ones and to demand a parliamentary inquiry on the State. Besides the Communists, a former minister in the previous government, the Socialist Rino Formica, told the daily *La Repubblica* that "the massacre was a message to Italy, that Italy should stick to its subordinated role internationally," and accused the Israeli and American secret services of responsibility for the bombing. The Communist daily *Unita* covered Formica's raving accusation with an article on the "Great Brother beyond the Atlantic using the strategy of bombs."

As American sources quoted by *Il Giornale* indicated, Italy was key in recent months to unblocking the European decision to deploy American missiles, so much so that Rome could be for Washington "the most trustworthy ally after Great Britain." An indication of this renewed cooperation was the arrest of those seven Lebanese terrorists planning to blow up the U.S. embassy.

This certainly did not please either Moscow or Tripoli, which have launched an expansion drive in the Mediterranean. A pro-Western, strong Italy, particularly if it adopted Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, would upset Moscow's plan completely.