

## Report from Italy by Liliana Gorini

### The third color

*The PCI wants the premiership should it win a plurality, while regional level "red-green coalitions" are possible.*

**T**he new general secretary of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), Alessandro Natta, who replaced Enrico Berlinguer at the latter's death last summer, created political turmoil Feb. 25 when he demanded the premiership for the PCI in case of a government crisis. In an interview with the leftist *Il Manifesto*, he declared that if the PCI polls more votes than the Christian Democracy in local and regional elections on May 12, he will immediately demand early elections, and, "in case of a government crisis, we will demand the premiership for the PCI."

Asked if he would become premier himself, Natta said no: "We have some leaders in the party who could take up such a task, at least an exploratory premiership."

When the five parties forming the present government coalition in Italy rejected the perspective contained in Natta's statements, emphasizing that if he goes on like this, he will only make the victory of the Christian Democracy more certain, Natta did not give up, but escalated his demands.

Speaking at the congress of the Communist youth organization, FGCI (Federazione Giovanile Comunisti Italiani), he declared: "We Communists are tired of the shameful discrimination according to which we should be considered a party with fewer rights than the others." If the Christian Democracy has an automatic right to the premiership as the largest party in Italy in terms of votes, the PCI should have the same right if it polls a plurality, he indicated.

The FGCI conference concluded

with a resolution demanding that Italy leave NATO and take "unilateral acts of disarmament" and create a "nuclear-free zone." Natta himself attacked Italy's role in the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative: "Our government and our country . . . should say that it makes no sense to open negotiations and work at the same time on the absolute weapon." The next day, the party paper, *l'Unità*, published a front-page editorial by Romano Ledda entitled, "Star Wars: What Will the Government Say?" which complains that with his meetings in Bonn and trip to Washington on March 5, Italian Premier Bettino Craxi will essentially endorse the SDI. The editorial also attacks "the small 'Star Wars' party in Italy"—Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinker organization in this country which has been working to have Italy join the SDI for years and has just announced a conference on the subject in Rome on March 28.

The PCI would have absolutely no chance of defeating the Christian Democracy or forming a government if it didn't have the secret support of such Soviet moles as the present foreign minister, Giulio Andreotti, a Christian Democrat. Exploiting the fact that Italy has the presidency of the European Community until June, Andreotti, by contrast with official government policy, had an EC statement issued against "Star Wars" in Rome in mid-February. The statement is being constantly quoted by the Communists.

Another asset of the PCI is President Sandro Pertini, who in past months has frequently joined the

Communists in attacks on the government and who even proposed Communist leader Nilde Iotti, mistress of the postwar PCI leader Palmiro Togliatti, as someone who would make a "good President of the Republic." Immediately after the regional elections in May, there will be presidential elections in June. Pertini is the candidate officially endorsed by the PCI.

Another factor in Natta's absurd demands is the newly formed Partito Verde Italiano, the Italian Green Party, which will run candidates and is already claiming 5% to 10% of the vote in May. Like the German Greens, the Italian variety is violently anti-nuclear, "peacenik," and thoroughly fascist in outlook. The Communist Party is devoting great attention to this party, which could be useful to it if the PCI does not get the relative majority. A "Red-Green coalition" might then be possible, at least at the regional level.

On Feb. 23, *l'Unità* published a front-page editorial entitled: "Green and Red: How Can They Work Together in Italy?" in which the Communists accuse the Italian left of having believed too much in progress, and claim that the PCI is the only party which could work with the Greens, having such common goals as disarmament. A few days later, PCI leader Pietro Ingrao spoke at a Green meeting with U.S. "green" leader Barry Commoner, and made the peculiar statement: "There is a third color between red and green."

Alessandro Natta's past in the youth organization of the Fascist Party at the time of Mussolini's regime was revealed soon after his election, by the Christian Democracy's *Il Popolo*. Ingrao, too, is a former Fascist leader during Mussolini's time. We leave it to the reader, then, to guess what Ingrao's "third color" might be.