

Agca's trial in Rome: Will the real conspiracy vs. the Pope come out?

by Paolo Serri

On May 27, before 500 international journalists, watched closely by governments and elites all over the world, the second trial of Turkish terrorist Ali Agca and seven other Bulgarian and Turkish defendants opened in Rome. They are accused of conspiring to kill Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981 in St. Peter's Square. On that dramatic afternoon, at 5:20 p.m., the Pope was severely wounded, hit in the abdomen and the hand, by two bullets fired by a Browning 9 mm. pistol. Agca is the alleged gunman.

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After a period of silence and cryptic messages sent from his cell, the arrested assassin Ali Agca began to collaborate with Italian justice. Despite many changes, contradictions, and lies, Agca's long declaration, confirmed by years-long investigations, has led to the exposure of the "Bulgarian connection": the role in the plot of the Bulgarian state and secret services, and behind them, the Soviet KGB, time headed by future Soviet party chief and President, Yuri Andropov.

Agca on the witness stand

In the first, approximately two weeks of trial sessions, Agca was at the center of the interrogations. In addition to confirming what he had said during the investigation, and adding important new elements, though in the midst of apparent contradictions, the most striking new feature was his repeated declaration that he was "Jesus Christ reincarnated," and his announcement that the assassination attempt against the Pope was linked to the "third secret of Fatima." Yet, even the commentators most hostile to Agca and the Bulgarians' fiercest defenders did not call Agca's mental equilibrium into question.

If Agca is not crazy, what's the sense of his statements?

The "third secret of Fatima" announces the destruction of the present world signalled by the killing of the Pope (defined by the Fatima cult as an "anti-Christ") and the takeover of the entire earth by the Russians. Despite the many comments on this testimony and reports and speculations around the "third

secret of Fatima," no report has stressed the fact that the second attempt on the Pope's life also came on May 13 (1982), Fatima Day, this time at the shrine of the Madonna of Fatima in Portugal. That second attempt was by the fanatical priest Fernandez Khron, a Fatima believer who saw the Pope as the "anti-Christ." Khron was part of integralist "Catholic" networks linked to the paramilitary sect Tradition, Family, and Property, an evil, feudal instrument of the European and Latin American "black nobility."

Agca's Fatima declaration, though cryptic and given out as a "message," gives a glimpse of the truth, and confirms what this magazine has been saying for years: In matters such as this, there is no difference between players East and West. The evil "Bulgarian connection" arms-for-drugs plot and the feudal integralist "armed arms" of the "Western" oligarchy, represent, like a mirror-image, the two sides of the same conspiracy.

The 'absolute cause'

On June 7, Agca sent another cryptic message from the dock: "There is an absolute cause and there is a lateral cause for the attempt against the Pope. I am here denouncing the lateral cause, that is, the Bulgarian protection [for the murder attempt], but the real reason is officially known to the Vatican."

What is the "absolute cause" Agca is talking about? The general explanation by those pursuing the "Bulgarian connection" is that the Soviets wanted to eliminate the "Polish Pope" because of the ongoing instability in Poland, and even to provoke an upheaval in Poland, to then be crushed by Soviet tanks. Though this might have been a feature of the thinking of the Eastern strategists, in itself it does not explain the decision to eliminate John Paul II, and does not even touch upon the Fatima connection.

In the same session, Agca charged, "There are facts in between. . . . The Bulgarian vice-president is going to the Vatican" to meet the Pope.

Agca was referring to the visit to the Holy See by the Bulgarian vice-president which took place only three days before the trial. While the Pope reaffirmed that the trial is in the hands of Italian justice and the Italian state, nonetheless, he pronounced this ambiguous sentence: "Everyday I pray

for the good and positive solution to this affair, so that it will not be a burden to a Slavic country and people." The reference to Bulgaria is obvious.

The Bulgarian delegation at the Vatican also discussed the 1,100th anniversary celebration this year of the death of St. Methodius, who with his brother St. Cyril, was the Byzantine saint considered to have Christianized the Slavs and Central Europe. This celebration is similar and preparatory to the 1988 anniversary of the millennium of Russian Christianization, a fundamental date for the Russian Orthodox Church and for the messianic proponents of the world imperialist "Third Rome" clique in the Kremlin and Soviet armed forces, which believes in the cult-prophecy that Moscow is destined to become the capital of a Third and Final Roman Empire. Though Byzantine and "anti-Western," in the sense of the rejection of the key Augustinian concept of the *Filioque*, Cyril and Methodius are also recognized by the Roman Church, and considered by this Pope to be the "protectors of Europe" together with St. Benedict.

Furthermore, for years, and particularly through the work of Lyudmila Zhivkova, the late cultist daughter of the Bulgarian party chief and President, the Bulgarian state has been trying to make the two saints "Bulgarian," denying their roots in Macedonia (i.e., Yugoslavia). In other words, this historical and theological issue is an integral part of the current destabilization of the Balkans and the attempt to form there the "Third Rome" Soviet satrapy-empire of "Greater Bulgaria." In fact, after 1980, which "coincidentally" corresponds to the initial phase of the assassination plot against the Pope, Soviet "academicians" changed their position and started to support the Bulgarian claim to St. Methodius and St. Cyril.

Agca's left-right terrorist past

If this is the big question mark around the trial, Agca confirmed during the first sessions what he had said to Judge Ilario Martella during the investigation period. He reconstructed for the court his terrorist past, since the period he arrived in Ankara in 1977 under the auspices of the right-wing terrorist group "Grey Wolves." Later on he was to join left-wing terrorist groups in common training in Syria, under Bulgarian and Czechoslovakian instructors.

This convergence of right and left terrorism is defined by the "Nazi-communist" ideology professed by Agca: "I had ideas about the destruction of the Turkish capitalist system since 1974." So, he found no problem being together with his nominal arch-enemy, Turkish leftist terrorist leader Tore Eslim, in the Latakia Syrian camp. The weapons came from the powerful Turkish mafia, headed by Abuzer Ugurlu. And all three sections of what Agca calls "our organization"—right and left terrorism and the mafia—had indirect and direct contacts with the Bulgarian secret services and state. This connection exists and has been confirmed by many investigations, in Turkey, in Italy, and elsewhere. In Agca's words: "In Bulgaria, the arms and drug trafficking is all controlled by the state—that's the truth."

On June 11, Agca summarized his charges: "The Bulgarians are not the string-pullers of the attempt against the Pope. The Soviet Union intervened directly, paying through its embassy in Sofia the 3 million deutschemarks to carry out the crime. . . . We Grey Wolves acted with the decisive complicity of three Bulgarian functionaries in Rome, Ayvazov, Vassiliev, and Antonov. For the attempt the Soviet embassy paid 3 million deutschemarks, through Bekir Celenk [wanted Turkish mafioso, still safe in Bulgaria]. In July 1980, I met in Sofia with Ayvazov, Celenk, and Oral Celik [Agca's Turkish accomplice], in room 911 of the Vitosha Hotel. . . ."

As proven by documents, Agca stayed in Bulgaria two full months (July-August 1980), and attempts by the Bulgarian authorities to prove that the other individuals cited by Agca were not there at that time, were discovered to be so

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false as to encourage Judge Martella to continue in his investigation. After his Bulgarian stay, Agca went through a complicated and expensive international carousel, visiting many European and Arab capitals and cities, something beyond the domain, interest, and capacities of the "Grey Wolves" and the Turkish mafia.

Finally, Martella's investigation and Agca's revelations dovetail with a number of other matters: Judge Carlo Palermo's years-long investigation of the international arms-for-drugs traffic; the cracking by Rome Judges Priore and Imposimato of the Bulgarian role in the Italian Red Brigades and in the kidnaping of American Gen. James Dozier, in the aftermath of which, trade unionist Luigi Scricciolo of the socialist UIL confederation was arrested as a Bulgarian spy.

In these, one discovers the same names (like Bekir Celenk), the same terrorist and mafia organizations, the same smuggling routes, and the complicity of the same secret services and states. Furthermore, a combined investigation of these matters would provide better insight into the "Western" side of the conspiracy, which could make Agca's statement on the "absolute reason" a bit more intelligible.