

Report from Italy by Umberto Pascali

The rotten deal behind Cossiga

Italy's new President is liked by the Communists and the oligarchists, and he is bad news for the West.

On June 24, the president of the Senate, Francesco Cossiga, was elected by parliament as the new President of the Republic, for the first time in history on the first ballot, except for the emergency two-year election of Enrico De Nicola in 1946. The secret of Cossiga's blitz election was a deal made by the Christian Democrats, controlled by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, and the Communists.

Communist Party secretary Alessandro Natta enthusiastically stated that without the Communists' votes, Cossiga could not have been elected. "He is now the President of all the Italians!" Cossiga announced that he would resign from the Christian Democracy for the next seven years to fill this "mandate."

Communist Senator Giovanni Berlinguer, the brother of the late Communist Secretary Enrico Berlinguer, knew it all in advance. "Giovanni Berlinguer," the KGB-controlled magazine *Europeo* leaked after the vote, "won another record. Already four days before the election, running into Cossiga at a family reunion, during the wedding of his niece Bianca, Giovanni toasted him as the new head of the Italian state." Giovanni, and of course his late brother, are cousins of Cossiga—the Berlinguers being a feudal aristocratic family based in Sardinia, probably the richest and most powerful family of the island.

Though officially the parties of the ruling coalition (Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Liberals, and Social Democrats) and the Commu-

nists voted for Cossiga, 46 "great electors" voted secretly against him. They are supposed to be mostly Christian Democrats and Socialists, while the Communists voted *en bloc* for the cousin of Marquis Berlinguer.

But much more lurks behind the scenes—in particular, the shadow of Henry Kissinger and his masters on both sides of the Iron Curtain. As *EIR* reported in July 1984, Cossiga's election was rigged at the old Benedictine monastery on St. George's island in Venice, at the the founding meeting of the Aspen Institute-Italy. "In reality," an inside source told this reporter at the time, "Cossiga has been elected President of the Italian Republic. You will see. . . ."

The Island of St. George is the heart of the Venetian oligarchy. Aspen-Italy, based on the island and presided over by Cossiga, is in charge of not just Italy, but the Mediterranean, Latin America, and the Mideast, and relations with the East bloc countries: something like the Venetian sphere of influence in the heyday of its slave-based empire.

Among the guests at that meeting were Henry Kissinger and his friend, German ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Another invited guest who could not come, though he sent a telegram congratulating Cossiga, was the vice-president of the Hungarian National Bank, Janos Fekete, one of the top Communist monetary experts, and author of the proposal for the "transferable ruble" aimed at monetary integration of the East bloc and the West,

especially Western Europe.

The Aspen Institute, known for its "post-industrial society" schemes, stated at the Venice meeting—albeit half secretly—its intention to shape an entente cordiale with the Russian empire. Cossiga and his cohorts discussed the need for "new relations with the East without spect the expected, official positions" of the Western nations.

The Cossiga-Kissinger link came out clearly during the kidnap-murder by the Red Brigades of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro. It is known that Moro was threatened by Kissinger personally. The investigations during Moro's two-month captivity were blatantly sabotaged, mostly because Cossiga was then Interior Minister. Immediately after Moro's death, he was forced to resign.

Though seldom touched by the numerous Italian petty scandals, Cossiga has always had an important position among the real secret services, the oligarchical networks never touched by public exposés. Early in his career he tried a "computeristic" reform of the Italian police and armed forces, which fortunately did not reach completion. He specializes in the "sociological approach" to terrorism and social "disorders." His trainer was the British Merlyn Rees, the mind behind the civil war in Ireland. After Moro's assassination and the explosion of terrorism in Italy, Cossiga told the newspaper *Il Giorno*: "The industrial societies offer, with their integration, considerable room to terrorism." In that interview Cossiga fully supported Kissinger's supranational theories. "With the détente between East and West, the terrorists saw the end of their chances for a final solution, because the Communist parties no longer support armed struggle. I am happy to be forced to pay this price for détente. . . ."