

# Italian Red death threat linked to U.S. mob channels

*The following international news bulletin was released by EIRNS in Washington, D.C. on May 4.*

U.S. sources agree with a European view that channels in the United States may have encouraged placing a not-so-veiled Soviet death threat against associates of U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche in the 27 April edition of Italy's Communist Party daily, *L'Unità*. Factions within the U.S. government linked to convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, or to secret graveyards in Sicily, are under scrutiny in this connection.

That edition of the Communist daily featured an article, written from Palermo, Sicily, which accused associates of LaRouche of being implicated in the April 30, 1982 assassination of Sicilian Communist leader Pio La Torre. The article had also repeated discredited old Soviet and Anti-Defamation League (ADL) charges dating from March 1986, which had targeted LaRouche himself as author of the assassination of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme.

The first impression created by that article was that it reflected orders from highest levels of the Soviet government. The Soviet intelligence services are currently unleashing a wave of terrorist assassinations in Western Europe, and the Soviet national press has made the name of LaRouche a household word in the massive factional uproar leading into the upcoming Soviet plenum. The style of the April 29 *L'Unità* article is not Italian, but the imported ID-format Soviet KGB libel against LaRouche.

Suspicion of an official U.S. hand in fostering this libel was first aroused when the Communist propaganda-piece was picked up by the Italian daily *La Repubblica*. This suspicion was strengthened by discovery that U.S. State Department officers were simultaneously conducting a new covert operation against LaRouche associates in Italy.

Although U.S. diplomatic officials linked to Vice President George Bush have been caught repeatedly in undercover political operations against LaRouche's European associates, it was doubted that the *L'Unità* threat itself involved such Bush circles in Europe directly.

Indications are that highly influential political circles in the United States are operating through their own special networks inside official U.S. channels. Since early 1984, major legal and other harassment of LaRouche and his associates through U.S. government channels has always coin-

cided with both major public attacks in the Soviet and Soviet-controlled news media, and with known channels of Soviet clandestine networks into such sections of the U.S. Department of Justice as the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) and the circles of recently resigned number-two Department of Justice official Arnold Burns.

## 'Operation Nightmare'

*L'Unità's* libel based its charges on the instance, during 1982, in which LaRouche associates had forewarned La Torre that Soviet agencies were behind a Qaddafi-backed plot named "Operation Nightmare," intended to destabilize the government of Italy.

Planned terrorist assassinations of Sicilian Communists, during mass-protest demonstrations at the U.S. Comiso cruise missile base, had been a central feature of that plot. Now, six years later, *L'Unità* argues suddenly that that warning to La Torre was a threat, and that LaRouche's connections to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency are key to the slaying of La Torre later during 1982.

*L'Unità's* author says that he was the channel used to relay to La Torre the information supplied by two close associates of LaRouche. That much is true. However, the author omits very crucial parts of what was transmitted, and fails to report LaRouche's connection to La Torre at that time.

Pio La Torre was highly significant in operations against Mediterranean drug-traffickers and against sections of organized crime tied to the Palermo assassination of General Dalla Chiesa, leader of Italy's national police force, the Carabinieri. La Torre was typical of those Italian Communist leaders of the period 1978-82 who had been earlier part of a project by Soviet-assassinated Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro to wean the Communist Party of Italy from Soviet control. La Torre had been in liaison with LaRouche's circles in connection with an anti-drug operation being conducted by a special task force of French and Italian law enforcement agencies. La Torre had been of significant assistance against the drug-running ring.

Hence, LaRouche's circles respected La Torre for his highly moral stand on such questions, for his being among those exceptional Italian Communist leaders who were Italian patriots in the last analysis.

*L'Unità's* author also fails to mention leading facts he was supplied by LaRouche's associates on the details of

"Operation Nightmare" itself. Among these details was a list of names of key Italian members of that operation. Suspiciously, *L'Unità* fails to mention that these named figures fled from Sicily as a result of the work of LaRouche's associates in exposing the details of the plot, and that key members of that list were later caught by Italian police in Sardinia, attempting the same kind of plot, with Qaddafi's backing, there.

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*A not-so-veiled Soviet death threat  
against associates of U.S.  
Democratic presidential candidate  
Lyndon LaRouche is timed with  
events in Boston. . . .*

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The exposure of "Operation Nightmare" came through a very high-level leak by a major intelligence service to LaRouche's security-intelligence operations. For complex political reasons, that intelligence service was unable to act on its knowledge of the plot, and therefore passed its information, minus identification of methods and sources, to LaRouche. LaRouche personally placed highest priority on defeating the plot, and recommended to his associates in-depth cross-checking of the information received.

An immediate, broad-based investigation was conducted by teams in Western Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. The original information received was fully corroborated, and the findings were relayed to relevant circles in the U.S. and European governments, including a high official of the private household of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. It is believed in relevant circles, that British intelligence, after receiving this information, acted in cooperation with Italian services to neutralize the plot. Probable U.S. actions against the plot are reported to be classified secret still.

### **Moro and the Communists**

According to the family of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger delivered menacing warnings to him, demanding that he abandon his role in an Italian Christian Democrat plan for weaning the Communist Party of Italy from Moscow's control. The plan was not new; it had been a project of the old Office of Strategic Services and key Christian Democrats which had been scuttled by the U.S. State Department and Central Intelligence Agency officials involved. Moro had revived that project, meeting violent disapproval from Kissinger, according to the sworn testimony.

In 1978, the Soviet intelligence services organized the

kidnaping and murder of Moro through a KGB Red Brigades front, as a warning to those Italian Communist leaders who had been in discreet negotiations with Moro's Christian Democrats.

Recently, Moro's project was revived by the new, present prime minister of Italy, Ciriaco De Mita. Suddenly, just prior to the consolidation of the De Mita government, the prominent Christian Democrat, Roberto Ruffilli, was assassinated on April 16, 1988, with a known KGB terrorist-front operation claiming the murder as their own work. The murdered man would have been key in handling sensitive aspects of De Mita's efforts.

The objective assessment is that 1988 is not 1978; what Secretary Kissinger feared Moro might accomplish is probably not feasible now. Then, the Communist Party of Italy had large financial resources not dependent upon Moscow; today, that is no longer true. Also, as we see in the way Moscow is moving toward purging the Communist Party of France, the Soviet foreign sections are unwilling to tolerate any degree of freedom of Western Communist parties from finger-tip Soviet control.

The murder of Ruffilli by a Soviet terrorist front, occurring in the context of a massive wave of Soviet-directed terrorist deployments in Western Europe and even the United States, is the context of *L'Unità's* libel.

The complicating factor is Soviet policy toward LaRouche personally. As long as Moscow believed that LaRouche might be eliminated through a Justice Department legal frame-up organized by Soviet assets inside the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Moscow would not risk being detected in orchestrating an assassination threat against a U.S. Democratic presidential candidate it had denounced as Soviet public enemy number-one.

It has been known internationally for more than a month that the U.S. Justice Department's attempted Boston, Massachusetts frame-up of LaRouche was disintegrating in court. That case has just been shut down because of interruptions of the jury process caused by massive evidence of government misconduct in preparing and conducting the case. The imminent mistrial began to be rumored widely in international circles several weeks ago. What is obviously a Soviet death threat conducted through *L'Unità*, just ten days before the impending mistrial, comes as no surprise.

Inside the United States itself, LaRouche's number-one adversary is super-wealthy Soviet agent Armand Hammer. Hammer has great influence at the highest levels of U.S. politics, both as a leading funder of the Democratic National Committee and as an intimate of the personal circles of astrology-convert Nancy Reagan. Hammer's personal circles include major figures of Meyer Lansky's international organized-crime syndicate, circles linked to such relevant personalities as the notorious Michael Ledeen and U.S. Ambassador to Italy Max Rabb. A proven such U.S. hand in the *L'Unità* death threat would come as no surprise to any among the world's leading intelligence services.