

# Founder says Israel steered Red Brigades

Umberto Pascali

In 1974 “the Israeli secret services approached us more or less with this line: ‘You are good for us just because of what you are doing. We will help you to go as far as possible, because your very presence is useful to us.’ Essentially they told us that just because we existed, we were agents. . . . Politically that made sense. We could be useful to them in the context of the strategic equilibria in the Mediterranean area.”

The speaker is Alberto Franceschini, who, along with Renato Curcio, founded one of the bloodiest Italian terrorist organizations, the Red Brigades. Franceschini “disassociated” himself from terrorism and is still serving a jail term in Italy. On Dec. 15, 1990 he gave a long interview to the Catholic weekly *Il Sabato* in which he revealed “how the Red Brigades have been used.” The interview discredits the well-organized fantasy of the independence of so many terrorist groups and backs up the analysis of Lyndon LaRouche, that the terrorist phenomenon is guided by international puppeteers.

“I am convinced that the activities of the Red Brigades were good for both the Russians and the Americans. Both these forces wanted to keep Italy in an ideological bloc. . . . Both powers wanted to prevent the removal of the Yalta cornerstone.” Franceschini made some dramatic revelations about what happened in 1978 during the kidnaping of Christian Democratic statesman Aldo Moro, who was then killed—officially by the Red Brigades. It was the “historical leaders” of the terrorists, Franceschini and Curcio—already in jail at that time—who claimed the abduction was a Red Brigades operation. Now the terrorist explains what really happened.

“The myth of the power of the Red Brigades was artificially created. I know that the organization was absolutely unable to run a kidnaping like Aldo Moro’s. We succeeded in doing it because they let us.” But who let you? “It has been said that the CIA could have had some interest. . . . But I believe that also the Russians wanted that kidnaping. You can do this kind of operation only if everybody agrees. The game is so complicated that it would be enough for one of the parties to decide not to be involved and the whole thing would collapse.

“During the Moro kidnaping I was very impressed by an article published by *Osservatore Politico*, the magazine of Mino Pecorelli. It said that Moro had not been kidnaped by the Red Brigades. And that the proposal to exchange the Christian Democratic Party chairman [Moro] for some terrorists was aimed to induce us—me and Curcio in particular—

to claim that abduction. To sign it with the Red Brigades label.” *Il Sabato* printed a picture of the *Osservatore Politico* article, titled “Yalta in Mario Fani Street.” Fani is the street where Moro was kidnaped and his bodyguards killed, on March 16, 1978. Journalist Pecorelli was killed one year later, after he exposed the tie between a part of the intelligence services and the secret P-2 masonic lodge.

## Red Brigaders kept mum on Gladio

The former terrorist leader explains how the Red Brigades had been used and why the people who ran the kidnaping refused to make public Moro’s “confessions” about the secret NATO-CIA network known by the name of Gladio, recently exposed by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

At the beginning of the 1970s, “we were a group of boys, with limited political experience, so politically we were rather weak. Such a group can be easily controlled. . . . It is no accident that the Israelis told us: It is enough you exist. What’s sure is that if they wanted to destroy us, and the whole Red Brigades story, they could have done it already in 1972. That year several arrests were made. And if they wanted, they could have taken all of us. But that did not happen. . . . At that time we did not want to deal with the question: Who gains from it? . . . At that time none of us wanted to draw the conclusions. Oh, if only we had had the guts to say: They are using us, let’s stop it. . . .

“In 1976 again they could have arrested all of us. Instead there were arrests that I would define as selective. Strangely enough, instead of catching us, they closed down the special police force led by Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa and the Anti-Terrorist Nuclei led by Santillo.” Dalla Chiesa was killed by the mafia in Palermo. “And they let us go on until the Moro kidnaping. . . . We had the clear impression that when they wanted to catch us they just pulled in the net. And we ended up in it like little fishes.”

*Il Sabato* asks: Why did the Red Brigades not use the revelations Moro made while their prisoner? “I asked myself the same thing many times in these years. Originally the comrades outside [not yet arrested] had promised to publish everything. But nothing happened. . . . They said there was nothing of importance. Now, on the contrary, we find out, that Moro had revealed nothing less than the existence of the Gladio network.”

One week after the publication of the interview, Gen. Giovanni Romeo, chief of counterintelligence of the Italian secret services from 1975 to 1978, revealed: “We had infiltrated the Red Brigades from the beginning.” On the basis of the new developments, as already reported by *EIR*, two Roman magistrates, Franco Ionta and Francesco Nitto Palma, reopened the “Moro case.” *Il Sabato* pointed out on Dec. 22 that among the documents being studied is one prepared in 1970 by Gen. William Westmoreland, the former head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. It recommends the use of terrorism as “a factor of internal destabilization.”