
Interview: Gianni Cipriani

Italian magistrates seize list of 30,000 in sweeping probe of Masonry

During his imprisonment in the hands of the Red Brigades terrorists in 1978, the Italian Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro wrote a memorandum. In those days, awaiting his barbaric murder, the statesman, who was a personal friend of Pope Paul VI and had been at various times prime minister, foreign minister, and secretary of the ruling Christian Democratic (DC) party, dwelt on the campaign organized against him by the American embassy in Rome. He was very specific: The orders had come from then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. That memorandum was Moro's final attempt to leave an explanation of the operation targeted against him and against Italy.

The memorandum has become a hot news item once again, since the prosecutor of the town of Palmi Calabro, Agostino Cordova, ordered the search of the central offices of the Italian Masonry and many other lodges all over the peninsula, which in some cases resulted in confiscation of huge quantities of material. The unprecedented case started with an investigation into the activities of the Calabrian mafia—the N'drangheta—that led to the “masonic level,” confirming the conviction held by many magistrates that organized crime and masonic lodges are often closely connected. Furthermore, the connection to the U.S. Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite Freemasonry—that of Gen. Albert Pike—is coming out of several facets of the investigation, including the discovery and search of the Albert Pike lodge in San Mango d'Aquino in Calabria.

Gianni Cipriani, co-author of the book *Sovranità Limitata (Limited Sovereignty)*, has become one of the first journalists to follow the new activities of the Masonry and the connection with plans to destabilize Italy. With an eye toward that investigation, Cipriani is re-reading Moro's memorandum. “Moro knew that he had been excluded from the embassy's receptions because there was a decision taken by Kissinger to look toward a new generation of Christian Democrats, young technocrats, able to speak English and to transform the DC from a constituency-based party into a party of lobbies. Among them Moro includes Mario Segni.”

Fourteen years later, Mario Segni has become a formidable power in Italy. Sponsored by the major media and the whole Anglo-American apparatus, Segni has launched a full-scale offensive against the establishment, against the “cor-

ruption” of the party system, and against the political party conception of Aldo Moro. Segni's scheme is supported by Claudio Martelli, the number two official of the Socialist Party and present justice minister. Martelli has launched a personal campaign against Judge Cordova, preventing him from being tapped to be in charge of the special agency set up to carry out the fight against the Mafia. Also on the same wavelength are Giorgio la Malfa, secretary of the small, Anglophile, Republican Party, and the separatist North League.

“Traditional parties are in a crisis,” declared the Grand Master of the Italian Masonry, Giacomo Di Bernardo. “People like Segni can be a solution, yes, people like Segni and Martelli.”

Umberto Pascali spoke with Cipriani by telephone at his Rome office. Excerpts of the interview, which was conducted in Italian, follow.

(Item. It may be helpful to American readers to explain the term “Black Masonry.” In Italy, this refers not to racial divisions within the Masonry as in the United States, but to affinities to Fascism, since Mussolini's Fascism used the color black as its symbol, such as the “black shirts” of the Fascist private militias. Of course, Licio Gelli, the Venerable Master of the secret Propaganda-2 lodge, partially pushed into the limelight in 1981, was both an important official in Mussolini's Republic in Northern Italy and at the same time an agent for Anglo-American intelligence.)

EIR: Mr. Cipriani, how did the investigation start?

Cipriani: Judge Cordova's investigation started around one year ago. At the beginning, Cordova was focusing on the activities of organized crime, especially the Calabrian mafia, the N'drangheta. Following this, around one month ago, he discovered evidence of the connection between organized crime and some masonic lodges. He found out that the “business committees” of the N'drangheta, which managed public contracts, were in contact with the Masonry. Some ex-Masons and some ex-mafiosi turned state's evidence, testified to the existence of this link, in the sense that Masonry was one of the pillars of the interconnection between Mafia, politics, and business. There was indeed this masonic mediation.

Amid the evidence there are also audiotapes of phone

conversations that show clearly the link between [the former head of the formally dismantled P-2 lodge] Licio Gelli and representatives of organized crime. I want to stress though, that the problem is not only Gelli. We should not focus just on him. He is discredited, he is known to the public. He was the puppet master of many dark events in the 1970s and beginning of the 1980s, he was involved in the [Aug. 2, 1980] bombing massacre at the Bologna train station. But I think there are other, less known figures. In my opinion, perhaps the merit of Cordova's investigation is that it will help discover the Gellis of the 1980s and '90s. Who are those powerful masonic leaders who, having remained always in the shadow, were able to continue to proliferate? We have identified some of them, but of course I cannot mention—for the moment—the names.

EIR: How did Cordova proceed?

Cipriani: Starting with this information on the Mafia-Masonry connection, which I do not know because it is still under judicial secrecy, Judge Cordova decided that this track had to be followed and began a blanket investigation of Masonry. Now Masonry is formally a legal organization. There is also a law, though, which was approved after the P-2 scandal, the so-called Anselmi Law, that prohibits the existence of secret lodges and establishes some rules for Masonry. Italian law does not grant the Masonry the right to secrecy, though they can use *riservatezza* [privacy]. By playing on this ambiguity, many secret lodges were created. In fact, from what one could gather, Cordova's investigation discovered the existence of many covert lodges, i.e., entities that are totally illegal vis-à-vis Italian law.

So, he ordered searches and seizures all over Italy. First of all, he asked for the lists of all the members of Masonry of the Grand Orient of Italy, the so-called regular Masonry of Palazzo Giustiniani connected to the Grand United Lodge of the Duke of Kent [in England]. After some resistance, the lists were delivered. At the same time, he sent police and Carabinieri [military police] to the local offices of Masonry to check the lists. After that, he checked the offices of the other major masonic branch in Italy, the one of Piazza del Gesù, which is at the center of the present investigation. Also for this case, he ordered a series of seizures in the houses of lodge members. Then, following the confessions of certain witnesses, he seized certain safe deposit boxes and checked some banking accounts. At this point, Cordova is being helped by a pool of magistrates known for their determination to go after the Mafia and political destabilizations. The pool includes Felice Casson, the magistrate who launched the investigation into the secret paramilitary network codenamed Gladio; and Gherardo Colombo, who stood up to overwhelming pressures and conducted the search and seal of Gelli's Villa Wanda in 1981.

The magistrates have in their hands a huge mass of seized material. Just to give an idea, they have lists of 18,400 names

from the Masonry of Palazzo Giustiniani, 6,000 from Piazza del Gesù, plus others for a total of 30,000 names. The material fills a big room in a Roman barracks that is being watched day and night and whose name is kept secret, because very powerful forces are interested in destroying that evidence.

EIR: It was reported that Cordova succeeded in breaking the code of Masonry computer's "protected area."

Cipriani: Yes, he was successful in that. He had a hunch that a particularly smart technician had managed to hide some files in the computer of the Grand Orient of Palazzo Giustiniani. So the computer was put under police guard and two specialists were sent by Cordova. They found the "protected" list. It seems that during the first phase at least three covert, i.e., illegal, lodges were discovered, the heads of which were very important figures, two of them already members of the P-2 in the past and the third being a top leader of the Grand Orient itself. Of course this intelligence has not yet been confirmed. It has also been reported in the Italian press that many documents have been found concerning the Colosseum lodge. . . .

EIR: The Rome-based Colosseum lodge had already been mentioned during the investigations into the P-2 lodge. It has been reported that it's one of the most powerful lodges in Europe. It had even been dissolved, at least officially, by the Grand Orient a few months ago, and seems to be connected to the U.S. Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, the Masonry of the Albert Pike tradition.

Cipriani: The Colosseum is a lodge that includes several employees of the U.S. embassy in Italy. It has been defined as a lodge with a high CIA presence. The name of the Colosseum popped up during the P-2 inquiry, but this did not stop it; it continued to function, using the name Center for Historical Studies. Colosseum is not a secret lodge, it is official; the only problem is that nobody knows what really was going on there, and who were the real members. In the Colosseum, Elvio Sciubba also used to play a role. He is the Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite who is the correspondent in Italy of the U.S. Southern Jurisdiction. Sciubba has been in the past months one of the main ambassadors of the Southern Jurisdiction to countries of eastern Europe, where the Scottish Rite has been exported over the last years.

It will be very interesting to see what really was happening inside the Colosseum, if documents have been found. Last May the lodge was, at least formally, dissolved by the Grand Orient, by the Grand Master De Bernardo. Officially this happened because of irregularities in the management, but there may be other reasons. In any case, the Colosseum continued its activity as usual. But what is happening around the Colosseum, seems to indicate a certain split inside the Masonry.

EIR: What sort of split?



Back in the news: Henry Kissinger, whose Italian masonic friends want to replace the former U.S.-Soviet bipolar order with Anglo-American hegemony, crushing any autonomy for Europe or Japan.

Cipriani: We shouldn't see the Masonry as monolithic. First of all, there are some minor divisions among local lodges for reasons of business rivalry. But I believe that the whole Masonry underwent a split for strategic reasons after the fall of the Berlin Wall. On one side there is what we called the Black Masonry, the continuation of the P-2, which is an emanation of the Anglo-American Masonry. This group has worked to substitute for the former U.S.-Soviet bipolar world, a sort of new world order, an Anglo-American hegemony, against any autonomous role for Europe or Japan. On the other side there is the faction we could call Europeanist, not because they are totally against the Anglo-Americans—nobody in the Masonry really is—but because they are trying to find forms that would make it less dependent—for everything—on Anglo-American interests.

The Black Masonry has worked to export to the countries of eastern Europe a super free market line, to introduce shock therapy capitalism that it seems to me has caused big troubles there.

EIR: You are the author, with your brother Antonio, of the book *Limited Sovereignty*, in which you have described the subordination of Italy to Anglo-American power and to the Yalta game. Is the attention you gave to the masonic destabilization of Italy a consequence of this work?

Cipriani: Indeed it is, because we know that the masonic phenomenon, the P-2 phenomenon, has been one of the instruments to keep Italy under a limited sovereignty. Of course, Italy's limited sovereignty is a documented fact. For example, it seems to me that it is particularly interesting to re-read the Plan for a Democratic Rebirth, drawn up by Licio Gelli.

["The Plan for a Democratic Rebirth," also known as the "Memorandum on the Italian Situation," is a 22-page report

prepared in 1976 by Licio Gelli. It was seized five years later by the magistracy who searched Gelli's villa in Castiglion Fibocchi near Arezzo. Gelli, it was discovered, was at the center with his covert P-2 lodge for activities in political, criminal, and terrorist destabilization. The plan was a blueprint for a final destabilization. It reads in part: "In other countries and in other times (Italy 1922, Russia 1917, Germany 1933, Spain 1936) the concomitance of moral, political and economic crisis led to the installation of iron regimes. . . . We cannot imagine how Italy can escape such ineluctable destiny." The plan proposes the elimination of the political parties, to be replaced by "territorial and sectorial clubs," and by pushing for a forced political bipolarity, allowing only "two political movements, one of social-labor inspiration and the other moderate-conservative." It also called for a general reorganization of the media along the same lines. The magistracy is indicated as a necessary terrain of activity and recruiting for the P-2—ed.]

EIR: Gelli's plan was written long ago.

Cipriani: Yes, but it is the same as in the case of Moro's last memorandum. He was warning against Kissinger's plans, and then 14 years later we see that those plans look more and more like the political reality of the day. In the same way, 16 years after Gelli's plan, it seems to me that it is more real than ever. Just as an example, it is interesting to read how Gelli stresses the necessity of introducing corruption into the political parties. Today, in Italy, we have this huge scandal that has involved basically every party. So many politicians have been indicted for having accepted bribes, not for themselves, but for their party. Suddenly it is being discovered that basically every party functions through a system of illegal fundings, taking bribes on state-financed works. This scandal has been the most efficient instrument for those who try to undermine and discredit the party system, substituting it with power lobbies, and with two formally opposed political formations, in a situation in which whoever controls the financial power would have direct control, no longer mediated. I think it was Rockefeller who said: "Vote for whomever you want, you will always vote for us."

You must also consider that historically the Anglo-Americans never totally trusted the Christian Democracy. They would have preferred the men of the minor parties, which are more controllable, like the Republican, or the Liberal Party, but, given the communist-anticommunist counterposition of the postwar period, they had to make a deal with the DC. Christian Democracy was a very strong party, with real, popular support, linked to the Catholic Church, and the Catholic Church in Italy has influence. Today, when a bipolar system is being considered obsolete, the Anglo-Americans want to drop that party. Only a part of the DC enjoyed the total confidence of the Anglo-Americans. And today we see that the strongest attacks against the Anglo-Americans come precisely from Christian Democrats.