

Interview: Sen. Flaminio Piccoli



A 'vaster project' lies behind Serbia's ruthlessness

Flaminio Piccoli is the former general secretary of the Italian Christian Democracy (DC), and he was also president of the Christian Democratic International. He is still an honorary member of the International, and is one of the historic leaders of the DC in Italy. At present, he is a member of the foreign affairs committee of the Italian Senate, where he recently spoke out against Europe's neutrality in the war on Bosnia-Herzegovina, calling for recognition that the Serbians are the aggressors.

The investigation into the Italian Masonry to which the senator refers, is being conducted in Calabria by prosecutor Agostino Cordova, who last autumn ordered the search of the central offices of the Italian Masonry and other lodges all over Italy, aimed at seizing evidence of the ties between the Masonry, organized crime networks, and terrorism (cf. EIR, Nov. 20, 1992, p. 48). Cordova was strongly attacked at the time, including by then-Justice Minister Claudio Martelli.

Senator Piccoli is one of the signers of the appeal to President Clinton to free Lyndon LaRouche, which appeared in the Washington Post on Jan. 20. He replied from his Rome office on March 1 to questions posed by Liliana Celani for EIR.

EIR: Recently, more and more voices have been raised, including the pope's, your own, and those of numerous politicians in Germany, including former Postal Minister Schwarz-Schilling, against the western world's inaction toward Serbian aggression in the Balkans. Some, among them *EIR*, assert that the Serbian aggression against Croatia and Bosnia is not simply the result of Milosevic's brutality, but also of a geopolitical game which involves old interests with the aim of destabilizing Europe by involving it in a new "Thirty Years' War."

Piccoli: Honestly, I am also among those who maintain that the ruthless decision with which Milosevic is operating to make war against Bosnia, against Croatia, and shortly—if things go on this way—against Kosova and Makedonija, is backed up by a vaster project, in which international organizations are taking part; by secret pacts with countries which are preparing revenge for the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dismembering of the U.S.S.R.; and also by furious struggles

in the international economic world to weaken Europe in the decisive phases of its unification process. This unification process is considered dangerous by the business world of other great powers, which wants to be in first place in the economic world and barely tolerates European competition.

The weaknesses of the European Community, its hesitations at the time of the outbreak of the Serbian war against Slovenia and Croatia, its pretense of not seeing and not hearing what was taking place in ex-Yugoslavia, its recourse to the United States and the U.N., without committing itself when it was a question of a totally European problem, have added force to the free rein of the only communist party which survived the fall of the Berlin Wall. It is right to say that Serbia is working hard to favor the fall of Yeltsin's attempt at democracy in Russia, with the establishment of a new national-military or even communist regime, which could re-create the unity of the ex-Soviet republics. This could also happen because of the serious economic decline into which the populations of the former Soviet empire have fallen in the failed effort to build a free economy, which has made the situation of various populations very difficult.

EIR: What measures should Europe take, in your view, to stop the ongoing genocide in the Balkans, and what role could Italy play?

Piccoli: The genocide can be stopped only by an act of force which would isolate Serbia and force it to stop the war. Instead, all efforts are concentrated on aid to the populations which have been so painfully caught up in the war: aid which does not arrive, aid which has even lost all moral advantage, in the face of the tragedy of thousands and thousands of lives killed by the war, and above all, by hunger and cold.

I am convinced that the last-minute attempt by the United States to send food relief to the Bosnian population, from 4,000 meters up, is failing because of the perverse hostility of the Serbs; and also because it will end up producing an ignoble struggle between populations to get that food for themselves, at all costs, with the risk of fratricidal battles. Then people will realize that the only possible solution is to isolate Serbia with a military force of various nations, which would operate not to "defeat" the Serbs, but to keep them from broadening the war front, which is their strategy. This

is becoming more and more obvious to anyone who wants to see things as they are and not through hopes which are doomed to fail before they begin.

EIR: There is a lot of talk about the fact that the Masonry is playing a key role in destabilizing Europe (East and West) and especially in Italy. Speaking at the Festival of Friendship last September, you stated that “masonic plots do exist” and that “the Masonry is not an abstract entity. There are various kinds of lodges, starting with the Scottish Rite type which is the most widespread in Italy.” Do you see a connection between this Scottish Rite and the “new democracy” project of Licio Gelli, which is aimed at depriving Italian democratic institutions of their authority?

Piccoli: The Italian magistrates are working on the Masonry and they have already collected a lot of material. Let’s make sure they can do their work, if it is true—as it is true—that Prosecutor Cordova up to a few days ago had received no help from the ministry for a task which requires the concrete collaboration of many high-ranking magistrates.

EIR: In the United States too, the Scottish Rite is at the center of a battle. Rev. James Bevel, the former lieutenant of Martin Luther King, has led numerous marches and demonstrations to pull down the statue of Albert Pike, the grand master of the Scottish Rite and founder of the Ku Klux Klan, a statue which has been erected in Washington, across from the Labor Department, to symbolize the influx of southern Masonry into the capital. What ties are there between American Confederate Masons and those active in Italy?

Piccoli: There are very strong ties, which are certainly known to the Italian services and to the interior minister. But this is material for a volume, not for a journalistic answer.

EIR: As you have pointed out, the same circles which are destabilizing Italy are currently promoting privatization and the selloff of state industries, hitting the center of national sovereignty created very consciously by the work of Enrico Mattei [the Italian Christian Democratic industrial leader assassinated in 1962]. Against such forced privatizations and unbridled free-market capitalism, the American economist and political figure Lyndon LaRouche has counterposed a dirigistic project for infrastructural and economic development called the Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle, which is based on the government’s prerogative to generate credit and to mint money. Do you think that such a dirigistic plan is preferable to privatization?

Piccoli: I know the work and proposals of LaRouche. I believe in the good faith and good will of the government which wants to free itself of sectors of industry which have come under the State Holdings.

However, I observe—and I have said so in political and parliamentary settings—that while we must privatize that which has become an impossible burden for the state, we



*“The genocide [in the Balkans] can be stopped only by an act of force which would isolate Serbia and force it to stop the war.”
Above: the hospital in Gospic, severely damaged by daily attacks by Serbian forces since October 1991.*

must safeguard the “family jewels,” such as the SME [a state-owned conglomerate], because it is not written in heaven that everything which is private is healthy and robust, and that everything which is held by the state must declare itself incompetent, when there are vital sectors there for the Italian economy. Not to mention that in many situations of the country, it was the State Holdings which resolved the problem of industrialization in such regions, which had been forgotten by private initiative.

I wonder how the rapid selloff (at prices which today would be bankruptcy prices) of important sectors of the national economy could contribute to saving hundreds of thousands of workers from unemployment who are now receiving jobless benefits. I wonder also how the selloff of delicate sectors of industry, only because they are public, would contribute to improving the country’s economic situation, or if this does not mean a surrender to foreign competition with the result of an extreme worsening of unemployment.

Once the state has been deprived of the ability to move some sector to make the situation less painful, who is going to replace the state for a positive intervention, even if it is done in a cautious manner?