

Italian party demands probe of 'conspiracy'

by Claudio Celani

The Italian Christian Democratic Party (DC) on April 2 presented an *esposto* (legal petition) to the chief prosecutor of Rome, calling for an investigation to determine whether there is a "political conspiracy" afoot to destroy Italian "constitutional institutions." This spectacular move was made by Gerardo Bianco, leader of the Christian Democracy group in the Italian House, and by Gabriele de Rosa, leader of the DC group in the Senate, in reaction to the most recent escalation of political scandals allegedly implicating prominent Christian Democrats in a mafia connection.

The DC is the biggest party in the Italian Parliament, and has dominated every Italian government since 1946. Together with the Socialist Party, it has been hit by the "anti-corruption" investigation which started one year ago, and has implicated more than 1,000 politicians (two-thirds of whom are members of Parliament) and businessmen, forcing six cabinet ministers to resign.

The move to expose a "conspiracy" was long overdue, and was prompted by the most recent escalation of the scandals, hitting Antonio Gava, leader of the DC group in the Senate, and Giulio Andreotti, who more than anyone else embodies the Italian postwar establishment.

As *EIR* has reported, the scandals represent an attempt by Anglo-American-centered forces, notably the Freemasons, to orchestrate a general destabilization of the nation of Italy, to destroy the existing political system and to establish a new order, more to their liking. At the heart of this battle are: 1) the drive to privatize Italy's state-sector industry; 2) the demolition of Italy's traditional political parties; and 3) the breakup of the nation as a sovereign political entity, through the separatist campaigns of the Northern League and others.

Targeting Andreotti

The most recent round of investigations was opened in Palermo against Andreotti for alleged ties to the Sicilian mafia, and in Naples against Gava (and other former ministers belonging to his faction) for alleged ties to the Neapolitan mafia, the Camorra. If anybody was expected to sail safely through the current scandals, it was Andreotti, reputed to be the most powerful politician in Italy. Therefore, the news that he was being investigated created a real political earthquake. Knowing this in advance, Palermo Judge Caselli waited to make his announcement until a Saturday, March 27, so that

the stock exchange, the money markets, and the banks would be closed. This did not prevent the Italian lira from reaching an all-time low on Monday, falling below the level of 1,000 to the German mark.

Members of Parliament who have read the warrant announcing the opening of an investigation report that it lacks substance, and might be easily dismissed in court. But in the Jacobin climate created by the anti-corruption investigation, every warrant has the effect of a political indictment. This is what the British and American press call a "revolution," but it should more accurately be called a "coup," steered from the outside with the complicity of some Italian players.

Ironically, Andreotti has so far been one of those players. The hero of the anti-corruption investigation, Milan judge Antonio Di Pietro, has been accused by former Socialist leader Bettino Craxi of being a tool of Andreotti. The judge is indeed a member of a semi-secret club, called Proposta Nuova, controlled by Andreotti's political faction. Furthermore, it is rumored that the Carabinieri police network which suddenly "discovered" corruption after 40 years, is also part of Andreotti's faction. But on April 5, a probe was launched by the Milan judges against the former prime minister himself.

The allegations against Andreotti are based on hearsay evidence from former mafiosi who are called *pentiti*. Who is pulling their strings? That is the question the DC's legal petition raises, when it calls on the prosecutor "to start the most rigorous investigations to find out who . . . has maintained systematic contact with the above-mentioned *pentiti*, in prisons or other places where they are hosted."

Andreotti himself pointed to a U.S. hand steering the accusations against him, in an interview published in *Il Giorno* on April 7. Asked whether "somebody in the United States is working against you," he replied: "Responsible persons and agencies? No. Others? Yes. For the moment, I will add nothing more."

The escalation against Andreotti and the Naples DC has shifted the attack to the last power stronghold of the Christian Democracy, southern Italy (the north is already firmly in the hands of the separatist Northern League). Shaken by these events, Prime Minister Giuliano Amato offered his resignation, but this was refused by President Scalfaro.

Referendum on electoral law

The turmoil is far from being over, and will predictably increase. On April 18, a series of referendums will be voted upon, the most important of which is a reform of the electoral law intended to curb the influence of the political parties. The architect of the reform is technocrat Mario Segni, who wants to replace the parties with "clubs," so that the political spectrum will be regrouped around a "progressive" and a "conservative" version of the same oligarchical interests. The aim is the elimination of the political influence of the Catholic Church, so far exercised through the DC.