

whetted the cancer's appetite.

Small punctuated his remarks with charts and graphs comparing the rates of growth of physical economy to the ballooning financial speculation, shocking his audiences when he showed that, since 1986, the fastest-growing item has been financial derivatives, up a whopping 59% *per annum*, followed by illegal drugs at 25% *per annum*.

The "good news," Small said, is that he couldn't say how soon Manila will go "down Mexico way," because "50 countries are now on the list" ahead of the Philippines. But he could say that, around the world, a movement is taking shape to put the bankrupt IMF system out of its misery before it disintegrates in chaos. He then distributed to his listeners copies of LaRouche's "Ninth Economic Forecast," the *EIR* 1995 study on Mexico, and the "Guadalajara Manifesto" and "Draft Emergency Legislation" adopted by the First National Forum meeting in Mexico in June 1995, under the banner "There Is Life After the Death of the IMF."

Small added that LaRouche and his associates have paid a high personal price for telling the truth about the bankruptcy of the IMF system and how to cure it, then describing how LaRouche, Small himself, and several associates were made political prisoners of the Bush administration, and the ongoing international exoneration campaign on their behalf.

The Philippines' vulnerability

Asked where the Philippines is most vulnerable, Small responded, "People are thinking the way Mexico thought before December 1994. You don't realize a tidal wave is about to break over the entire Third World." To rid yourself of cancer, you must first admit you are sick, and then isolate and cut out the disease, while strengthening the healthy tissue.

The Philippines is repeating Mexico's mistakes, feeding the cancer by allowing the economy to become increasingly dependent on cheap food imports, especially of rice, increasingly dependent on highly speculative foreign "portfolio" investment, including possibly opening up to derivatives trading, and in its dependence on exporting up to 20% of its labor force, as overseas contract workers (OCWs), who are the biggest single source of foreign exchange earnings, but at increasingly declining wages and terrible social cost to the nation.

With Small in Manila was Schiller Institute Human Rights representative Gail G. Billington, who first travelled to Manila in January 1995 with *EIR* economics correspondent Richard Freeman to present LaRouche's Ninth Economic Forecast and the international campaign for the exoneration of LaRouche, Small, and her husband, Michael O. Billington, who is serving a 77-year sentence as a political prisoner in Virginia. *EIR*'s trip last January occurred as the Orange County, California, derivatives fiasco broke, and shortly after the first shockwaves of the Mexico peso crisis. Right up to Small's arrival in Manila, the IMF and its stooges in the financial press and in finance ministries around the world were heralding the Mexico bailout as the "success story" other countries must follow.

British-sponsored movement escalates

by Claudio Celani

On Nov. 23, speaking from Palermo, Sicily, at the yearly meeting of the Italian Catholic bishops, Pope John Paul II made a passionate call for preserving the unity of the Italian nation, against the separatist drive of the Northern League and others. The next day, Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro paid a sudden visit to the city of Trent, capital of the Trentino-Alto Adige region, to give a speech against separatist tendencies and in defense of the Italian Constitution. Scalfaro's intervention was prompted by a secret service report describing a "potential army" of 25,000 which could support the plan for a secession of the Italian Tyrolean province, to form, together with the Austrian Tyrol and Trentino, a new region, called Euregio.

Thus, the two highest authorities, the political one (head of State) and the moral one (head of the Catholic Church), joined efforts in exposing a destabilizing scheme with international dimensions, which *EIR* has repeatedly documented.

The Northern League's plan

The Northern League's program and the Euregio project, as well as other movements in southern Italy, are in fact the product of a strategy run from international oligarchical centers, for the destruction of the nation-state. One such scheme, called "Eurotopia," was drafted by Dutch oligarch Alfred H. Heineken, head of the famous brewery and a member of Prince Philip's 1001 Club. Heineken's projects, drafted in 1992, propose to carve up Europe into 75 mini-states, and to assign their governments to members of royal families (see *EIR*, Sept. 2, 1994, p. 50). As Heineken explains, his idea came out of discussions with British intelligence operative Cyril Northcote Parkinson, a key promoter of the idea of a "Europe of the Regions," rather than of nation-states. Not only does the Italian Northern League have its cultural origin with Euregio ideologues, such as Denis De Rougemont and Leopold Kohr, but a proposal published in 1994 by Francesco Speroni, a Northern League member and minister in the Silvio Berlusconi government, to divide Italy into autonomous "macro-regions," looks like a carbon-copy of Heineken's 1992 project.

The League, exploiting the popular reaction against the fiscal austerity policies dictated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is pushing for a constitutional reform which

separatist in Italy

they call “federalism,” whose declared aim is to take away from central government most of its fiscal powers, and assign them to local and regional governments. By doing so, they promise their northern constituency that the tax revenues of the richer northern regions would be reinvested locally and not be poured into the poorer Mezzogiorno, as the south of Italy is called, where, they insist, the funds are stolen by the Mafia. However, the real aim behind this fascist-populist argument, is to destroy the ability of central government to conduct economic policy at all, and even to maintain basic functions like communications, infrastructure, and defense, thus destroying the nation-state as such.

Furthermore, electing a Constitutional Congress at this moment would mean that a majority of representatives would be elected who are opposed to the very principles of natural law on which the present Italian Constitution is founded. This means that Italy would end up losing a real Constitution.

Last May, returning from a trip to Zagreb, Northern League leader Umberto Bossi had announced the formation of a “Northern Parliament,” composed of League representatives, in the city of Mantua. Since then, the *Parlamento del Nord* meets regularly to discuss and vote on legislative proposals, as if it were a parallel government. So far, the danger represented by the Mantua Parliament has been played down by the media, and only the Vatican daily, *Osservatore Romano*, has warned against it.

Recently, the Northern League announced that their “Parliament” would discuss establishing a voluntary National Guard for Northern Italy, as a first step toward creating a police corps. But at the Northern League meeting on Nov. 26, where the expected proposal was to be presented, no announcement was made. Instead, Bossi threatened that, if the National Parliament did not implement a “federalist” reform, giving large autonomy to regions such as Lombardy, Veneto, etc., the League would go for northern “independence.” The League, Bossi said, “is an anti-centralist movement for the freedom of the North. Federalism and Independence represent two possible levels of the anti-centralist struggle. The issue of Federalism vs. Independence is a false problem. It is false that there are two different goals to achieve. . . . Once we have succeeded in disaggregating the State, the people will have the choice in a referendum be-

tween federalism and independence.” “If we do not win everything,” Bossi added, “if we have to choose between Mantua and Rome, we will chose Mantua. Now, we do it democratically, but the moment may come for turning over the table, and taking up the sword.”

One week later, in Milan, Bossi repeated the threat: “What is important is a new Constitutional Congress. If federalism is rejected, Padania [what the League calls the northern Italian region from Piedmont to Veneto] . . . can choose independence and therefore a Constitutional Congress of an independence type.”

Bossi is using a tactic which was already successful in 1946, when the threat of the Sicilian separatist movement, led by British puppet Finocchiaro Aprile, forced the Italian postwar central government to concede to Sicily a State-like special autonomy. Sir Winston Churchill’s original project was to split Italy in two or more parts, but due to American opposition, that plan failed. As a fallback, they could make sure that, at least in Sicily, the power of the oligarchy, and therefore of the Mafia, could be unchallenged by the central authority.

Today, the British-centered oligarchy is using Bossi as they used Aprile’s movement in Sicily: to force the Parliament to concede a “federalist” reform with the threat of violent secession—a civil war—if the reform is not implemented. Thus, while Bossi’s Jacobins play the “hard cop,” other entities play the “soft cop,” proposing the same thing. Among these, the media cartel belonging to the pro-British Agnelli-De Benedetti group (*Corriere della Sera*, *La Stampa*, and *La Repubblica*), as well as would-be political candidate Antonio Di Pietro, the former prosecutor who, through the “Clean Hands” judiciary investigations, led the destruction of the old party-system.

The British liberals

The newest initiative in favor of a Constitutional Congress to enact a “federalist” reform came from a group called “Friends of *Liberal*,” referring to a magazine founded last year to promote British liberalism, i.e., politics without principles. Their editors do not even care to translate the concept into Italian. The list of Friends of *Liberal*, which includes Antonio Di Pietro, intersects with the board members of another entity which pushes for “real British liberalism,” the Adam Smith Society (ASS), which was founded in Italy in 1993. While the *Liberal* initiative was supported by FIAT manager Cesare Romiti, his nephew Stefano Romiti is a vice-director of ASS. Another member of the *Liberal* crowd, former minister Antonio Maccanico, is a member of the scientific board of ASS. Maccanico is also very close to Mediobanca, the center of the British-controlled oligarchical private banking in Italy. Maccanico himself has been chairman of Mediobanca in the past.

ASS has been very active in promoting initiatives in favor of privatization and deregulation. As an ASS spokesman

explained to *EIR*, the Adam Smith Society works “in a certain complementarity with the Mont Pelerin Society. Some of our members are also members of Mont Pelerin, but whereas Mont Pelerin deals with global issues and has a lot of influence on the international scene, we deal with domestic issues. While Mont Pelerin works together with the United States Information Service, we work with the British Council.” Indeed, the ASS co-sponsored a series of meetings with the British Council and with something called the Oxford and Cambridge Society for Northern Italy, which shows that the British oligarchy already considers Italy a divided country, along the lines of the Northern League’s separatist schemes.

The ASS has promoted initiatives on: privatization of municipal companies, privatization of pensions, development of financial markets, and anti-trust legislation. A series of lectures on “Liberalism Today” was attended by British “experts,” such as Lord Harris of High Cross, Eamon Butler (ASS London), Sir Alan Peacock (David Hume Institute), Max Hartwell (former chairman, Mont Pelerin Society), and Kenneth Minogue (London School of Economics).

In one of their brochures, the ASS explains: “In the present period, Italy is showing [itself to be] an extremely receptive country towards new proposals and ideas. For years, a much too stable political scene had contributed to create, guarantee, and expand a massive and suffocating public presence in a large part of the economy and social life. Already before the spectacular results of the various Clean Hands investigations, the limits of the Italian model of welfare state and of public intervention in the economy . . . were evident.” It adds, “As to the new direction to be taken, there seems to be a large consensus to a drastic reduction of the role of the State in the economy and a vast program of privatizations and deregulation.”

Trentino and Sicily

The secessionist danger in Trentino, although apparently opposed to the League phenomenon, must be viewed in the same context. According to press accounts, both the Italian and Austrian secret services have produced a report exposing the entity called “Euregio.” Euregio is formally a joint commercial initiative by the Italian Trentino-Alto Adige and Austrian Tyrol regions, which recently opened an office in Brussels. According to the intelligence report, however, the real nature of Euregio is not commercial, but political. Furthermore, the report indicates that the “Schützen” movement, an association of German-speaking inhabitants of Alto Adige, can supply a “potential army” of 25,000 well-armed people. Investigations by this author have confirmed that the Schützen, who used to carry light hunting weapons, have demanded to be supplied with modern guns, and that both the Alto Adige and Trentino government parties support this demand. According to the same sources, however, President Scalfaro’s sudden visit to Trent has momentarily intimidated the secessionist movement.

However, the danger remains, and Northern League leaders are using it as a threat, calling it a reaction to the Italian failure to make a “federalist” reform. Roberto Maroni, Northern League member and former interior minister, mentioned the Euregio entity, the Sardinian-Corsican region, and the provinces of Varese, Como, and Novara (which would join Ticino, the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland), as examples of such a threat. Gianfranco Miglio, a former League ideologue, indicated that residents of the Veneto region, “in the wake of the large economic development of their lands, feel that they cannot work for an Italy which is in a serious crisis and is weaker and weaker.” Miglio concluded: “Only the birth of a federal State, that unites the various macro-regions nowadays present on our national territory, can prevent separatist projects from being concretized in a short time.”

Another factor in the separatist scenario is Sicily. After the death of prosecutors Falcone and Borsellino, in two spectacular bombings in 1992, the island has undergone a political upheaval which has seen the rise of a so-called “anti-Mafia” movement called La Rete, whose charismatic leader Leoluca Orlando has been elected mayor of Palermo. In reality, Orlando is far from being a threat to the Mafia. A creature of radical Jesuit Father Ennio Pintacuda, Orlando is a jacobin zombie who studied at the University of Heidelberg in 1968, at the same time that the terrorist Red Army Faction (Baader-Meinhof Gang) was founded there. Heidelberg is the center of separatist projects throughout the world, through the Department of Linguistics, where the study of local dialects and “cultures” is promoted.

As Orlando recounts in an autobiography (*Palermo*, 1990), his family belongs to the landed aristocracy which has historically controlled the Sicilian Mafia. An ancestor of his mother’s family was the first biographer of Charles V, while his father, Orlando Cascio, was a top Sicilian lawyer, who, after the land reform, was the lawyer for both the latifundists and the Italian State.

Orlando’s ideology is “Sicily for the Sicilians.” He argues that the Mafia profits from development programs financed from government spending, which he therefore opposes. Thus, by opposing the only possibility of job-creation programs, in a region where unemployment reaches 25% (half of which is among the youth), Orlando makes sure that illegal activities expand and that the Mafia’s power increases. This, in turn, feeds the Northern League separatist drive in the North.

Recently, Orlando’s movement has played a key role in the political persecution of former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. Orlando is a co-plaintiff in the Palermo trial where Andreotti is accused of being the political leader of the Mafia. Orlando’s colleague Alfredo Galasso, a former communist, is co-plaintiff in another trial, in Perugia, where Andreotti is accused of Mafia murder. The allegations against Andreotti are grotesque, and would not stand up in any fair trial. The

purpose of the Palermo and Perugia trials is to hit Andreotti as a symbol both of the Christian Democratic Party and of the Italian State. By destroying that symbol, the British-controlled anti-State revolution demonstrates that it has achieved new power. If the same standard were applied across the board, all of Italy's heads of state and government of the postwar period, as well as all popes, could be prosecuted for the same allegations.

The pope's intervention

It is not by chance, therefore, that Pope John Paul II chose Palermo as the seat for the yearly meeting of the Italian Catholic hierarchy and that he launched from there a call for recovering a national mission to unite North and South.

John Paul II called on Italy "not to disperse its great heritage of faith and culture, to save its national unity and make it more and more effective and vital, overcoming the dangers of particularism, both corporative and local-territorial." He indicated a crisis of the Italian nation, which "has been hit for a long time, and today with special strength, by cultural currents that endanger the very foundations of its Christian heritage." However, he said, "this is not the time to save the existing: This is a time of mission. It is the time of proposing again, and first of all, Christ."

Pointing to the dramatic collapse of the birth rate in Italy (at 1.19 births per woman, it is the lowest in the world), the pope said: "There is a question which is not possible to avoid; it concerns the very future of Italy as a nation. Some worrying symptoms, and now persisting in time, seem in fact to indicate that the Italian people do not have a good and positive relationship with their own future. Among these, in particular, the scarcity of births is evident, giving Italy a sad and almost incredible record, as though Italian families were surrendering to fear in the face of life." The pope also denounced the collapse of the educational system: "Nor is better attention paid to school and the education of new generations. This is certainly a duty of the State."

"As I wrote to the bishops," said the pope, "Italy, in conformity to its history, is given, in a special way, the task of defending for the whole of Europe the religious and cultural heritage planted in Rome by Peter and Paul. Italy's European vocation, reaffirmed here in Palermo, shows at the same time its whole dynamic opening toward other continents and other cultures: Due to its geographic orientation itself, in fact, Italy seems to indicate to Europe the ways through which the East and the South of the world meet together."

The pope then focused on the question of the Mezzogiorno: "From this city of Palermo and this land of Sicily, I cannot help reminding the whole beloved Italian nation, its rulers and responsible officials at every level, as well as the whole population, that the so-called 'southern question,' which worsened in the last period especially, because of the dramatic unemployment, mostly among youth, is really a

primary question for the whole nation. Sure, it is up to the southern people to be the main players in their emancipation, but this does not exonerate the whole nation from the duty of solidarity."

The next day, the pope intervened in Rome at a meeting of health care workers, whose morning session was chaired by Giulio Andreotti. Demonstratively, John Paul II shook Andreotti's hand and spoke to him before the television cameras. This provoked an outraged response by pro-British media such as *Corriere della Sera*. At the same time, a few League leaders reacted against his Palermo speech. A League representative from Turin, Mario Borghesio, proposed to establish a "Church for Northern Italy." But Bossi, evidently intimidated by the interventions of both the pope and President Scalfaro, refused to entertain an open challenge. He attacked the pope indirectly by saying, "The League believes in a Church of Faith and not in the Church of the God Money, which is too close to the nationalist powers of the State."

But even if a show of determination by the leadership of Church and State is necessary and proves to be effective, the real danger of the destruction of the Italian nation will be defused only when the country takes up its mission: the development of the Mezzogiorno through a dirigist, State-financed infrastructural program. And this is impossible under the present IMF-dictated policy.



LaRouche
Campaign
Is On the
Internet!

Lyndon LaRouche's Democratic presidential primary campaign has established a World Wide Web site on the Internet. The "home page" brings you recent policy statements by the candidate as well as a brief biographical resumé.

TO REACH the LaRouche page on the Internet:

<http://www.clark.net/larouche/welcome.html>

TO REACH the campaign by electronic mail:

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