

Italian officials investigate Soros for financial crimes

by Paolo Raimondi

Two official investigations have been opened by the Rome and Naples state prosecutors against international financier George Soros, for his personal involvement in the speculative attack against the lira and other European currencies in September 1992. The story broke into the media on Feb. 3, when the nationally circulated daily *Il Tempo* of Rome gave front-page coverage to the news of "Soros, the Lira-Killer, in the Sights of the Magistrates." Several other newspapers, including the Milan-based *Il Giornale*, reported on the case.

Roman state prosecutor Cesare Martellino announced that his office has ordered the financial police (Guardia di Finanza) to open inquiries into the Soros case. In addition, Naples state prosecutor Antonio Guerriero has begun to probe the activities of the Bank of Italy in the monetary crisis at that time. Both Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, then-governor of the central bank, and Lamberto Dini, then-general director, became prime ministers, in two "technical" governments responsible for policies of radical budget cuts and privatization of State-owned industries. The speculative attack of September 1992 led to a devastating devaluation of the lira by about 30%, and to the complete dry-out of the reserves of the Italian central bank, which used up \$48 billion to defend the lira, in vain. That crisis led to the breakup of the European Monetary System.

Soros and Queen Elizabeth

The present investigations were prompted by a legal brief presented in October 1995 by Paolo Raimondi, president of the International Civil Rights-Solidarity Movement, to the state prosecutors of Milan, Rome, Naples, and Florence. The well-known Roman lawyer Giuseppe de Gori will represent the movement in the legal procedures. The movement is associated with the economic and political ideas of Lyndon LaRouche.

The legal brief documented Soros's direct involvement in the attacks against the Italian lira, and the connection between the provoked devaluation of the lira and the secret meeting held on June 2, 1992 aboard Queen Elizabeth II's yacht *Britannia*, during which leading Anglo-Dutch financial and banking corporations met with their Italian counterparts to plot the total privatization of Italian State-owned companies and their sale at rock-bottom prices. Among the participants in that gathering were the leaders in financial derivatives speculation, such as Barings and S.G. Warburg banks; Mario Draghi, general director of the Treasury Ministry; and Beniamino Andreatta, who has held several ministerial posts.

The legal brief concluded with the demand that the Italian judiciary authorities probe Soros's possible violation of article 501 of the penal code, which punishes, with up to four years in prison, those who provoke the devaluation of the national currency and of State bonds by illegal means.

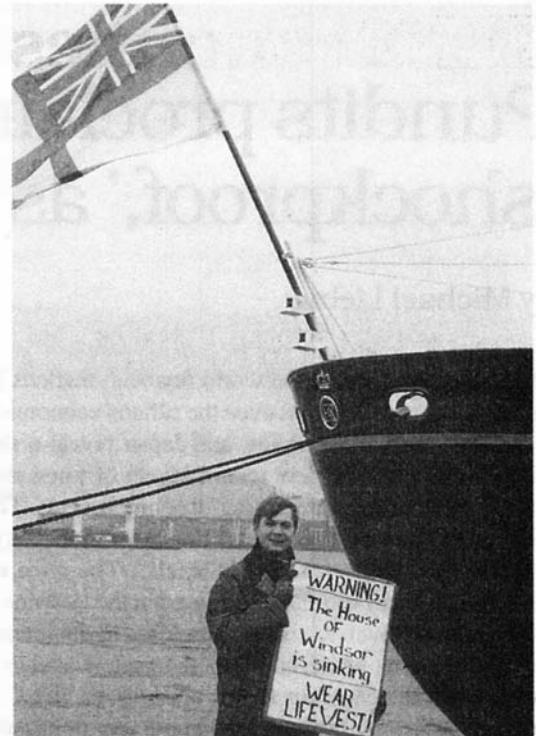
Fighting for the survival of the nation

These actions reflect the will of certain patriotic political forces who are trying desperately to respond in some way to the ongoing process of disintegration of the institutions of the Italian State. The crisis has already gone very far, and is threatening to plunge the country into total chaos; this has opened the gates for a mainly British-inspired financial and economic takeover. On the sinking *Titanic* of the international financial system, the speculative heavyweights of the City of London are planning to cannibalize Italy.

In this context, it is relevant to point out that on Jan. 26, outgoing Prime Minister Lamberto Dini presented to Parliament a report on intelligence and security policy, which says that the Italian secret services have been called in to investigate the continuous financial and economic destabilizations



Two Italian prosecutors are looking into the role of financier George Soros (left) in leading the speculative attack against the Italian lira in September 1992. That speculative attack, which made Soros a cool \$280 million, is being linked to a secret meeting aboard Queen Elizabeth's royal yacht Britannia, in June 1992. Shown here is a demonstration in Copenhagen against the Britannia and the House of Windsor.



of Italy. The report indicates that “the main world stock exchange and currency markets reveal the existence of speculative currents against the Italian lira, which originated, particularly in the most delicate moments of Italian political life, by the uncontrolled circulation of false rumors.” The secret services were mandated “to check eventual strategies of systematic aggression against our economic security at a moment in which one may expect new speculative maneuvers.”

Dini’s report avoided identifying the notorious case of George Soros.

But on the same day, Professor De Gori, on behalf of the Solidarity Movement, sent a letter to the President of the Republic, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, requesting him to solicit an intervention by the Superior Council of the Magistracy. The day after, Jan. 27, in a speech delivered in Rome at the 50th anniversary of the Ufficio Italiano Cambi (UIC), the office of currency exchanges, Antonio Fazio, the governor of the Banca d’Italia, denounced the fact that “the financial markets are too strong, the central banks can no longer resist the financial operations on the currency markets.” Today, he said, “the central banks cannot change direction or stop the winds” of the financial interventions of the currency markets, because the dimensions of the financial aggregates involved are superior to the “firepower” of the central banks. For Italy, the weather began to change in 1990, and the wind started to blow in 1992, when the UIC used up all its reserves of 8 billion deutschemarks (about \$5.5 billion). Currently, Fazio stated, transactions on the currency markets in Italy reach the level of DM 50 billion daily. For this reason, he added, the Banca

d’Italia and all the other central banks in the world can only adapt themselves to the financial and monetary “winds.”

Demise of the Dini government

All these developments took place in the middle of a crisis of the Dini government. Dini was forced to resign because the leftist coalition led by the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) and by former Christian Democrat Romano Prodi (now a free marketer), the man who gave Soros his *honoris causa* professorship at Bologna University last Oct. 30, could no longer support Dini’s massive austerity plans. His last program included social budget cuts of about \$50 billion, demanded by the logic of the European Union’s suicidal Maastricht Treaty.

The choice made by President Scalfaro for his new prime minister does not look very promising for the national interests and the future of the economy. The appointed candidate, Antonio Maccanico, has the perfect curriculum vitae of the committed civil servant of the big financial and oligarchical families. He grew up in the British-controlled milieu of the Partito d’Azione, the fabian anti-Fascist party which was dissolved immediately after the end of World War II, distributing its members to all the other existing parties. Maccanico’s mentor was his uncle Adolfo Tino, leader of the Partito d’Azione and for 20 years the president of Mediobanca, which is controlled by Enrico Cuccia. Cuccia is the ally of Lazard Frères in Italy. In 1987, Maccanico became president of Mediobanca, to lead the process of privatization of this bank, which has shaped most of the economic history of Italy for the past 40 years.