

Mussolini To Lead New Fascist Alliance

by Claudio Celani

In the context of the current international regrouping of synarchist parties, four Italian neo-fascist groups have formed a new alliance for the upcoming European Parliament elections. The recognized leader of the new coalition is the granddaughter of Benito Mussolini ("Il Duce"), Alessandra Mussolini, and the four groups are Mussolini's own movement called "Libertà d'Azione," plus Forza Nuova, Fronte Nazionale, and Movimento Sociale-Fiamma Tricolore. Whereas the occasion for the alliance is apparently offered by Ms. Mussolini's split from Alleanza Nazionale, a government party, the strategy behind it is broader and is exemplified by Mussolini's current role as well as by the part played by the Forza Nuova component of the new alliance.

Forza Nuova is the most active and richest group in the Italian neo-fascist swamp, thanks to the fortune accumulated by its founder Roberto Fiore, during his long years as a fugitive in London. Thanks to Fiore's money, a trip by representatives of the Argentina Reconstruction Party (PRA) to Italy was organized last year, to cement the new synarchist international. The leader of the PRA is Gustavo Obreid, brother of the editor of the *Maritornes* magazine which recently attacked Lyndon LaRouche (see *EIR*, Jan. 9, 2004).

Both Fiore and the leader of Fronte Nazionale, Adriano Tilgher, were sentenced for membership in terrorist organizations such as Terza Posizione and Avanguardia Nazionale, two formations which were legally disbanded in the 1980s. Luca Romagnoli, the leader of the third group (MS-FT), has no such background because he is too young. But the founder and secretary general of MS-FT, Pino Rauti, shares the same past with Fiore and Tilgher. Rauti, a volunteer in Benito Mussolini's separatist and SS-controlled Salò Republic in 1944, was among the founders, along with Giorgio Almirante, Gen. Clemente Graziani, and synarchist philosopher Julius Evola, of the Italian neo-fascist party Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI), and of a paramilitary fascist organization called FAR, in 1946. Rauti was indicted several times for terrorist crimes, but was always acquitted, with the aid of money for his legal defense paid by his comrade Fiore from London. In 1995, when the MSI became the Alleanza Nazionale, to be retooled as a neo-liberal, conservative party under the leadership of Gianfranco Fini, Rauti founded the MS-FT.

In order to emphasize the continuity with the original MSI, and therefore with historical Fascism, the new alliance has chosen the name of "Together for a Social Movement,"

and has put Il Duce's granddaughter up front. Indeed, Alessandra Mussolini has already contributed to changing the Italian political scene even more than her grandfather did with the March on Rome in 1922. Her husband, Mauro Floriani, is a police officer who played a major role in the famous "Clean Hands" investigation that literally destroyed the constitutional party system in 1992-93, and created the vacuum which has been filled by the current constellation of center-right and center-left political blocs. Floriani was a close collaborator of Antonio Di Pietro, the leading prosecutor in the Clean Hands investigation, and a protégé of U.S. "universal fascist" Michael Ledeen.

However, Ms. Mussolini's name, as well as her defense of her grandfather's image, have so far been obstacles to her career, as her party, Alleanza Nazionale (AN), needed to whitewash everything belonging to Fascism in order to capture the "mainstream" conservative vote. But Ms. Mussolini's appeal is not only based on her name. Her mother is Anna Maria Scicolone, the sister of actress Sophia Loren. Alessandra has definitely inherited more from her aunt, aptly described as "the symbol of Italy's postwar erotic plentitude" by one of her biographers, than from her father, Romano, the only living son of Il Duce. She is a regular guest on TV talk shows, where she often combines "leftist" positions on women's rights with temperamental outbursts borrowed from her aunt's movies.

When AN leader and current Deputy Prime Minister Gianfranco Fini took the last step to cleanse his party of its Fascist past, and went to Israel last December, Il Duce's granddaughter staged a walkout. While nobody seemed to pay attention to the fact that Fini had publicly supported Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's fascist "separation wall," the attention was focussed on Fini's solemn statements against Benito Mussolini's anti-Semitic laws, characterized as "the ultimate evil."

Despite the folkloristic aspects, the new fascist alliance should not be underestimated, as it is part of an international campaign. It was France's Jean-Marie Le Pen who suggested that the new alliance be formed in Italy; and the leader of Rome's "black nobility," Princess Elvina Pallavicini, manifested her disaffection with Fini's gesture, and signalled sympathy for the opposition. Princess Pallavicini plays both sides: In February 2003, she hosted a meeting in support of Dick Cheney's war against Iraq, a meeting where the American Ambassadors to Italy and to the Vatican, as well as Andrew Erdman from the State Department, lectured the whole AN delegation in the government, including Fini, as well as Church selected officials, businessmen, and aristocrats. On Jan. 25, 2004, Ms. Mussolini's new alliance held its first gathering in a theater in Milan, amidst slogans like "our fascist pride" and "we are the children of Mussolini," and populist speeches against "Bush, Sharon, GMOs, and the Euro." Ms. Mussolini presented the new anthem composed by her father, Romano, a famous jazz musician.