

Italian Senators Say, Impeach Cheney Now!

by Liliana Gorini

A letter from 14 members of the Italian Senate, urging the ouster of Dick Cheney to prevent another “Guns of August” war, hit the offices of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other members of the U.S. Congress Aug. 1.

“Only by forcing Cheney out, can the world be sure there will not be a ‘Guns of August’ attack on Iran,” the Senators wrote. “We urge you to immediately sign on to the legislation [House Resolution 333] to impeach Dick Cheney to prevent a disaster for mankind.”

The letter, in Italian with an English cover letter, was written by Sen. Lidia Menapace, member of the Defense Committee of the Italian Senate. She and the other signers are members of the PRC-European Left party.

In a telephone interview, Menapace said she wanted to emphasize that the many Italian parliamentarians who have spoken out against the war in Iraq, or an increase of the Italian military presence in Afghanistan, do not do so because they are “anti-American,” but because they support what she called “the other America,” which is presently fighting to impeach Cheney, to make an exit strategy from Iraq possible, and to take Franklin Roosevelt-style economic measures to revive the economy, as Lyndon LaRouche had outlined in testimony before the Italian Senate June 5 (see *EIR*, June 15, 2007).

“We are very worried that Cheney’s war on Iran will immediately involve Italy too, because of the air base in Aviano,” the Senator said.

The letter from the Italian Senators was faxed to Pelosi (D-Calif.) and House Judiciary Committee chairman John Conyers (D-Mich.), as well as Reps. Michael Capuano (D-Mass.), Diane Watson (D-Calif.), Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), Jesse Jackson (D-Ill.), Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), Vito Fossella (R-N.Y.), Frank Lobiondo (R-N.Y.), Donald Manzullo (R-Ill.), Grace Napolitano (D-Calif.), Rick Renzi (R-Ariz.), and Shelley Capito (R-W.V.). All of the Congressmen have yet to sign on to the Impeach Cheney resolution.

The Congressional offices reached by phone from Milan responded well. An aide to Watson said, “Of course, we know people in Europe are also worried. Thank you very much.” An aide to Conyers, whose committee must initiate the impeachment proceedings, said, “I am not sure we will make it before recess,” but said she was heartened to hear that the Italian Senators are supporting the initiative.

The full text of the letter written by Menapace and signed by the 13 other Senators reads:

“Dear Representative,

“I take the extraordinary step of contacting you as a constituency leader from Italy, to appeal to you to immediately co-sponsor House Resolution 333 by Rep. Dennis Kucinich, to impeach U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. The bill calls for a proceeding on the charges of high crimes and misdemeanors, for which there is an abundance of evidence. The fact is, only by forcing Cheney out, can the world be sure there will not be a ‘Guns of August’ attack on Iran. We are aware that there are now four U.S. aircraft carrier groups in the vicinity of Iran, as well as a buildup of U.S. fighter planes in Iraq, and a forward movement of bomber planes from Diego Garcia. We find the evaluation in the press that Cheney has the upper hand with Bush, and is determined to launch a war with Iran before he leaves office, highly credible. We in Europe have direct experience of the incalculable damage caused by two World Wars started in August, while governments were on holiday.

“We urge you to immediately sign on to the legislation to impeach Dick Cheney to prevent a disaster for mankind. With my signature I ask members of Congress to sign onto Kucinich’s House Resolution 333 for Cheney’s impeachment.”

The letter was signed by Menapace, Defense Committee, chairwoman of the Investigating Committee on Depleted Uranium; Sen. Annamaria Palermo, Infrastructure Committee; Sen. Rina Gagliardi, Education Committee; Sen. Claudio Grassi, Constitutional Affairs Committee; Sen. Giovanna Capelli, Education Committee; Sen. Olimpia Vano; Sen. Maria Celeste Nardini, Agriculture Committee; Sen. Josè Luiz Del Raio, Foreign Affairs Committee, Assembly of the Council of Europe; Sen. Salvatore Allocca; Sen. Erminia Emprin Gilar dini, Health Committee; Sen. Salvatore Bonadonna; Sen. Fosco Giannini, Defense Committee; Sen. Giovanni Confalonieri; and Sen. Giuseppe Di Lello.