

In an article in the same issue of *Unsere Zeit*, the DKP falls right into Rockefeller's trap for a "historical compromise"--that is, a coalition between the capitalists and the Communists to enforce brutal austerity on the working class.

According to the article, headlined "Model in Venice," "The Christian Democrats, Socialists, and Social Democrats, who jointly occupy the [Venice] city administration, have concluded a long-term agreement with the Communist Party. It concerns the realization of the program for the rationalization of the lagoon city, but it has importance as a model for the entire country. The Communist Party is striving for an historical compromise, which aims at the agreement of the Christian Democrats to the participation of the Communists in the government, so that the serious crisis of this country can be overcome by a progressive policy."

VENICE PCI ENTERS GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE AUSTERITY

Dec. 31 (IPS)--On Christmas Eve the Communist Councilmen of the city of Venice ratified an accord supporting the municipal coalition of Christian Democrats (DC), Socialists (PSI), and Social Democrats in exchange for a consultation role on important decisions and for unofficial responsibilities in the government. The Venice Accord is a step toward practical implementation of Rockefeller's policies for Italy as promoted by two of his leading agents: Giorgio Amendola, self-admitted CIA infiltrator in the politburo of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), and Piero Bassetti, former president of the Lombardy Region 9 and a member of the Trilateral Commission executive.

Any tolerance of the Venetian model as an acceptable "national way to socialism" on the part of other European Communist Parties and within the East bloc will seriously weaken the recent factional left turn led by French and East German Communists.

The Venice Accord, touted both by *Unita* (the Amendola-controlled PCI press) and the *New York Times* as a model for potential national government in Italy, fulfills the doctrine of "new democratic understandings" put forward last September by Renato Zangheri, the mayor of "Red" Bologna. Zangheri, a leading member of Amendola's faction in the PCI Central Committee and a rabid zero-growth advocate, proposed that de facto agreements be arranged between local administrative coalitions and opposition parties in the leading Italian cities in order to meet austerity conditions. This would mean that a Communist-dominated administration, such as the one in Bologna, would welcome "participation" of the DC (Italy's main bourgeois party) while in other cities, the DC would make deals with the Communists. As Zangheri implied, and is now being carried out in Venice, the PCI would deliver its mass forces

in the unions and working-class neighborhoods into local-control co-administration of austerity, in return for an eventual slice of the power.

Although Bologna's right-wing DC flatly turned down Zangheri's offer, Venice now provides the perfect test tube for this experiment. For years, the sinking Adriatic city with its artistic and historical heritage has been the object of dramatic appeals by international "ecology" and "art" freaks for salvation from the industrial pollution caused by the nearby chemical concentrations at Mestre and Marghera. Finally a special law for Venice was passed by the Italian parliament two years ago, but the limited funds made available for reviving the dying city were quickly absorbed or frozen by the infamous Italian bureaucracy. In fact, Venice is the Italian city with the most long-standing municipal debt problem.

Decontrolled Rent

The gist of the new accord is to carry out the national bill through territorial redevelopment plans and slum clearance co-administered by unions and neighborhoods. Among the concessions made by the PCI Venice will be the charging of so-called "Fair Rent," fair to the banks, that is, on remodeled buildings as opposed to the traditional rent control which remains one of the few protections of working class Italians against the ravages of current inflation.

With the Venice deal, Amendola and company have set down their strategy for the April municipal and regional administrative elections, in which they hope the PCI will make broad electoral gains and even displace the dominant Christian Democracy. With hospitals closing down all over Italy from lack of funds, with national mass transport programs stalled, and with the state power monopoly (ENEL) about to go bankrupt, the only possibility of saving social services and jobs in Italian municipalities would be the declaration of a moratorium on debt service payments. Instead, as long as the PCI rank-and-file cherish the illusion that things will improve if the Communists get into the government--at any cost--Amendola's faction will lead them right into fascist economics under a popular-front cover.

An immediate result of the Venice Accord is the effective splitting of the local DC and reinforcement of the national position within the DC of Rockefeller tool Bassetti, who has long advocated collaboration with Socialists and Communists in solving "practical, local" problems via local control--autogestion. The two factions of the DC most tied to outmoded porkbarrel politics are the Dorothean and Fanfanian wings of the party led by Foreign Minister Mariano Rumor and Party Secretary Amintore Fanfani, respectively. In Venice, both of these factions refused to support the Christmas Eve accord, leaving the field open to the more "progressive" elements now being organized by Bassetti.

Trilateral Bassetti

Since resigning six months ago from his post as president of Lombardy, Bassetti has circled through Italy organizing DC malcontents around the Trilateral Commission program of "local autonomies" combined with "European Independence." This is the line spoon-fed to European Rockefeller agents by Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Trilateral director, three months ago in Bellagio, Italy.

Bassetti recently showed up at the Lombard and Sardinian DC conferences to polemicize against Fanfani. Bassetti crowned his efforts to calling a special meeting Dec. 15 of 70 DC leaders in Milan where he presented his counterinsurgent "political proposal" for the "Italian Way to Liberty" directly challenging Fanfani.

The Bassetti-Amendola political alternative for pushing Rockefeller austerity, typified by the Venice deal, hits Italy at a moment when the newly-formed government of Christian Democratic Premier Aldo Moro is already showing its impotence. Faced with another huge oil payment, Banca d'Italia governor and Rockefeller crony, Guido Carli, lowered the discount rate (the interest rate on central bank loans to other banks) from 9 to 8 per cent. This measure was designed to inflate the lira enormously on the international markets, making Italian exports cheaper but at the same time creating total chaos of the domestic economy. Meanwhile, the Milan weekly Tempo published the rumor that the Shah of Iran was negotiating to buy 50 per cent of FIAT, Italy's largest private industry.

FINANCIAL TROUBLES CAUSE ENERGY PROJECT BREAKDOWN

Dec. 31 (IPS)--Rockefeller's efforts to get his slave labor energy development projects off the ground continue to run into serious financial problems.

The managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company announced today that financial difficulties had forced the scrapping of a proposed pipeline from the Persian Gulf to Turkey. On Monday, an American-Belgian consortium announced the signing of a "letter of intent" to handle a \$6 billion deal with Iran to develop its natural gas reserves. The consortium, led by the El Paso Gas Co., plans to transport liquefied gas by super tanker from the Persian Gulf through the Suez Canal to Europe and the United States.

However, the American-Belgian letter of intent is no more final than the previous letter of intent from the German-Italian group that had promised backing for the pipeline project. As the managing director indicated, both projects previously had been considered "certainties."