

frequent in the Italian coverage of leading European newspapers, that the presidential candidate of the U.S. Labor Party Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., issued an unqualified warning that "some Lower Manhattan financial circles" aligned "with Italy's Gianni Agnelli are now in a count down for a mooted 'military solution' to the current crisis in Italy."

By April 29-30, major cities like Milan and Rome had become the scenes of staged violent clashes between NATO and CIA-controlled countergangs of the "left" and "right." Agnelli-controlled press outlets began predicting "major violence" on May Day as a result of the tensions and conflicting demonstration scheduled by the working class and the fascist MSI. On April 30, both Milan and Rome were flooded with "carabineiri" special police, and Agnelli conduits demanded that paramilitary control be extended nationally.

In the first week of May, the first of three separate NATO maneuvers on the Italian peninsula were begun: naval maneuvers in the Mediterranean; a "simulated" land invasion of Sardinia (May 4); and "Operation Dashing Impact" to begin May 10 in the Trieste-Trento region of the northeast encompassing Friuli and the entire earthquake disaster area.

Italian military sources, however, reported a fourth set of "maneuvers" to begin in Italy May 4, whose nature, location and code-name were to remain secret.

During that week, a spate of fire-bombings and related terrorism ordered by Gianni Agnelli also began to sweep the nation, including factory bombings in Turin, Milan and the destruction of a Carabineiri barracks in Venice. "Special chemical substances," were used in the preparation of the bombs by men who were clearly militarily trained "experts."

On May 4, former Texas Governor John Connally, a member of the Rockefeller-dominated Federal Intelligence Advisory Board, joined with Clare Booth-Luce and CIA-operative of 1967 Greek coup experience, Henry Tasca, in the formation of a "Citizens Alliance for Mediterranean Freedom." CAMF's explicit purpose was "to prevent entry into the government by the Italian Communists" — whose inability to control their working class base was the publicly identified reason for Henry Kissinger's preference for the military coup option.

On May 6 at 9:00 AM, earthquake struck Friuli and the surrounding areas; by the morning of May 7, 5,000 NATO troops were already on the scene and the Ministry of the Interior's Cossiga's under-secretary, Zamberletti, had created a special commission to oversee "disaster relief" in coordination with the Roman Military General Staff and

NATO troops under the command of Rockefeller protegee, General Alexander Haig.

On May 8, 9 and 10, after-shocks ravaged the Friuli region. By this time, the region was under full military control. Over 15,000 military and paramilitary personnel in the area were dominated by U.S. and West German NATO forces but included British SAS forces of Northern Ireland "civil population control" experience. A mere few hundreds of fire-fighters have been conducting actual rescue operations, while the military has taken over food, water and medicine distribution, civilian control, population transfer and all means of transportation. Italian newspapers continuously have been reporting the "relief and rescue operations" to be so chaotic that a precise plan of chaos is strongly implied.

On May 11, new and "unexpected" earthquakes struck the south of Italy, including the cities of Naples, Taranta and Catania. Like the Friuli quakes whose epicenter was located in the Adriatic Sea, the quakes in the south spread from beneath the Jonian Sea southeast of Sicily.

On May 12-13, Nelson Rockefeller and Gianni Agnelli, personally visited the Friuli disaster area; they later held secret and unreported meetings with operations commission head Zamberletti. On the same day, a new contingent of West German NATO troops arrived in the country; with them came West German Defense Minister Leber.

On May 14, NATO agent Enrico Berlinguer of the Italian Communist Party withdrew his party's longstanding "historic compromise" policy of Communist participation in a Christian Democratic government. In its stead, Berlinguer proposed an "Emergency National Government" for crisis-management fitting all the austerity and working class "sacrifice"-related specifications laid down by Wall Street for an "autocratic fascist regime" to collect the nation's debt.

On May 15, a spokesman for Vice President Rockefeller announced that the \$25 million in U.S. earthquake relief would be administered by U.S. personnel under the direction of the CIA-controlled Agency for International Development, with AID representative Daniel Parker in charge. Parker, who had been involved in orchestrating military coups in Latin America for the CIA and who had accompanied Rockefeller on his tour of the earthquake site would be given use of U.S. military personnel to help him "disburse the aid." The government spokesman indicated that "not one penny of the aid would be touched by the corrupt Italian government." Arrangements for carrying out this operation were reportedly concluded during Rockefeller's meeting with NATO operative Zamberletti.

NATO's Earthquake-Causing Capability

The evidence that NATO in fact possesses the capability to not only capitalize upon but cause or at least focus earthquakes and other "natural" disasters (e.g., weather modification), is unannounced but well-documented in the public domain.

A leading Italian expert on earthquakes who was widely quoted as having predicted the Friuli tremors, Dr. Bendandi of the Seismology Observatory of Faenza in northern Italy,

refused comment on the possibility that NATO exercised "geothermal warfare" capabilities to cause the current Italian calamities. Mr. Bendandi was willing, however, to state his "personal conviction" that "the Guatemala earthquake last year was caused artificially by an underground atomic explosion."

That is only one of the methods under intensive study by NATO and the U.S. Defense Department for the last 20 years,

according to testimony delivered to a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Oceans and International Environment in January and March 1974 by Dr. Gordon McDonald, Vice President of the Pentagon's Institute for Defense Research.

"..Two techniques have been suggested through recent experience."

1. In the course of the underground testing of nuclear weapons at the Nevada test site, it was observed that an explosion apparently released local strain in the earth. The hypothesis is that the swift build-up of strain due to the sudden release of energy in an explosion discharges strain energy over a large volume of material."

2. Another method of releasing strain energy has appeared from pumping of underground water in the vicinity of Denver, Colorado, which has led to a series of small earthquakes. The hypothesis here is that underground water has provided local lubrication permitting adjacent blocks to slip by one another."

"The use as a weapon system of the strain energy instability within the solid earth requires an effective triggering mechanism. A scheme for pumping water seems clumsy and easily detectable. On the other hand, if the strain pattern in the crust can be accurately determined, the phased or timed release of energy from the smaller faults, designed to trigger a large fault at some distance, could be contemplated."

Mr. McDonald then elaborated on the possibilities of "secret war."

"Eventually...means other than open warfare may be used...by a nation...to create a disturbed environment for its competitors. Operations producing such conditions might be carried out covertly, since nature's great irregularity permits storms, floods, droughts, earthquakes and tidal waves to be viewed as unusual but not unexpected. Such a 'secret war' need never be declared or even known by the affected population. It could go on for years with only the security forces involved being aware of it...only after a nation was thoroughly drained would an armed takeover be attempted."

Mr. McDonald also noted that, besides their greater efficiency of destruction, these forms of unconventional warfare provide the advantage that their utilization can be undertaken secretly and therefore, against "domestic" and allied populations.

Last Spring, Soviet Head of State and Chairman of the Soviet Communist Party, Marshall Leonid Brezhnev directly warned against NATO and his own nation's development of "new weapons of mass destruction more terrible" than nuclear weapons unless strict arms limitation agreements

were reached. Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations, Adam Malik extended Brezhnev's warning in June, 1975: "Natural cataclysms can be far more destructive than even the largest thermonuclear bombs."

This Soviet emphasis on the threat posed by NATO 'geothermal warfare' development efforts was against the subject in a feature article in the April 1976 edition of the official East German publication, Deutsche Aussenpolitik (German Foreign Politics). The author, Dr. M.M. Schneider of the Central Institute of Terrestrial Physics in Potsdam, made clear his government's belief that the U.S. Defense Department and Dr. McDonald's research colleagues were more than merely "contemplating" geo-physical warfare. Referencing U.S. military use of weather modification in Vietnam, Schneider warned that "interference into the natural environment is a means to optimize both the tactical and strategic basis of military operations. But it is a blind weapon, acting against both enemy military and civilian populations...The importance attached by the Western military to environmental warfare...is indicated by the deliberations of the Vice President of the Pentagon's Institute of Defense Research, McDonald, in his 1968 book, **Unless Peach Comes** ... assessing the feasibility of developing geophysical warfare in a prognostic way."

Dr. Schneider continued: "...The elastic tensions within the upper layers of the earth due to processes of energy exchange will either be reduced slowly by flowing movements, or they are stored and accumulated up to a certain critical mass, at which point they are suddenly released as earthquakes. It is possible to trigger the accumulated energy deliberately if one injects such an amount of energy by an initial blast that the critical mass is surpassed."

In fact, since the late 1960's if not earlier, the U.S. Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) has conducted "numerous and successful" experiments to initiate and control earthquakes. These experiments have involved both of the method "contemplated" by Dr. McDonald and outlined by Dr. Schneider: underground nuclear explosions at Colorado and Nevada testing sites, and the injection of high pressure fluids to effect "lubrication" and sudden shifts in lithospheric rocks at the Rangely Chevron Oil Fields. In fact, virtually all seismologists and geophysicists contacted by IPS in the past week have refused to comment on the possibility of NATO tampering in the Friuli earthquake, but have admitted that the capability for such tampering exists — either as the actualization of a naturally developing earthquake, or as inducement of after-shocks (as in Friuli) following an initial earthquake.

NATO's Disaster Relief Studies

Since 1969, NATO has had a special agency devoted to the study and planning of military intervention into "natural disaster areas" — the Committee for the Challenges of the Modern World (CCMS). Of startling relevance, one of the most ambitious CCMS projects began on "Disaster Assistance" — was begun in 1973 with a special emphasis on earthquakes and floods. The U.S. as "pilot" site for this project while the "co-pilot" was Italy!

The CCMS was created within NATO in 1969, following months of intensive propaganda in NATO circles favoring an agency to plan for military intervention into civilian life in cases of "natural man-made or unusual (sic)" disasters. Most of this propaganda was concentrated in the U.S: State Department Bulletin under the direction of Rockefeller family mouthpiece, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Devoted to NATO's "Third Dimension" - civilian affairs -