

Italians use new method against terror

In carrying out the recent—and ongoing—wave of terrorist arrests that have been reported from Italy since mid-April, the Italian magistracy has accomplished something the significance of which extends far beyond the incarceration of individual terrorists. The protests from select “intellectuals,” politicians, and European press outlets indicate that it is the *methodology* being utilized by the Italian magistracy in identifying the structure and operation of the terrorist phenomena that represents the unique significance of Italian antiterrorist operations of the last period.

This point was first made by the London *Daily Telegraph* shortly after the first wave of arrests occurred in Padua under the aegis of Judge Pietro Calogero. In reporting particularly on the arrest of Padua University's Political Science Professor Antonio Negri, the *Telegraph* correctly noted that the action pointed to a departure from regular police methods which had heretofore scrupulously ignored the links between the “theorists of revolution,” such as Negri, to concentrate exclusively on the individuals physically responsible for terrorist assaults. Leading Italian “intellectuals,” such as Socialist Party Central Committee member Norberto Bobbio, vehemently argued in public for Negri's right to function as the “theoretical vanguard” among those who furnish the belief structure utilized by terrorists such as the Red Brigades.

Not only did Bobbio praise the terrorist Negri as a “profound scholar” for his advocacy of an armed terrorist revolt against the Italian republic, but Bobbio stated flatly that “it is arduous, if not absurd, to establish a connection between thought and praxis.”

Until this recent period, the Italian police like their colleagues elsewhere maintained a religiously pluralist view of terrorism, as a series of unconnected gangs who were further unconnected to the “above ground” mass movement of “Autonomists” and other Maoist countergangs despite enormous evidence indicating the interchangeability of personnel between the underground terrorists such as the Red Brigades and the “legitimate” Maoist movements. Police investigative methods further disassociated the two wings of the terrorist movement from the theorists such as Negri who were otherwise acknowledged as the theoretical leadership of both sides of the movement.

In the flurry of antiterrorist activity following the murder of former Premier Aldo Moro, only the European Labor Party (ELP) proposed in a special and widely read “Moro brief” that police methods be inverted to consider political ideas and motivations as real phenomena and appropriate subjects of police investigation.

The key to the impact of the ELP dossier, titled “Who Killed Aldo Moro,” lay in its location of the subversive plot that culminated in the murder of Italy's most prominent statesman in a conspiracy centered outside Italy, outside the “left” per se, and indeed outside what is normally construed as “politics” in the Italian framework. In 110 closely documented pages, the “Moro brief” traces the British Crown's determination to prevent the emergence of a direct threat to the City of London's world financial hegemony in a Western European-initiated new world monetary system based on collaboration between sovereign republics in the capitalist, socialist and developing sector.

As the brief argued, the model of the Italian government—where conservative Catholic capitalists in the Christian Democratic Party worked directly with the trade union-based Italian Communist Party—not only provided a key example of such cooperation, but a powerful basis for guaranteeing Italian sovereignty against Britain. Moro was killed because he was the principal architect of that Catholic-Communist alliance.

Using a method and specific tactical initiatives prescribed by U.S. Labor Party chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the ELP's dossier demonstrated the links between the violence that has wracked Italy, such figures as Henry Kissinger, and U.S. Ambassador Italy Richard Gardner, and the overwhelmingly British-influenced Italian press.

By eventually following this approach, the Italian police have already placed behind bars the second level controllers of Italian terrorism such as Negri, Vesce, and others cited below. More significantly, the application of a political methodology is leading the Italian magistracy and their collaborators in French and West German intelligence on the trail of the higher echelons of international terrorism which until now have been allowed to act with impunity.

—Vivian Zoakos