

FACTS BEHIND TERRORISM

'Twisting slowly, in the wind'

Several weeks ago this column warned that the installation of Francisco Cossiga as Prime Minister might devastate Italy's anti-terror program, rescuing, in particular, the unworthy political careers of the leaders of the Italian Socialist Party who, as we and others have documented, were instrumental in fostering the terrorist Red Brigades and allied Autonomi movement. It was under Cossiga's tenure as Interior Minister, it will be recalled, that terrorism flourished to the point of successfully murdering a former Prime Minister, Aldo Moro.

Our fears have so far proved groundless: the tough Italian antiterror apparatus headed by General Carlo Dalla Chiesa continues to tighten the evidentiary noose around such PSI leaders as the party's general secretary Bettino Craxi, who was endorsed for the Italian premiership by the *New York Times* this summer, and southern chieftain Giacomo Mancini.

In the latest development, Franco Piperno, a protégé of Mancini who was arrested in Paris last month and is currently fighting extradition back to Italy, said Sept. 19 that he was innocent, but that if he were extradited for what he described as an effort to mediate with the Red Brigades during the Moro kidnapping, then Craxi must be named as an accomplice. It was Craxi, Piperno declared, who ordered him to seek out Red Brigade members and explore with them the possibilities of freeing Moro.

As with previous revelations concerning the PSI's role in the Red Brigades, Piperno's statement

has confirmed charges documented in two publications issued by the European Labor Party in Italy, "Who Killed Aldo Moro," and, unable to deflect the police investigation, the frantic PSI has decided to sue the ELP for slander, according to a two paragraph item in the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* of Sept. 19. The Socialists' decision to sue, said PSI Milan spokesman Ugo Finetti, was made because of the ELP's "maneuver of presenting these vulgar attacks as never denied."

Among other items, the ELP documentation of the Socialists' support for terrorists had focused on the case of Piperno.

ELP evidence publicized

The Socialists made their move less than a week after the ELP made news in 20 daily papers all over Italy. Labor Party spokesmen had intervened in a Paris press conference held to generate sympathy for exiled Italian terrorists. The press conference boomeranged: three hours after it ended, one of the speakers, wanted fugitive Lanfranco Pace, was arrested by French police.

Pace shared the press conference podium with Marco Pannella, whose Radical Party espouses the cause of every imaginable social deviant in Italy; and Bernardo-Henri Levy, a former student leader in the 1968 Paris uprisings, who is now part of the French so-called new philosophers, a group of terrorist supporters around Jean Paul Sartre.

Pace called the press conference to announce that he intended to seek "political asylum" in France from the repression

against him by the Italian "police state." During the question period, the ELP asked Pace: "Who are the people in the Italian Socialist Party who are backing you and Piperno?"

Instead of answering the question, Pace froze, and then started screaming that the questioner was from the European Labor Party, and had been sent by Judge Gallucci, one of the Rome judges investigating the Moro case who has actively sought Piperno's extradition. The disoriented Pace even charged, incredibly, that Gallucci was a member of the ELP, and that the ELP were agents of the CIA.

The next ELP question was addressed to Bernard-Henri Levy. "Can you tell us whether during your personal meeting with Henry Kissinger, what kind of orders you received regarding the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro?"

According to the *New York Times* of May 13, 1978, Levy was visiting New York on that date and boasted that he had had breakfast with his "old enemy" Henry Kissinger and told him to his face what an enemy of the people he was.

Levy's response was: "I have no relations with Henry Kissinger. ... I can tell you about my relations with Marco Pannella, but I don't know Kissinger."

The European Labor Party then released a leaflet on the events, warning that Pace's slanders and lies were part of an assassination set-up against both members of the ELP and Judge Gallucci. Recently Gallucci further outraged the philoterrorist camp by refusing to release on bail three editors of *Metropoli* magazine (linked to Piperno and the Red Brigades) on grounds that they are being held on suspicion of fomenting "armed struggle against the state."

—Mary Sonnenblick