

The Libya-Papa network: socialists and right-wing terrorists

by Mary H. Carey

As Sicilian attorney Michele Papa admits in a July 30 interview to the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*, it was he who initiated the contacts with Billy Carter leading to Billy's first trip to Libya in September 1978.

Michele Papa is no mere businessman, however corrupt, but a seasoned political operative whose networks go back to the creators of Benito Mussolini, and today comprise the controllers of neofascist terrorism as well as the left-wing variety.

A member in good standing of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), Papa is also a self-proclaimed leader of the Sicilian separatist movement, and as such a long-time associate of the Qaddafi government which regularly provides the separatists with weapons and funding. Papa is also a close associate of individuals central to Billygate, such as Libyan ambassador to Rome Gibril Shallouf and Ahmed Shahati, the secretary of Qaddafi's party, Arab Social Union, and its top foreign policy official.

Both the *New York Times* of April 8, 1979 and the Rome daily *La Repubblica* of June 31, 1980 report the story of Michele Papa's role in setting up Billy Carter's trip to Libya. The story comes from Atlanta real estate broker Mario Leanza, who made contact with Billy Carter on Papa's behalf. Papa had previously helped Leanza out in business dealings with Libya. Papa contacted Leanza in June of 1978, asking him to contact Carter and talk him into going to Libya. Leanza, a friend of Billy's, agreed.

According to both Leanza and Papa, Billy Carter's trip was set up by a series of daily phone calls in late 1978 between Leanza in Atlanta and either Shallouf or Papa in Rome.

Who is Michele Papa?

Michele Papa's pedigree is best illustrated by a look at Papa's patron, Lelio Basso of the Italian Socialist Party. The most telling single fact about Lelio Basso is that he became the president of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal after Bertrand Russell's death. This makes Basso one of the chief links between British intelligence

and its various operations on the continent.

Another fact is the membership of the Lelio Basso Foundation, a "philanthropic" organization founded by Basso to infiltrate British intelligence into the Third World and the East bloc. The foundation membership includes the notorious Richard Falk of Princeton University, one of the major think-tankers behind the current scenario known as the Bernard Lewis Plan. Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution was Phase I of this scenario. Phase II calls for the overthrow of the Saudi Arabian royal house, chaos in the Saudi oil fields and the general collapse of Mideast oil production.

Michele Papa runs the Sicilian branch of Basso's Italian-Arab friendship operation. This network functions as a conduit for funds from Libya in particular, into both left- and right-wing terrorist gangs in Italy.

The Padua-Arab Association, one of the offshoots of Basso's national Italy-Arab Association headquartered in Rome, was run by Claudio Mutti. During the period when Mutti was president of the Padua group, the association was investigated by Paduan Judge Gerardo D'Ambrosio, who established the fact that the funds of the Association were used to finance the right-wing terrorist group, Ordine Nero.

Ordine Nero is a reborn version of Ordine Nuovo, which was dissolved in 1973 by order of Judge Vittorio Occorsio, on the grounds that it was a reconstitution of the Fascist Party and therefore forbidden by Italian law. In February of 1974, Ordine Nero stated its aims: "To spread terror among the anti-fascists with bombs and ambushes, spread chaos in the country, and transform our cities into so many Belfasts where there will be no more peace for those who pursue anti-fascist activity; no more peace for the red bourgeoisie."

Judge D'Ambrosio specifically named Mario Tuti as a recipient of the Padua-Arab Association funding. Tuti has received two life sentences for terrorist bomb attacks; the most recent was for the 1974 bombing of the Italicus line from Rome to Brennero, in which 12 people died. Ordine Nero claimed responsibility.

Tuti was sentenced for the Italicus murders on Aug.



Michele Papa (second front left) with Lelio Basso (fourth from left) and Muammar Qaddafi (third from right).

2, 1980: the day of the Bologna railway station bombing in which 80 people lost their lives and 150 were wounded. The caller from the rightist NAR (another offshoot of Ordine Nuovo) justified the grisly attack with the words, "Honor to comrade Mario Tuti."

Tuti was forced to leave Italy after he murdered two policemen. In exile, Tuti published a "memorandum" which appeared in several Italian papers. Here Tuti boasts that he received funds from the Libyan embassy in Rome, adding that Qaddafi was one of his spiritual mentors, along with Mao, Hitler, Mussolini and others.

This sheds some light on the character of the Carter administration's associates. The Franco-Libya Association, cofounded by Lelio Basso, functions similarly: funneling Libyan money into French right terrorists.

Papa and Sicilian separatism

The Sicilian branch of Lelio Basso's "Arab friendship" operation, the Sicily-Arab Association, was founded in 1974 and headquartered in the city of Catania. Michele Papa was initially its second in command; the first president of the association was Filippo Jelo. The story of how Jelo lost his job explains a lot.

In February 1975, police in Sicily arrested one Bernardino Andreola, a 46-year old left-fringe activist known for his association with Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, an early controller of Italian left-wing terrorism.

Andreola was arrested for his involvement in a failed kidnapping attempt against Christian Democratic Senator Graziano Verzotto, an erstwhile ally of Enrico Mattei, the slain founder of ENI, the Italian state oil company. Andreola told the police an amazing story.

According to the weekly magazine *Il Settimanale* of April 21, 1976, Andreola described the "Alpha Group," a "revolutionary movement formed from the fringes of the revolutionary left." It began operations in Sicily in 1973. The aim was Sicilian independence, to be achieved with "Arab friends."

Andreola said that "at the end of 1974 we activated throughout Sicily 42 propaganda cells, 18 cells of armed proletarians, and six information cells. Through ideological penetration, our Marxist duty is to create the

preconditions for the class struggle to emerge from clandestinity and into the streets." In Andreola's apartment, carabinieri found explosives, phone-bugging devices, a radio transceiver and a document-forging laboratory.

Il Settimanale also detailed a meeting at the villa of a Mafia-linked politician. At this meeting, Andreola met a lawyer who was "the president of an Italian-Arab friendship association," located in Catania. As *Settimanale* points out, the only such organization in Catania at the time was Papa and Jelo's Sicily-Arab Association. The scandal created by this revelation forced Jelo to resign, at which point Papa took over.

According to another Italian weekly, *L'Europeo* of May 16, 1976, Andreola said he had been personally contacted by Michele Papa, and that they discussed Andreola's "separatist army."

Papa, Libya and terrorism

Michele Papa's cooperation with Colonel Qaddafi goes further back. In December 1974, shortly after the founding of the Sicily-Arab Association, Papa accompanied Lelio Basso to Tripoli. Basso went to meet Qaddafi as the head of his Rome Italy-Arab Association, and Papa is reported by the Italian press to have gone along in the capacity of Basso's deputy.

Michele Papa was also the coordinator of a 1978 conference at a villa in Taormina, Sicily, in which various members of the Italian Socialist Party including Papa gathered to study Col. Qaddafi's "Green Book," with its condemnation of both capitalism and communism as "perverse ideologies."

Qaddafi's sponsorship of left-wing terrorist groups is certainly no secret to European law-enforcement agencies. The most blatant example was cited by Andrea Janach in his book *International Terrorism*. In 1978, Italian police arrested a member of the left-terrorist Red Brigades, who claimed he had just returned to Italy from a Libyan terrorist-training camp. In his pockets police found a document with directions to the camp and the name of a "Mr. Saudi." Janach reveals that the latter is Abdullah Saudi, a leading Libyan banker, one of the negotiators of the Fiat-Libya deal and member of the board of directors of Fiat. Janach draws the obvious conclusion that Abdullah Saudi was channeling Libyan money into the Red Brigades.

The case of Michele Papa spotlights an apparent anomaly: the involvement of both left- and right-wing terror, seemingly inspired by opposite ideologies and each the sworn enemy of the other, in the Basso-Papa Libya operation. Indeed, despite Papa and Jelo's friendliness with leftist kidnapper Andreola, and despite their idol Qaddafi's funding of left-wing terrorism, their Sicily-Arab Association was from the beginning embedded in the extreme right of the Italian and Sicilian

political spectrum and its neofascist wing.

The anomaly is only apparent. As *EIR* has shown in the past, the labels placed on various groups and ideologies of international terrorism are purely a matter of convenience for their controllers. Italy is the best example: in the middle of the seventies, magistrates and law-enforcement officials began to get too close to the real oligarchical backers of the abortive right-wing coup d'état in 1970, and of the 1973 "Rosa dei Venti" coup plot involving high levels of the Italian secret service. It was then, in the mid-1970s, that "black" or rightist terror began to slack off, and "red" or left terror began its upswing. The pendulum now seems to be swinging the other way, but behind the killers, the interlocking directorate of British and Israeli intelligence, the oligarchy and the international dope trade remain the same.

Investigations on the Hill

There are currently two Senate Judiciary subcommittees probing different aspects of Billygate. A special subcommittee chaired by Democratic Senator Birch Bayh has to date focused largely on Billy Carter's ties to Libya, while the Improvements in Judicial Machinery Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), has been probing potential corrupt links between fugitive financier Robert Vesco and the Carter administration. Yet a third body, the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, may begin a probe into former Office of Management and Budget director Bert Lance.

Congressional sources report that there are six areas which the special subcommittee intends to probe:

- The Charter Co., which offered to pay Billy Carter \$25 million for arranging embargo-free oil supplies from his Libyan friends;
- Billy Carter's income tax situation;
- Potential obstruction of justice, particularly in matters dealing with Billy Carter and Robert Vesco;
- Possible ties between Billy Carter and indicted arms smuggler and hitman Frank Terpil and Terpil's boss, Edwin Wilson;
- A possible Philippine connection established by Jeff and Billy Carter to bail out the family's peanut warehouse; and,
- Billy Carter and Charter's ties to Robert Vesco.

The special subcommittee has also developed several potential perjury cases. Evidence the subcommittee possesses is believed to prove that Billy Carter received

substantially more from the Libyans than the \$220,000 "loan" he has admitted to.

To date, the special subcommittee has been hampered by two factors. First, the White House, despite President Carter's statement in an Aug. 4 report that he is "eager to answer the subcommittee's questions on all matters . . . within the scope of your inquiry," the Carter administration has stonewalled in a manner even more blatant than Richard Nixon in turning over key investigative material.

Second, Sen. Birch Bayh, who represents a political compromise as subcommittee chairman, has consistently refused to move in an aggressive manner to get to the bottom of Billygate. Shortly after President Carter's white paper report, Bayh announced that he sees "no evidence of a major breach of the public trust" by the President or White House aides. It was only at the reported insistence of Sen. Dole, for example, that the subcommittee brought up the fact that two of Billy Carter's chief business associates, George Belluomine and Robert Sprague, are under Justice Department investigation for drug-running.

Bayh is also reported to have blocked investigation into a secret alliance between the Carter administration and the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood, the body that installed the Ayatollah Khomeini regime in Iran. A possible concern of the Senator from Indiana is the fact that such an investigation would ultimately uncover the workings of the Muslim Brotherhood-controlled Muslim Student Association in Indianapolis, Ind., whose Persian Speaking Group has provided the manpower for riots and terrorism against anti-Khomeini forces in the United States. The politically powerful and well-funded MSA Persian Speaking Group has been put under executive protection as part of President Carter's deal with the Muslim Brotherhood. Locked in a tough reelection campaign, it is possible that Bayh does not want to rock the boat in his home state.

The subcommittee chaired by Sen. DeConcini, on the other hand, has been moving like gangbusters on the Vesco case. The financier, who provides a key thread throughout Billygate, became a subject of investigation as the subcommittee reviewed Justice Department handling of dozens of politically sensitive cases. The subcommittee has compiled evidence which implicates Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti in obstruction of justice, both in his refusal to prosecute Billy Carter for failure to register as a Libyan agent and in a plot codenamed "Operation Kingfish" to kidnap and murder Vesco after his ties to top Carter White House aides were exposed.

Closed-door hearings on Aug. 19 reportedly heard Ralph Ulmer, chairman of a N.Y. grand jury empaneled to investigate alleged Vesco bribes of White House officials, describe substantial obstruction by the Justice Department.