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## INVESTIGATIVE LEADS

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# Italians pursue upper levels of terrorism

by Nora Hamerman, Editor

Since NATO General James Lee Dozier was liberated from his terrorist captors on Jan. 28, the ongoing Italian investigation of the Red Brigades has turned up half a dozen major leads into the financial and intelligence networks behind terrorism. In a press conference in Rome in early February, magistrates presented the results of the first phase of their anti-terrorist crackdown: since Jan. 1 more than 400 suspected terrorists have been arrested, and 40 safehouses dismantled. As the following summary of investigative leads indicates, the biggest chokepoint for mopping up the terrorist apparatus is not inside Italy, but forces within the American, British, Canadian, Colombian, and French governments which are hostile to the anti-terrorist effort.

### Venice: center of terrorism

Italian authorities have concluded that the city of Venice and its surrounding Veneto region have been the strategic center for the Red Brigades since 1974, according to the Feb. 5 issue of the nationally circulated Catholic newspaper *Avvenire*.

The hypothesis of a Veneto center for terrorism has previously been fiercely denied by Toni Negri, the Red Brigades professor from Padua jailed for his role in the Aldo Moro kidnap-murder. Negri, whose wife is a member of the Venetian nobility, insisted in a memorandum issued from his jail cell that it was "impossible" to identify the Veneto as the center.

In fact, this region, a cauldron of both "red" and "black" terrorism for years, looks like the deployment headquarters within Italy for the Propaganda 2 (P-2) Freemasonic lodge which was exposed last May for conspiring to overthrow the Italian government and impose a monarchist-fascist regime. Verona, where Dozier was kidnapped, and Padua, where he was rescued, are both in the Veneto. Situated in northeastern Italy and bordering both the Balkans and Eastern Europe, the region has become the crossroads for the international heroin trade from the Middle East into Germany.

Verona is, of course, the base of NATO Command Land South. It is also Italy's heroin-addiction capital, with a nearly 10 percent addiction rate. Out of the NATO psychological warfare unit here was deployed the 1974 fascist coup plot known as Rosa dei Venti. Prince Alliata di Montereale, a leading figure in the P-2 conspiracy, and the fascist journal *L'Opinione Pubblica* operate from Verona.

Nearby Padua is notoriously the stronghold of the "black" (fascist) movement, having harbored the neo-Nazi Freda and Venturi, who were jailed for the 1969 Bank of Agriculture bombing massacre in Milan that began the "strategy of tension." *Avvenire's* account hints that the networks of OVRA, the Mussolinian secret police, have never disappeared from this region. During the last years of World War II, the liaison for OVRA with the Nazi Gestapo was none other than Licio Gelli, the Grand Master of the P-2 lodge, who is now a fugitive from justice.

The weapons traffic for the terrorists has followed precisely the Mediterranean routes of the Venetian oligarchy's slave and spice trade during its heyday from the 11th to the 18th century. According to a confession by Antonio Savasta, one of Dozier's captured wardens, the weapons were brought from Lebanon to Cyprus to Venice in a boat by psychiatrist Massimo Gidoni—another one of the "respectable professionals" who has turned up in the investigation. Weapons of this provenance were to be used in a Red Brigade attack on the national office of the Christian Democracy in Rome, to be led by criminology professor Giovanni Senzani. This plan was thwarted by Senzani's capture Jan. 9.

### The Hyperion school: a Paris link

The Hyperion School in Paris has been identified by one of the terrorists captured in the liberation of Dozier as "the European brain of the Red Brigades." One of the three bosses of the Hyperion, Vanni Molinaris, was picked up in Udine (the northeast of Venice) in the sweeps that followed the Dozier release.

Judge Pietro Calogero, the magistrate in Padua who had arrested Toni Negri in 1979, had begun investigating Hyperion, but his probe was blocked by the heads of the Italian secret services. Later, in May 1981, these secret service heads were exposed as members of the P-2 lodge. Besides Paris, Hyperion has offices in London, Brussels, and two centers in Italy.

### Socialist International trade unions

On Feb. 4, a special squad of the DIGOS police unit entered a national trade-union convention in Florence to arrest Luigi Scricciolo, chief of the international department of the UIL labor confederation, which is dominated by the Italian Socialist Party. Scricciolo was charged with membership in the Red Brigades and

armed insurrection against the state. Police had discovered that his apartment was serving as a safehouse and major weapons cache.

According to the confession of Red Brigader Savatta, Scricciolo was "public-relations man" for the band and kept contact with Irish Liberation Army and Basque terrorists. He had a network of foreign contacts centered around Libya's Muammar Qaddafi, believed to be a major financier and weapons supplier to Italian terrorism.

Luigi's cousin, Loris Scricciolo, is an important Red Brigader who took personal responsibility for the May 3, 1979 assault on the Rome office of the Christian Democratic Party in which three people were killed. He also allegedly shot the deputy chief of the Rome political police, Nicola Simone, early this year.

Giorgio Benvenuto, the general secretary of the UIL and a leader in the International Metalworkers Federation, got Scricciolo his post in the UIL, but has denied all knowledge of Scricciolo's activities. Police note that since the UIL leadership had the keys to Scricciolo's house, where they met regularly, it is most improbable they never encountered the Red Brigaders who also constantly met there.

The UIL was set up after World War II through the intervention of U.S. Social Democratic trade unionists, notably Jay Lovestone, Irving Brown, Vanni Montana and Serafino Romualdi. More recent support for the UIL came from the Carter government through Ambassador Richard Gardner, and former United Auto Workers president Leonard Woodcock.

### **The Haig-Ledeen connection**

Michael Ledeen's latest attempt to cover up his involvement with Propaganda-2 Grand Master Licio Gelli has become the subject of a formal inquiry in the Italian Parliament. On Feb. 8, Bassanini, a Socialist parliamentary deputy who opposes Socialist Party chief Bettino Craxi, raised a parliamentary question over reports that Ledeen, who is the top adviser on European affairs to U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, has gone to Uruguay in an attempt to locate and confiscate a Gelli dossier detailing the nature of Ledeen's relationship with the P-2 Grand Master. The inquiry requires a formal response by the Italian government.

A few days earlier, the Italian weekly *Europeo* had reported that Ledeen was dispatched with \$15,000 to offer to the government of Uruguay for the dossier. *Europeo* described Ledeen as the State Department man "responsible for relations between the Socialist International and the State Department." When the P-2 scandal broke last year, several Italian periodicals reported the existence of a "Haig dossier" found at Gelli's residence, a dossier believed to document Haig's collaboration with the P-2 conspiracy over a 12-year period.

A month ago, *Europeo* revealed that Ledeen, who spent several years in Italy, used to be on the payroll of the P-2 lodge (see *EIR*, Feb. 9, 1981).

*Europeo* also reported that Ledeen came to Italy in 1980 to "investigate" the Billy Carter affair. Ledeen met with Michele Papa, a Mafia-connected lawyer from the Socialist Party in Sicily, who had arranged Billy Carter's infamous 1979 trip to Libya. An informed source in Italy told *EIR* that Ledeen was put in touch with Papa by a journalist living in Verona (see "Venice," above).

### **Britain harboring terrorists**

A British right-wing cult named the League of St. George is protecting known Italian right-wing terrorists with the knowledge of U.K. authorities, according to the Feb. 7 London *Observer*. During the previous week, the Italian government asked London to extradite Italian immigrants identified for terrorist activities, but Britain refused, the *Observer* reported.

Up to 23 right-wing Italian terrorists are suspected by British police to be living in London. Others are said to be seeking contact with the IRA terrorists in northern Ireland. The League of St. George, which sponsored the escape of the terrorists from Italy, is also actively involved in neo-Nazi groups in West Germany.

### **Red Brigader gets 'political' status in Colombia**

An Italian government extradition request was also turned down by Colombia, in the case of Red Brigade member Leandro Barozzi who has been teaching at the Universidad de Valle in Cali. Colombia maintains that Barozzi is a "political" and not "criminal" fugitive. He is wanted by the Italians in connection with the murder of Aldo Moro in 1978.

The Colombian supreme court first stalled the extradition request because the two countries have no extradition treaty, and then declared it had no authority to arrest Barozzi because the responsibility was the foreign minister's. The foreign minister refused to order the arrest. Barozzi told the press that he is not a Red Brigade member and that "my only crime is my friendship with Toni Negri." He pledged to turn himself in to the immigration authorities but has since disappeared.

Meanwhile, the leading Colombian drug trafficker and arms supplier for the M-19 terrorist group, Jaime Guillot Lara, who was recently arrested in Mexico, is also demanding protection as a "political refugee." The United Nations reportedly sent representatives of its High Commission on Refugees to interview Guillot and possibly take up his defense.

Francesco Piperno, a "physics professor" wanted in Italy in the Moro case, has taken refuge in Montreal. Three months ago, the Canadian government refused an Italian extradition request for Piperno.