

Report from Italy by Paolo Serri

Kissinger hand in Operto trial

POE secretary Operto declares the Milan court's sentence in Craxi's suit against her "null and void."

Fiorella Operto, secretary general of the Partito Operaio Europeo (POE), hearing of a Milan court's ruling against her in a lawsuit brought by Socialist Premier Bettino Craxi, said: "I want to strongly declare that I consider the sentence against me and my party null and void. The farce of justice which took place yesterday in Milan proves only one thing: that Craxi and his local and international controllers, above all Henry Kissinger, admitted in court they fear facts and truth!"

Mrs. Operto was convicted of "aggravated defamation" by the Ninth Section of the Milan Penal Court. She was fined 3 million liras and required to pay trial costs and for the printing of the sentence in three Italian papers. No jail term nor payment of damages to the plaintiff was conceded by the court.

The suit centered on a POE electoral poster of June 1983, with pictures of Craxi and Kissinger under the title "Wanted." It accused them of conspiring to subvert Italian institutions and of involvement in the kidnap-murder of former Premier Aldo Moro. Under Craxi's picture was the caption: "He conspired for an early election, opening the way for a destabilization and coup. . . . On his party's slate are candidates of the mafia, drugs, and terrorism. . . ."

"For me and my party the trial did not take place," continued Mrs. Operto. "We cannot accept this scandal and the perversion of justice which was imposed by Craxi and the PSI [Italian Socialist Party], and accepted by the state attorney and the court,

who demanded that no facts and proofs be admitted in court. The court also refused to call witnesses. . . . Rejecting the voluminous documentation presented by our lawyer to prove our charges, Craxi has dictated an unprecedented and illegal subversion of justice and Italian constitutional right. Once again, Craxi's behavior itself proves that our charges were totally correct!"

● **Mafia and drugs:** Operto's lawyer brought to court a document of the 1963 Anti-Mafia Parliament Committee where it was stated that the key mafia boss, Joe Adonis (a.k.a. Giuseppe Doto), representing the Meyer Lansky-Lucky Luciano international "syndicate" in Milan and Northern Europe, made contact through a mediator with PSI national leaders Giacomo Mancini, Aldo Aniasi and others. Milan was thus transformed into the drug and money-laundering capital of Italy.

Starting from this period, the defense reconstructed all the major cases down to today. The entire PSI leadership of Savona, near Genoa, was arrested last year for mafia activities; the PSI vice president of the Puglia region, Carella, was arrested for corruption; the PSI leadership in Turin arrested for corruption, and so forth.

● **Terrorism:** Operto's lawyer showed the photocopy of the indictment of Rome judge Ferdinando Imposimato against PSI national figures and parliamentarians Giacomo Mancini and Antonio Landolfi, charged with "support of terrorism" around the *Metropoli* magazine of the Autonomia and Red Brigades group.

● **The Moro affair:** Here the defense's documentation involved the premier himself, Bettino Craxi, who kept contact during the kidnapping of the statesman with confessed Red Brigaders, such as Franco Piperno and Lanfranco Pace. Craxi kept the police and the security forces uninformed on these meetings, as proven by official Parliament papers.

"Craxi's arguments at the trial," added the POE secretary, "originated directly from Henry Kissinger and his recent trip to Europe. Kissinger is behind the several legal cases launched recently against our organization in Europe, from the French OAS leader Jacques Soustelle to the German feudal oligarch Prince Johannes von Thurn und Taxis. These creatures will soon learn that at least one case will not be dismissed by us. For those who do not believe it, they have only to wait and see."

"It was Kissinger," continued Ms. Operto, "who put together the just created Aspen Institute in Venice, with PSI leader Gianni De Michelis as vice-president. Kissinger and his PSI stooges are working to sell Europe to the Soviets. . . . Kissinger and Craxi are against a Strategic Defense Initiative for the West, exactly the policy that LaRouche initiated internationally and that I am fighting for in Italy and Europe."

"Kissinger and his Italian stooges," concluded Ms. Operto, "are particularly haunted by the possible exposure of the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro. Last year, we almost had Kissinger arrested in Italy, when he rashly escaped an order to testify on the case issued by two Rome judges. He stated then, at a Milan press conference: 'LaRouche is persecuting me!' That's one of the primary reasons for Craxi's suit against me and my party."