

# Mussolini aide: 'I follow the Russians'

by Umberto Pascali

"I am a follower of the pro-Russian policy. We are in Europe, and here, the unifying potential is Russian. Charlemagne did not succeed; Charles V, Louis XIV, the Kaiser, and Hitler did not succeed. There is no doubt that those closest to achieving the unity of Europe are the Russians!"

This statement does not come from a Communist or a Socialist. It is part of the "political testament" of Dino Grandi, at various times Mussolini's foreign minister, justice minister, and ambassador in London. Grandi is especially known for the "Ordine del Giorno," the motion he presented to the Grand Council of Fascism in 1943 requesting that Mussolini be gradually put aside in order to save Fascism.

His call for the Russification of Europe was published in the leading Italian daily, *Corriere della Sera*, on July 19, a few months after his death.

Grandi did not become pro-Russian only after the war. As he explained, his pro-Russian feelings and his adherence to Fascism are one and the same thing. The end of the official Fascist regime in Italy did not bring an end to Grandi's political activities. Over the past 20 years, he became the symbol and the guru of the theory known as "Universal Fascism," i.e., the convergence of the "revolutionary experiences of the East and the West" and the establishment of one-world Nazi-communism.

His interview's publication must be seen as an alarm bell, as another proof of what is behind the strategy to abandon Western Europe to Russian domination.

Who created Grandi, and who kept him in power in a position from which, as he himself reveals, he was able to manipulate and "bring to the right point of cooking that cretin, vanity-obsessed Mussolini"? It was, in the most direct way, the old Venetian oligarchy, in the person of Salvatore Contarini, of the Sicilian branch of probably the most important family of Venice. Contarini, the director of the foreign ministry from 1912 to 1924, "suggested my name, and so the diplomats of the ministry went to Mussolini to say they needed a new undersecretary," says Grandi. Mussolini accepted immediately.

Grandi was protected by the Venetian families, he was a friend of the Russians, but he was also connected to the most powerful British oligarchs and very close to the U.S.-based Mellon and Morgan banking families. Dino Grandi, in short, is a striking example of a high-level agent of the "Anglo-Soviet Trust."

After surviving the last period of the war under the protection of the British secret services, and spending many years in South America, Grandi became a cult figure for that group of "neo-conservative" intellectuals who have been engaged in "re-evaluating" Fascism and Nazism. Among the most outspoken "groupies" of Grandi there are: the little *duce* of the U.S. Project Democracy group and the Irangate scandal, Michael Ledeen; Ledeen's sponsor and a scholar on Nazism, Prof. George Mosse; and the author of an enormous history of Fascism, Prof. Renzo De Felice.

Biographies, articles, and statements of support for Grandi, have been produced in large number by this crowd recently. And now, their champion, before dying, has left his testament to announce that a second phase of East-West convergence is on.

"I was the first to have introduced the Russians in Italy [after the 1917 revolution]. And I was the first to have taken [Soviet Foreign Minister] Litvinov to Milan," brags Grandi. "I was considered the extreme right, the Bolshevik of Fascism."

"In reality, I have never been pro-Soviet. I simply refused to consider the Russian Revolution according to the cliché of the Western bourgeoisie; there was something big underneath. The century in which we live is socialist. Whoever wants to be in politics today must start by recognizing that we are in a socialist century. Of course, socialism has several faces, Marxism, Proudhon, Blanqui, the Fabian Society, etc. . . . But the new reality in which the world operates is socialism. So, for me, Fascism has been the extreme attempt to reconcile the Liberal and the Socialist centuries. And, I do not believe in the breaks of continuity in history."

Hammering on his attitude toward the Russian Revolution, Grandi reports the following exchange he had with Mussolini in 1924, after the old Contarini left the Foreign Ministry: "I told Mussolini I was tired. I wanted to leave my position as undersecretary and get an embassy. I told him I wanted to go to Moscow. 'And why Moscow?' he asked. 'Because I want to see clearly the Russian Revolution, and I do not accept the cliché built by the Western bourgeoisie. In my opinion, the revolution is nothing but the Bhrysalis, the originator of a great nationalistic revolt in Asia!' At that time, this seemed particularly strange." But not to Mussolini, who made him foreign minister on the spot.

Though not reported in the interview, *EIR* has learned that, during the war, Grandi devised a plan for a "separate peace" with the Russians, saying, "Russia cannot be defeated." It is not known what became of this plan, but in 1942, a party led by the chief of the Fascist organizations abroad, Piero Parini, was sent by Mussolini to contact representatives of the Red Army in Romania. Parini, a close friend of Grandi, was accompanied by a young, fanatical fascist, Licio Gelli, the future Grand Master of the now-outlawed P-2 Freemasonic lodge, and very close to the "Universal Fascism" scholar, Michael Ledeen.