

# Italian intelligence: Libya financed Bush

by Joseph Brewda

In testimony before a special Italian parliamentary committee on terrorism in June, Adm. Fulvio Martini, the chief of Italian military security services (Sismi), made shocking declarations about the United States and President George Bush. The occasion for Martini's testimony was the tenth anniversary of the mysterious downing of an Italian passenger airliner on June 27, 1980 near Ustica, Italy. Admiral Martini said that the probable party responsible for that terrorist incident was the U.S. or French government. In his testimony, Martini noted the continuing close, if covert, relationship between the Libyan government of Muammar Qaddafi and the United States of George Bush.

Determining the parties responsible for the incident has long been a vexing problem. An Italian DC-9 Itavia airline company passenger jet, on a routine flight from Bologna to Palermo, suddenly disappeared without warning near the city of Ustica, killing all aboard. The little technical information that exists on the downing shows that a missile was responsible.

The *U.S.S. Saratoga*, which was in nearby Italian waters in the Tyrrhenian Sea, would have had routinely monitored the nearby plane with its radar. The U.S. government claims that the aircraft carrier had turned off its radar. It had no information to offer Italian investigators, it insisted. Just as oddly, the ship that picked up the DC-9 wreckage was owned by Infremar, a well-known French intelligence proprietary. The proprietary failed to find any relevant plane parts which would have indicated what happened.

Given no evidence of responsibility, the standard story has been: The Libyan terrorist regime of Muammar Qaddafi was responsible.

## 'Either the U.S. or France'

In his testimony, Martini came right to the point: Either the U.S. or France, and not Libya, was responsible for the massacre. A hypothetical Libyan MiG could not have had sufficient fuel to return to its base after a mission in the Tyrrhenian Sea, unless one or more Libyan fighter jets had utilized a foreign airbase, he reported. The only countries present in the Tyrrhenian Sea with sufficient armed forces capable of carrying out such operations are the United States and France, he added. Martini reported that the idea that the

*Saratoga* had turned off its radar is not credible.

When asked why the Libyans have been so quiet about possible American or French culpability for the tragedy, Martini stated that relations between Libya, France, and the United States are not what they appear to be. In 1980, the French were on a military collision course with Libya over the Libyan invasion of Chad. Yet, the French also did the maintenance work on Libyan aircraft in Chad at the same time, aircraft which were used to kill French soldiers. He also noted that the Americans, who officially have no diplomatic relations with Libya, maintain 5,000 workers inside Libya. The British do the same.

Then he came to the real bombshell. "It is not black or white. For example, despite the political-military tension, the Qaddafi regime has regularly honored the royalties to American oil companies. And not only that. On the occasion of the American election campaign, Libya financed the Bush campaign through the Texas oil companies. . . . Qaddafi supported the election of George Bush."

## The curious U.S.-Libyan relationship

While it is not certain what the Italian intelligence chief was referring to, the covert relationship between the Qaddafi regime and the U.S. government has long been notorious in informed circles. According to credible reports, it was the U.S. National Security Council, under Henry Kissinger, and the CIA, which installed Qaddafi in power in 1969. The Bechtel Corporation of California and the Vennel Corporation of Texas were the instruments the U.S. chose for this purpose; the former CIA station chief for Syria, Wilbur Crane Eveland, was the case officer, it is said.

Moreover, that same year, the NSC reportedly established the now notorious Propaganda-2 Freemasonic lodge as a cover for the Anglo-American destabilization of Italy. Libya is a former Italian colony. Qaddafi and P-2 have been involved in several joint operations, it has been alleged, for example, in joint sponsorship of Sicilian and Sardinian separatism. Several efforts to overthrow Qaddafi have been betrayed by P-2 elements within Italy, it is said.

Despite public tension between the U.S. and Libya, Libyan oil production continues to be dominated by the United States. These firms reportedly include Exxon oil, the Rockefeller-family linked firm which had been closely associated with George Bush's late father Prescott Bush. Exxon reportedly remains the most important Libyan oil company. Armand Hammer's Occidental Petroleum has also dominated Libyan oil production. Hammer had been convicted of illegally funding Richard Nixon's presidential campaign in 1968. One of George Bush's first acts as President was to pardon Hammer. Yet another firm is Charter Oil of Georgia, which while close to the Carter administration also included former President Gerald Ford on its board. Brent Scowcroft, the current National Security Adviser, and Kissinger clone, had been a paid Charter consultant.