

# Moro kidnap case may shift '360 degrees'

by Umberto Pascali

Two Roman magistrates are currently conducting an investigation into the role of a secret paramilitary network known as Operation Gladio in the 1978 assassination of Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro. They heard four hours of testimony from Adm. Fulvio Martini, the director of Italian military intelligence (the SISMI), during the week of Nov. 12. Explaining their decision to take testimony from the admiral, the magistrates declared, "We are in the process of a 360-degree reevaluation of the story of that kidnaping and murder."

As *EIR* reported on Nov. 9, Gladio has been secretly operating in Italy and other European countries for decades under the cover of NATO, with 1,000 agents and an unspecified number of sub-agents. It was initially supposed to prepare for guerrilla warfare in the case of a Soviet invasion of Western Europe, but was transformed into a destabilization capability against any potential opponents of British secret intelligence.

The Roman investigation has brought the shadow of the *Grande vecchio* (the Grand Old Man) back into Italian political life. That expression became a household word in Italy in the mid-1980s, when many newspapers and some magistrates advanced the hypothesis that the terrorist wave that had hit the country was organized from abroad by an apparatus (the Grand Old Man) which moved terrorists and organized crime as pawns in their game. In particular, this referred to the kidnaping and assassination of Moro in 1978, and the ensuing allegations against Henry Kissinger as the suspected instigator of that crime.

The two Roman magistrates, Franco Ionta and Francesco Nitto Palma, are convinced that the Red Brigades terrorists who kidnaped Moro were connected to certain intelligence networks both inside and outside Italy. There is one point that is difficult to explain otherwise. Recently, in an apartment in Milan, a bundle of papers (412 pages) written by Moro was found. These were a part of the interrogation to which Italy's leading elder statesman, at the time national chairman of the Christian Democracy, was subjected during his kidnaping. Moro discusses, among other things, the "secret NATO structure"—Gladio.

Now, given that the Red Brigades officially are communist or anarchist terrorists dedicated to the destruction of the

Italian state, the multinationals, NATO, America, and so on, why was the "confession" not used? "Did someone prevent the publication of the documents?" asked the newspaper *Corriere della Sera* on Nov. 24. "This is the fundamental point the two magistrates are working on. It is clear that, if they confirm that an external intervention indeed took place, i.e., that the Red Brigades were puppets manipulated by someone else, then all our recent history and the Moro case in particular, must be re-analyzed completely."

## The Super-SISMI

Martini, according to sources, told the magistrates that he would order immediate research into the secret archives of the military intelligence service. He pointed out that in 1978, his position was held by Gen. Giuseppe Santovito, a top member of the secret Freemasonic lodge Propaganda-2 (P-2) who was recently denounced as the go-between between a certain group inside the CIA and Italy. Under Santovito, a part of SISMI leadership was controlled by P-2—the part that coincided with Gladio.

This Super-SISMI or Parallel-SISMI, as it was labeled by the news media later, was controlled by Michael Ledeen, who became an assistant to Alexander Haig when Haig was U.S. secretary of state in 1981. Though an American citizen, Ledeen reportedly ran the Super-SISMI, especially through such intermediaries as the mafia-connected Francesco Paziienza. It is particularly sinister that, during Moro's kidnaping in April-May 1978, as-yet-unidentified "U.S. authorities" had sent to Italy an "anti-terrorist" expert who de facto ran the special team, set up at the Interior Ministry in Rome, that led the police investigations to find the statesman. Moro was never found, however, and many speculated that it was because of that special team that many leads that would have helped to locate him were not followed. The U.S. "anti-terrorist" expert was Michael Ledeen.

In the context of the Moro-Gladio inquiry, the two magistrates have found out that the terrorist who kept Moro prisoner, Mario Moretti, was suspected, even by lower members of the organization, to be working with intelligence networks. Ionta and Nitto Palma interrogated "repentant" terrorist Michele Galati, who reported that Moretti was "tried" in jail by other Red Brigaders. Galati also revealed that the terrorists received orders from Paris through the Hyperion language school, set up by three founding members of the Red Brigades.

Many more leads are piling up on the desks of the magistrates, including the case of Red Brigades leader Giovanni Senzani, a sociologist who was involved in Moro's kidnaping. He was arrested at that time in Genoa, but freed immediately, when the SISMI group in Florence sent an urgent message to the police in Genoa stressing that there was no evidence against him. His arrest possibly could have led to the liberation of Moro. But SISMI at that time was dominated by P-2 and, of course, by Gladio.