

## Civil rights leader: 'Italy must reject Bush's new order'

*Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, winner of the Martin Luther King Freedom Medal, addressed the Italian Catholic mass movement Communion and Liberation in Rimini on Aug. 23 (see EIR, Sept. 4, 1992). CL is close to the Popular Movement, a Christian Democratic political tendency. Mrs. Robinson's intervention was the subject of the following report on Sept. 15 by Agenzia Giornalistica Repubblica, an unconventional news service that circulates among VIPs in Rome. The story, translated by EIR, was headlined "According to the Heir of Martin Luther King, Italy Must Respond to Washington's 'Divide et Impera.'" Subheads have been added.*

"Do not allow Bush to pit you against one another, do not allow him to keep you as slaves. Understand that his strategy is that of divide and conquer." In this way the black American leader Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson addressed the thousands of people present on Aug. 23 in the auditorium of the Meeting of Communion and Liberation in Rimini. Exactly one week later, on Aug. 30, she delivered a similar message to a crowded panel at the Festival of *Unità* in Fiuggi. The other speakers at the debate were Sen. Sergio Flamigni and the editor-in-chief of *Unità*, Antonio Cipriani. On April 22, Mrs. Robinson had signed a front-page editorial in the daily of the PDS [*Unità*, formerly the daily of the Communist Party (PCI)], which had published a full-page interview with her on April 6.

Mrs. Robinson asked both audiences to do everything in their power to force Bush to free the presidential candidate and "political prisoner," Lyndon LaRouche, a man whom "Bush hates personally because he has a program that would solve really the economic crisis provoked by the Anglo-Americans" and who was imprisoned through a "disgraceful judicial railroad" only a few days after Bush's inauguration in January 1989.

Some observers sensitive to the political winds have asked themselves, "Are the foundations perhaps being laid for an alliance between the two major Italian parties? Are we going toward a so-called *Governissimo*, and what's more, with the prospect of a strong independent Europe? Are we at

the end of the Yalta era? How in the world is it possible that a person of this caliber is invited by those of the CL and those of the PDS at the same time, to shoot point-blank at the current U.S. administration, asking that Europe rebel against this tutelage, and asking instead that Europe take up the responsibility of helping the population of the United States, itself oppressed by the power structure?" The questions still hover in the air, even if the press preferred to ignore them.

### Who is Amelia Robinson?

But who is Amelia Robinson? The 81-year-old American black leader is a legendary name in the United States. It was she who launched the civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama, and who called to that city the Rev. Martin Luther King on Jan. 2, 1965. Mrs. Robinson's home became the central strategic residence for King. Thus began the historic arm wrestling between the growing movement guided by King and Robinson, and the racist power of the state of Alabama. And not only in Alabama.

In Washington, very powerful interests that expressed themselves by way of the founder and head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, had sworn not to permit the Constitution, and above all the right to vote, to be extended to blacks. After racist violence of all kinds against a movement which decisively maintained the line of nonviolence, the authorities were constrained to concede the Voting Rights Act, which did not permit hindrance of blacks' right to vote, which had been purely nominal up to then. As is known, the history of the movement for civil rights in the U.S. intersected the assassinations of leaders such as President John F. Kennedy, his brother Robert, Attorney General and presidential candidate, and King himself.

Amelia Robinson was de facto the person who opened the Rimini Meeting; the 23rd in fact was the day on which the debates began. Her message to the thousands of persons who listened to her, tense and attentive, in the colossal auditorium, was extremely direct: We must save the United States and the world from the dictatorial folly of Bush, of the new world order. Nor was she gentle with the Democratic candidate Bill Clinton ("the ugly copy of Bush"). The population of the United States, she explained, is racked by an internal economic crisis provoked by the usurious policies of Washington. The same is true for a large part of the rest of the world. The group around Bush has decided to impose its world order at whatever price, and has at its disposition all the instruments of global intervention in the world, above all the United Nations and NATO. Speaking of the war against Iraq, Mrs. Robinson has asked: "How is it possible that the vast majority of the countries of the world must obey Bush's orders, when these orders are turned against their own most basic interests? Why is the United Nations a prisoner of Washington? Why do these countries always say yes? The answer is that these countries are more afraid than they need to be.

"The blacks of the United States were at one time treated like cattle; the boss could kill them for whatever reasons, and their murder was justified in court. . . . And this is the life that George Bush hopes to impose on all the world. For this reason I say to you: Do not permit Bush to do today to all the world that which was done to us African-Americans: Do not permit yourselves to be made into slaves, if not physically, at least mentally. Do not let yourselves be brainwashed. Do not permit them to pit the one against the other as they have done with the ethnic minorities in America; understand that their strategy is one of 'divide and conquer'; in all these years, I have learned not to have fear, because it is fear which hinders people from reacting to the evils of the world and renders them slaves. Those countries that at the United Nations accept whatever decision that Bush imposes on them, are afraid, are more afraid than they need be. But you should react, stand up and be counted."

### The railroading of LaRouche

Then Mrs. Robinson launched into a detailed explanation of the case of Lyndon LaRouche. An argument extremely sensible, and about which it is said by many sources, that there is a very heavy veto on the part of the American Embassy, or from the powerful circles of Americans tied to Bush. The 70-year-old LaRouche is in prison, where he must serve 12 more years—for all practical purposes a life sentence. His case is one of the three cases which have been judged outrageous enough to be brought before the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, now the political prisoners are in the American prisons. After a point-by-point explanation of how the frame-up of LaRouche occurred, and why, Mrs. Robinson once again invited those present not to accept Bush's dictatorship.

She had obviously hit a raw nerve. The following day, almost all the major dailies reported the presentation, all with the same formulation and in general the same words. LaRouche was stamped as a "political guru," and his movement as "ambiguous" and "disquieting." Strangely, it was the AGI press agency that set the tone. None of the numerous journalists . . . had felt the need to go to the sources. As soon as she heard of this, Amelia Robinson wrote a communiqué: ". . . I shake my head and feel compassion for the fear that dominates the press and that makes us lose precious time while the world is once again girding itself for a new military adventure of George Bush, for electoral reasons. I am particularly saddened by the fact that here in Rimini, we are on the coast of the Adriatic, which touches the nations of the former Yugoslavia, victims of Serbian brutality. . . . The press is an influential instrument in society. It can destroy and reconstruct. In defaming Lyndon LaRouche, whose case has been recognized by the last official Report of the United Nations on Human Rights, as one of the three cases of the violation of civil rights in the United States, and has been presented at Geneva by the former U.S. Attorney General, Ramsey Clark,

the press organs show themselves to be dragged along by fear, because they did not know what they were talking about. . . . Martin Luther King was also imprisoned, defamed, knifed, and killed because he fought the dominant system in America, and wanted to make America return to the principles expressed by Christ. . . . I am 81 years old, and I know that the dream of Dr. King was shattered when he was killed. But it was not shattered for long. Lyndon LaRouche and the Schiller Institute are reviving it. . . ."

### Response in Italy

In an interview, a spokesman for the Rimini Meeting, Robi Ronza, declared that "the testimony of Amelia Robinson is powerful for involvement for the rights of man, a testimony that I do not hesitate to define as heroic, conducted throughout her whole life. . . ."

One week later, in Fiuggi for the local festival [of *Unità*], Mrs. Robinson received still more enthusiastic praise from Sergio Flamigni, PCI senator until the last legislature, member of all the hot parliamentary commissions, such as the anti-mafia one and the one on [the assassination of Aldo] Moro, the P-2, terrorism, author of an explosive and controversial book on the Moro case (*The Spider's Web*), during the war the youngest partisan captain in Italy, object of personal attacks by Francesco Cossiga after Flamigni had denounced the Atlantic [Alliance] as responsible for the destabilization of Italy. The other speaker in the discussion was Antonio Cipriani, editor-in-chief of *Unità* and co-author, with his brother Gianni, of the book *Limited Sovereignty*. Once again, Mrs. Robinson emphasized, "George Bush has a very precise *modus operandi*, not only inside the United States but also abroad, and it is that of pitting the one against the other, to divide and rule. Do not permit yourselves to do to your country what they have done in many countries in the world. . . ."

Finally, upon Cipriani's request, the black leader explained how the economy dominated by the Anglo-American banks works. She did this with an example: the plantation economy. Even after the official abolition of slavery, blacks in the South of the United States continued to live on the plantations, as de facto slaves. This time there was not a legal tie, but a financial, or better, "usurious" one, by way of the credit mechanism which was controlled by the plantation owner. At the end of a year of work, the black farmer not only had earned nothing, but was still more in debt to the owner, who functioned as a lender for buying seed and equipment. "This is happening today all over the Third World. This is how the international monetary system works, and the financial institutions of Washington and London," affirmed Amelia Robinson.

"At one time we talked about 'internationalism,' " said Flamigni, "But this is true internationalism, true, concrete. This exceptional woman makes us hear the voice of the true America and asks us to intervene, to fight. . . ."