

Movement launched to save Italy

In Milan in northern Italy, the first public conference of the recently founded Italian "Solidarity Movement," co-sponsored by *Executive Intelligence Review* and attended by leading Italian parliamentarians and other decisionmakers, has focused nationwide attention on the importance of adopting the economic policy proposals of American economist Lyndon LaRouche.

Opening speeches were given by *EIR*'s Claudio Celani, on the destabilization of Italy since the meeting held last January on the *Britannia*, Queen Elizabeth's private yacht, to discuss Italian privatization; by *EIR* European Economics Director William Engdahl, on the financial derivatives danger and how to stop it; and by Paolo Raimondi, president of the Solidarity Movement, on the economic program of Lyndon LaRouche and the urgent need to adopt his proposal to tax financial derivatives.

Among the 50 dignitaries attending the conference were two members of the Italian Senate: Democratic Left Sen. Augusto Graziani and International Socialist Sen. Alma Agata Cappelletto. Also present were two members of the Italian Chamber of Deputies: Christian Democratic Rep. Raffaele Tiscar, who has presented one of three requests for parliamentary investigation of the conspiracy to destabilize Italy as documented in an *EIR* report; and Rep. Irene Pivetti of the Northern League, which just won the municipal elections in Milan.

Other participants included economic experts from various universities in Milan, including Bocconi and Catholic, which are two of the most important; representatives from San Donato Milanese, an industrial center dominated by ENI, the national petroleum company; a group of Milanese Socialists; and journalists. Another member of the Italian Senate, Edda Fagni of the Rifondazione party, could not attend, but submitted her speech in writing to the conference, while a telegram of support came from Gerardo Bianco, chairman of the Christian Democratic caucus in the Chamber of Deputies.

National economic policy needed

Following the speeches, the parliamentarians were asked to comment. The first to speak was Senator Graziani of the Democratic Left Party (former Communist Party), who is an economics professor from Naples who had already been covered in the party's daily *L'Unità* opposing privatization

of government-owned industry and supporting the industrialization of southern Italy. Referring to the brief introduction made by conference chair Paolo Vitali on the geopolitical aspects of the attack against Italy, he said that "Italy is certainly at the center of international conflicts, particularly since the center of world conflicts moved from East-West to North-South, as indicated by the recent U.S. attacks against Somalia and Iraq. . . . Italy can either ally itself with the Franco-German axis, or with the United States, or keep on being a terrain of domination from all powers." As did all other speakers, Graziani called urgently for a national economic policy, and for political unity, since "our economy is being progressively disintegrated."

Northern League parliamentarian Pivetti spoke in opposition to Graziani's plea. Pivetti said that, in regard to legislation to stop derivatives, "privatization is not necessarily bad." Her opposition was not surprising, given that the Northern League's major program plank is to not pay taxes—the main reason why they received almost 40% of all votes cast in northern Italy, mostly from shopkeepers and small businessmen who feel desperate and impotent about the economic depression.

Christian Democrat Raffaele Tiscar, who is very close to the Catholic youth group Communion and Liberation, spoke next, thanking *EIR* for the "precious intelligence which it had supplied" and demanding a policy of national banking and credit, as well as controls over speculation, particularly derivatives. But he expressed doubt that a tax alone could do the job.

Two economic journalists, Giano Accame of the Catholic weekly *Il Sabato* and Gaudenzi of the Social Democratic daily *Umanità*, spoke next. Accame said, "It's a scandal that the present foreign minister of the Ciampi government, Beniamino Andreatta [a strong supporter of privatization and of British military proposals] attended a conspiratorial meeting on the *Britannia* against the Italian economy, and that nobody inside the government and Parliament has thrown this into his face yet."

Massimo Pini, who advised former Prime Minister Giuliano Amato on privatization, thanked *EIR* for "the incredible amount of figures and intelligence brought to the conference, which I hope will find its way into our press," and said he fully agrees that there is an Anglo-American plot against Italy. He emphasized the absurdity of a privatization policy in which the state takes over all debts of state holdings, and then, when they are debt free, sells them cheaply to foreign investors. Pini endorsed *EIR*'s call for a national banking policy for Italy.

In a brief statement, Sen. Alma Agata Cappelletto said she thinks that "what is happening today in Italy is not a unique case, including the massacre in Florence at the Uffizi [art gallery], with more terrorist attacks to come, which can be seen in the context of the attempt to destroy our country, economically and politically, and sell out its economy."