

contingent. Italian blue helmets would be seen as neutral by no party in the Bosnian conflict, for historical reasons. Thus, British-supported official U.N. requests were left unanswered by the previous government. But now, Martino has given a positive answer, although on the condition that Bosnians, Croatians, and Serbians sign an official peace treaty.

Martino has no diplomatic or political experience. His foreign policy is supposedly suggested by his cousin, Ferdinando Salleo di Sagra, a former ambassador who is now general secretary of the Foreign Ministry. In a recent interview with the geopolitical magazine *Limes*, Salleo supported the idea of full integration of Russia into western financial structures, and praised the results of Harvard flea-market economist Jeffrey Sachs's shock therapy in Poland. Both Martino and Salleo are Sicilian, from Messina. Martino's father Gaetano, who was a foreign minister in the '50s, is the person who sabotaged the attempt by Italian patriot Enrico Mattei and President Giovanni Gronchi to establish an anti-imperialist alliance in the Mediterranean with U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956. After Eisenhower's intervention against the Anglo-French colonial expedition at Suez, Gronchi wrote him a letter, at Mattei's suggestion. Martino prevented that letter from ever being sent. Years later, Mattei was killed in a plane crash, on orders from the U.S. oil multinationals. Martino senior was a member of the famous Propaganda-2 (P-2) freemasonic lodge. His son could not become a member because when he applied, in 1981, Italian authorities discovered the lodge and disbanded it.

Prime Minister Berlusconi, however, applied and received a membership card. Later, he explained that he had joined the lodge because it opened the way for him to business deals in Latin America. The fact is, that in the past, Berlusconi, like most representatives of Italy's anti-communist establishment, made deals with power centers directly steered by the Scottish Rite of British Freemasonry. This makes him quite vulnerable to blackmail and destabilization. One example is Berlusconi's unsuccessful attempt to prevent the key Interior Ministry, which has control of police, secret services, and administrative centers (the Prefetti), from going to a Northern League representative. The League candidate, Roberto Maroni, was supported by the great protector of the P-2, former President Francesco Cossiga. Cossiga, who was consulted twice by Berlusconi and in between flew to London and back, sabotaged Berlusconi's attempt to appoint star prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, and won his fight. Now that the Northern League controls police and secret service dossiers, they will use them not only against the opposition, but also against their government allies, as they have promised.

Another problem for Berlusconi is that the opposition will not play fair. Milan prosecutors have already opened an investigation into his business empire, and rumors that he would be subject to investigation for corruption on May 25 provoked a run on the lira and a collapse in the stock exchange. Berlusconi's plans to prevent his own impeachment

## Parlato calls for tax on derivatives

Antonio Parlato, the newly appointed deputy minister for the budget in the new Berlusconi cabinet, declared that the first thing he will discuss with Budget Minister Giancarlo Pagliarini is a tax on financial derivatives, according to the daily *Corriere della Sera* of May 15. "What will I tell Pagliarini? I will pose the Soros case. Yes, George Soros, the Quantum Fund financier," he said.

Recently, *Corriere* reports, investment products such as derivative instruments have been introduced on the Italian market—i.e., specialized funds for speculation against currencies. "It is Soros and his stepsons who gamble by investing thousands of billions, thus influencing monetary trends," says Parlato, who will propose two urgent measures: "First of all, we have to regulate derivative finance. Put some limits to such operations. And then introduce a severe taxation of these fortunes, which are subtracting resources from the real economy. And only the right wing can do this. The left is working with international finance. Do you know who [Party of the Democratic Left leader] Napolitano went to meet in the U.S.A. before the elections? None other than George Soros."

Parlato is an MSI member of Parliament who was the first to raise in the Italian Parliament the issue of the infamous meeting of bankers aboard the royal yacht *Britannia*, quoting from *EIR*, back in the spring of 1993. Since then, he has repeatedly exposed "the plot against the Italian national economy." In that same year, Parlato filed a Parliamentary Interrogation on the case of Lyndon LaRouche, who was then in jail on trumped-up charges.

are known: a reform to put the judiciary under political control. But he is running against time. Furthermore, on July 5, his government ally Umberto Bossi, leader of Northern League is scheduled to go to trial, together with leaders of all parties that have ruled Italy for 40 years, accused of "corruption."

Berlusconi is looking for support among Catholics. He has announced an anti-malthusian policy, and appointed a Family Minister who is opposed to abortion and eugenics. He has met the pope and promised collaboration with the Catholic Church, "because the values of Christian tradition and culture belong to us."