

# British launch new phase of their attack against the Italian nation

by Claudio Celani

Lyndon LaRouche's movement in Italy is leading a counter-offensive against the new phase of the British plot to dismember the nation. This new phase, as terrorism expert Gianni Cipriani wrote on June 2 in the daily *L'Unità*, aims at "provoking an evolution of separatist policy on the model already implemented by historical independentist movements such as ETA (Spain) and the IRA (Northern Ireland)." The Italian version of such movements is the Veneta Serenissima Armata (VSA), an offspring of the Liga Veneta-Lega Nord (the League of Veneta and the Northern League), which, during the night of May 10, shocked the nation by landing an armed commando squad of eight people in San Marco square in Venice, occupying the historic belltower, and issuing flags and proclamations of independence of the "Most Serene Venetian Government."

The commando squad was easily neutralized by anti-terrorist teams, and its members were arrested before sunrise. However, investigations soon revealed a larger network of clandestine, paramilitary groups ready to go into action against the "centralist state." Leaflets were found in several Italian cities, and telephone calls reached public offices announcing future retaliations, if the Venetian "patriots" were not released. But, more important, the Lega Nord, a party represented in the national Parliament and controlling numerous city administrations, organized backup for the *Serenissimi*, including legal assistance, money, and popular support for the "patriots." In a "referendum" held two weeks later by the Lega throughout North Italy, more than a million persons (4,833,000, according to the Lega) voted in favor of the independence of Northern Italy from the Rome government. Even if the figures given by Lega leaders might be exaggerated, many Northern Italians, although disagreeing with the idea of secession, believe that more "autonomy" could alleviate the deadly tax pressure which the Italian government is enforcing, in order to adhere to the European Union's so-called Maastricht guidelines. Lega leader Umberto Bossi, who is facing trial on July 2 on various charges, including conspiracy against the state, threatened "civil war" if state authorities do not back down to the Lega's political demands.

The coordination between the Lega and the VSA pushed Interior Minister Giorgio Napolitano to warn against a Lega-centered "gray zone" of destabilization. Author Gianni Cipriani described the content of police reports which were sent to

the interior minister, warning about "the existence of political groups which formally operate on a legal basis, [but] which are a front for the armed groups."

In a more precisely focussed statement, former prosecutor Carlo Palermo exposed the real source of the plans to break up Italy. Palermo is a well-known fighter against crime and terrorism, the only Italian prosecutor who survived a car-bomb explosion in the 1980s. In an interview with the Naples daily *Il Mattino* published on June 2, Palermo stated that the Lega's idea was elaborated, "not in Italy, but in London. It is a study made in the eighties by sociologists and economists, who asked themselves about the possibility of specific conditions to be created in Europe and in our country. These pre-existing elaborations are, in part, those which have been subjected to mutation by Bossi." Referring to the VSA commando squad, which called for reestablishing the old Venetian Republic, Palermo added: "That study referred to the old European oligarchies, one of which was for sure the Venetian one." Palermo concluded by calling for a serious investigation, from a "social and economic" standpoint, into "the English plan from which Bossi seemingly drew" his ideas.

The British plan referred to by Palermo is already known to *EIR* readers: It is the famous "Eurotopia" project, published in 1992 by Dutch beer magnate Alfred H. Heineken, as the result of years-long efforts with top British historian Cyril Northcote Parkinson (see *EIR*, Sept. 2, 1994, "Dutch Magnate Pushes Breakup of Europe"). Parkinson, now deceased, authored several studies on colonialism, aimed at learning from the mistakes of the British Empire. Another influence on the Heineken plan came from Prof. H.D. Wesseling, current head of the History Department at the University of Rotterdam, and educator of the Dutch crown prince. Wesseling, too, is an expert of colonialism.

The Heineken plan envisions the breakup of European nation-states into 75 mini-states, defined on the basis of ethnic and demographic criteria. The Italian portion of Heineken's Eurotopia map looks like a photocopy of a project issued by Lega Nord representative Francesco Speroni, a minister in the Italian cabinet in 1993.

*EIR* has also learned that the term "Padania," used by Umberto Bossi to describe his imaginary state of Northern Italy, was first used in a fictional book by William Gibson, the guru of the Cyberspace movement. A Canadian, Gibson

published a collection of novels entitled *Virtual Light* in 1990, one of which tells the story of a rich lady invited to a party, who would like to leave, but cannot. Her name is “Padania.”

### First Africa, then Europe

The importance of the Heineken plan is that its author has also played a role in the current genocide taking place in Central Africa. The Heineken company, in fact, is perhaps the single largest employer in the Great Lakes region, and whose presence there dates back to the British-Dutch colonial empire. Heineken was assigned to start the production of a “Nigro beer,” which was used to introduce widespread alcoholism in the Anglo-Dutch plantation, as a primitive but effective means of social control. Furthermore, Heineken’s local revenues are an important part of the state budget of countries such as Rwanda and Burundi, which have co-financed Laurent Kabila’s invasion of Zaire. Thus, Heineken’s Eurotopia project has to be seen as part of the international oligarchical plans for the destruction of nation-states and for genocidal wars, intended by the Malthusians to reduce population.

It is not coincidental, therefore, that Heineken has been a member of Prince Philip’s 1001 Club, the “central committee” of the international oligarchy. Another member of that Club, Maj. Mortimer Bloomfield, was head of the Canadian branch of Heineken. His son, a banker, today is involved in separatist movements in Canada.

As Helga Zepp LaRouche recently warned, “What today happens in Africa, is tomorrow going to occur on the European continent.” Italy is the first in line: Next will be Germany.

### The Italian model for a feudal Europe

The real target which the 1001 Club has set for Italy, is the destruction of the institutions of the nation-state and the establishing of a feudal system, where central power no longer exists. Territorial power is to be given over to the local oligarchs, with a national President (a Doge-Dux), who serves as figurehead. To keep up a semblance of democracy, the puppet President-Dux will hold popular referendums, in which the population will ratify decisions already made by the oligarchy. It is the modern version of the Nero model. In this process, both the economy and the population will shrink to one-third of their current dimensions.

If you read the recent Italian developments from this standpoint, you can understand how apparently contradictory forces are moving in this scenario, competing for the role of the “new Mussolini.” On one side, there is the separatist Lega Nord, with its Duce, Umberto Bossi; on the other side, the “man of Providence,” former prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, a southerner who became a media “anti-corruption” hero, through his “Clean Hands” investigations in 1992-93. Di Pietro occasionally plays the “anti-Bossi” role, but in reality, both the Clean Hands operation and the Lega Nord are creatures born of the same mother, the “Romulus and Remus” born from a British horse. Robert McNamara’s Transparency



*Campaign posters of the Lega Nord in Milan, 1994. The commando takeover of the belltower in St. Mark’s Square in Venice is part of a recruiting drive, and a new wave of terrorism.*

International, the umbrella organization of the various national “anti-corruption” crusades of which Di Pietro is the Italian operative, is chaired in Italy by a Lega Nord representative.

Thus, it was no surprise when, thanks to the decisive votes of six representatives of the Lega Nord, on June 4, the special “Bicamerale” committee of the Italian Parliament passed a Constitutional reform that seems to be tailored to install Di Pietro as the new Mussolini. According to that reform, Italy will adopt a French-style Presidential system, where the head of state is also the head of government, and is directly elected by the voters. If that reform is confirmed with two-thirds of the vote in a Parliamentary plenary session, it is universally believed that, were Di Pietro to run as a candidate, he would be elected, hands down. Di Pietro has already accused both the government and the opposition parties of manipulating the election laws in order to block that possibility: “They are afraid that I will be elected,” he wrote, in his weekly column in the magazine *Oggi*, on the eve of the Bicamerale vote. His “enemy,” Bossi, had already stated, on May 27: “In a few

months, with the Presidentialist reform,” Di Pietro “will send all of them home.”

Di Pietro denied, in a public meeting on June 13, that he wants to be the “man of Providence” (a definition which was used for Mussolini). But the very fact that he had organized the meeting, summoning political and business leaders to his university room near Varese, speaks to the contrary. Di Pietro claimed to be satisfied with the Constitutional reforms, but warned political parties that, if they do not behave, he will mobilize “the public.”

### **The Bossi-Di Pietro comedy**

When the trial against the VSA terrorists opened in Venice, on May 21, the defense attorney, Franco Gasperini, stated: “The real question at the center of the trial should be discussed in the Bicamerale.” Gasperini is a Lega Nord representative in the Italian Senate. The Lega has not only provided legal counsel to the VSA, but also money, through a front organization called LIFE (Liberi Imprenditori Federalisti Europei). The LIFE is a tax-revolt operation, half of whose members, small businessmen and retailers, come from the city of Treviso. Its current chairman, Anna Maria Giro, has opened a bank account for the VSA, to cover both legal expenses and payment of damages caused by the belltower commando squad. The founder of LIFE, Fabio Padovan, is under criminal investigation for having characterized the VSA commandos as “patriots.”

The trial was postponed to June 3. In the meantime, the Lega’s political assault against the state unfolded.

Galvanized by the success of the referendum of May 25, showing undiminished mass support for the Lega, despite the terrorism threat, Bossi decided to go for a showdown with the authorities, and launched his threat of civil war. On May 28, he released an interview to his official biographer, Daniele Vimercati, which he then officially denied, in order to avoid legal consequences. The key passage of the interview is the following: “The power in Rome must decide, either a referendum [on secession], or civil war. . . . There are hundreds of trials against me; I will really see whether the regime wants to go ahead with repression. If so, please: I will bring hundreds of thousands of people into the streets, in front of the courts, and then things will end badly. The hand reaches to the holster.”

Despite Bossi’s denial of having said that, the threat was delivered. Another separatist ideologue, Gianfranco Miglio, explained to the press on May 30: “The aim has been achieved. I would not talk so much of civil war, but rather of revolution. I believe that the shift to violent behavior is justifiable. The Northern people could start shooting. These times remind one of the period immediately preceding the French Revolution.”

Despite the outcry against Bossi coming from all political parties and even from President Luigi Scalfaro, the effect of Bossi’s threat was to intimidate the state and the Parliament. The day before the vote in the Bicamerale, another part of the comedy went on: In front of the court building where the

second session of the trial against the VSA was taking place, a practice run for a civil war scenario was played out. Without any plausible explanation, local police authorities allowed two demonstrations to take place, one pro- and the other anti-VSA. The only “precaution” taken, was that one demonstration had to take place to the left, and the other to the right of the court building. Of course, this did nothing to avert violence. Of all people, Liga Veneta founder Franco Rocchetta and LIFE founder Padovan showed up on the wrong side of the building; they were beaten up, after which the police intervened. The anti-VSA demonstrators threw stones, which, without expertise in geology, one could see had been not picked up on the spot, and the fight started. All this was of course played up by the media, reminding people of a dramatic past when Italy was torn by terrorist violence, and hinting darkly at a future repeat of those years.

The terrorist threat has apparently succeeded, blackmailing Parliament into the direction indicated by the Lega Nord and its masters. The next demand will be, as part of the Constitutional reform, that all Italian regions be given special autonomous power, similar to that conceded to Sicily at the end of World War II, at that time under the threat of a separatist movement led by the Mafia and the British oligarchy.

### **Parallels: separatists and Red terrorists**

Although the VSA and other separatist formations do not yet represent a threat similar to the Red Brigades, and they are used by the Lega more as a psywar operation, they could soon reach that greater terrorist potential. For sure, the process of creating the new terrorism is identical to that used in the case of the Red Brigades. As in the 1970s, the first phase of the new movement consists in spectacular actions, aimed at impressing young people and convincing them to join. Before planting bombs, the Red terrorists of the 1970s started with interference in national radio broadcasts. Similarly, before the raid on the San Marco belltower, the VSA broadcast “independentist” proclamations, through interference in national TV programs. The raid itself was the spectacular action aiming at starting a massive wave of recruitment.

However, the new terrorism, like the old one, is no sociological phenomenon. On one side, its leaders are part of intelligence operations of the “Gladio” type, a secret NATO “stay behind” structure which was built up after the war, officially to be used in case of communist invasion. In reality, the Gladio networks were used to run terrorism.

On the other side, the larger membership of the terrorist groups is recruited through brainwashing, using a synthetic ideology. Both the Marxist version of the 1970s, and the new separatist one, are based on localism and anti-authoritarianism.

As concerns the first aspect, several elements corroborate this analysis. To start with, the top leadership of the Lega Nord is connected to Operation Gladio. The Lega faction leader in the Parliament, Domenico Comino, is a former military officer who was signalled as a potential member of

Gladio. Furthermore, several Lega Nord and Liga Veneta leaders are coming from neofascist circles which are historically contiguous to Gladio. This is the case, for instance, of Franco Rocchetta, founder of the Liga Veneta, and of Fabrizio Comencini, the current regional secretary of the Lega. The VSA commander, Luigi Faccia, comes from neofascist circles as well.

The structure of terrorism in Italy has historically used both “left” and “right” operations. The leaders of the Lega Nord, like Bossi himself, have a leftist background, as is the case of another member of the VSA commando squad. For the next phase, the old “Autonomist” movement founded by Toni Negri, which was the broader base of the Red Brigades in the 1970s, has been retooled into a “left independentist” movement, to be launched against the “right-wing *leghisti*.” The anti-VSA demonstrators in front of the Venice court were, in fact, Autonomist groups from Padova. Under direction from their historical leaders, such as Negri or Franco Piperno, the new generation of Autonomists has turned into a “municipalist” operation against the “centralized state.” Their hero is Mexico’s Subcommander Marcos, leader of the Zapatistas, and their only difference with the Lega Nord is that they proclaim themselves “anti-racist.”

### Mythological lies from Venice

As for the second aspect, the belief structure of both the “left” and the “right” independentists has been fabricated by mythologies concocted by the Venetian oligarchy, which today acts as a subsidiary of the City of London. VSA commander Luigi Faccia has been reported to know by heart a book written by Alvise Zorzi, entitled *La Repubblica del Leone*. This book has been key in rewriting history from a standpoint favorable to the oligarchical Republic of Venice. In what Zorzi himself, interviewed by this author, calls the “rediscovery of Venetian roots,” the ancient Republic of Venice is described as a model state, where democratic mechanisms, social life, and culture are the best one could aspire to nowadays. This reality, according to Zorzi, has been suppressed by the culture of Italy’s Risorgimento, the national movement that united the country in 1860.

Zorzi, a descendent of the famous sex adviser to Britain’s King Henry VIII, formally distances himself from the VSA and even the Lega-Liga, which he considers “xenophobic” and “like Hitler,” but this is just a facade. It is the typical modus operandi of the Venetian oligarchy (which then became the British oligarchy), to deny paternity of the monsters they regularly beget. Similarly, it was the Venetian oligarchy that created fascism, only to distance itself from it later on.

In reality, the base for the separatist movements is exactly the “rediscovered roots” of a nonexistent Venetian people, an operation launched, in its most recent form, by Zorzi. The Venetian people, according to Zorzi, have intrinsic virtues such as dedication to work, which other Italian “peoples” (i.e., southerners) do not have. “In the past, we have been despised because we were poor, and we had to emigrate. Today, we

are oppressed because we are rich; we produce more than any other Italian region, and we are despised as well.” Zorzi, claiming that he does not want to talk about politics, insists that the Venetian people must be “recognized in their dignity” by the Rome authorities.

In distancing himself from the VSA, Zorzi rejects the idea of “rebuilding the Venetian Republic,” but he says that “a few lessons could be learned.” The Italian state could learn, for instance, the Venetian application of the “separation of powers” between Church and State. “Venice was a most religious republic; it had a state religion. But, at the same time, it was the most liberal republic.” In other words, principles do not interfere with political life.

Another teaching which could be taken from the Venetian Republic, is what then became “the British system of law, a much better system than the Italian,” says Zorzi. This system, under the cover of rejecting “legal technicalism,” prevented magistrates from being expert in law. “It was enough that you had an honest man who could judge with equity.” Zorzi does not say it, but at that point, you do not need the law.

Another lesson from Venice, is the concept of the “common good.” According to this idea, the elite of the nation shares “dreadful economic sacrifices” with the people in times of emergency, when the future of the nation (read: of the oligarchical *Fondi*) is at stake.

Even if Zorzi would deny that, it was exactly his work of “rediscovery of the roots” that brought the Liga Veneta-Lega Nord to light.

Emulating Zorzi, Liga founder Franco Rocchetta wrote a monumental *History of Venice and of the Venetians*, which was serialized in the 1980s in the local Venetian newspaper *Il Gazzettino*, and was the recruiting program for the Liga Veneta. The editor in chief of *Il Gazzettino*, Giorgio Lago, son of a fascist leader, is today pushing the “respectable” version of separatism. Writing for the daily *La Repubblica*, Lago interviewed Venetian business leaders who commented on the VSA raid. One of these, Count Pietro Marzotto, gave the following line: 1) The VSA raid is a serious warning to the country; 2) Italy must absolutely respect the Maastricht criteria; 3) family-based capitalism will come to an end; 4) the future of the world is in globalization.

More or less the same things were repeated by another star of Venetian business, Luciano Benetton, whom Lago described as follows: “He first learned to sell, and then to produce.”

This expresses the truth of the so-called “northeastern economic miracle,” a relatively modest upswing of economic activities in the regions of Veneto, Trentino, and Friuli, which was due to exports boosted by the 1992-93 devaluation of the Italian lira. This relatively positive economic result, compared to negative figures for the other Italian regions, has been used both to promote the Veneto region as the example of successful adaptation to “globalization” (a British study put it at first place for income growth in Europe), and to accuse the central state of parasitically draining resources from the

northeast, through excessive taxes.

The reality behind the mythology is that the economic structure of this region is most fragile. Basically no research and development is taking place, since the industrial firms are too small to do it. No new technology is being developed, and the modest penetration of products from this region to eastern European and Asian markets is done in the wake of bigger firms, either Italian (in this case, based outside the region) or German.

Other figures show that Venetians have very little “dignity” (to use Zorzi’s words) to defend: According to a national survey, 96% of inhabitants of the Veneto region consider Classical culture “a nonproductive capital which is not indispensable to growth.” The rate of school attendance in Verona, the city that half of the VSA commando squad comes from, is 61.4%, compared to the national average of 74%. In Padova, the city that the other half of the commando group comes from, only 85 persons out of 1,000 buy a daily newspaper—40 fewer than in Sardinia, and half of the Ligurian average. The number of libraries per capita in Padova is inferior to southern Italian cities such as Nuoro, Isernia, or Reggio Calabria. Such figures prompted a commentator in *Corriere della Sera*, the largest Italian daily, to suggest that “since ignorance is allowed only for one generation, the progressive exhaustion of an economic boom

on fragile legs” is foreseeable.

Behind the myth, the Veneto region is the forerunner of the oligarchical model of a 5% cultivated elite, ruling over a 95% of ignorant masses. That is the reality behind the so-called “municipalist” project that the British want to enforce upon Italy.

### ‘Municipalization’ of the economy

Unfortunately, the current Italian government is no effective obstacle to such projects. The British lobby inside this government, led by Economics Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and his director general, Mario Draghi, has a decisive influence, as the recent moves toward privatization and budget austerity have once again confirmed.

Take, for example, the decisions involving one of the most important industrial conglomerates still under state ownership, Finmeccanica. A result of a historically successful process of bailing out private industrial firms, among them Ansaldo of Genoa, Finmeccanica is a high-technology producer in the fields of aerospace, shipyards, weapon systems, and electronics. Its chairman, Fabiano Fabiani, has been fired, and a new chairman has been appointed, who has a mandate to privatize the company. Commenting on the decision, renowned economist Marcello De Cecco has exposed a hidden strategy to dismantle Finmeccanica and return its pieces to Genoa, to the oligarchical families that owned and bankrupted the original firms saved by the state: “The circles and the men that now in Genoa anticipate the return of ‘their’ companies, have not invested one penny in them. They now plan to make ‘municipal,’ the money that the whole of Italy has put in those companies, and of becoming the protagonists of their ‘privatization.’ Their ancestors behaved no differently, when they called foreigners into Italy five centuries ago, to prevail against the other Commune, or the other Republic, or the other Signory, to look at one’s own *particolare*, hating the next one.”

De Cecco sarcastically warns: “Let us prepare for an orgy of Panglossism among our intellectual class, which will celebrate, supported by authoritative foreign opinions, the new municipalism, as a return to the real and deepest Italian traditions. . . . Engineering students should prepare to look for a job abroad.

“To the Panglosses who are ready to rediscover this Golden Age, it is worth recalling that, after the glorious fifteenth century, there came the sixteenth, and the seventeenth, the saddest centuries of our history, when in Rome, Milan, and Venice, people lived by the jobs for which today Bangkok is famous. And, in the nineteenth century, whole cities of central Italy trained their children to beg, and sent them begging throughout Europe. But at that time, at least, we did produce children. Today, we do not do that any longer.”

To use Bossi’s words, in a statement on May 25: “You cannot stop the globalization of the markets. That is what is changing the world.”

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