

Sixty-one people were wounded, some of them seriously. In the end, 93 people were arrested, but 68 of them were immediately released. Among the 25 detained, were German and British citizens. The weapons collected included knives, sticks, a gas-mask, and they were displayed at a press conference in which no questions were allowed. Not exactly what was expected.

## Was the Italian Government Set Up?

The next day, a well-coordinated international campaign started against alleged Italian “police brutality.” Leading the charge, were the British media, but with French and German media chiming in. The British Foreign Office and the German Foreign Ministry filed a formal request for information from the Italian government; British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw

## Catholic Social Doctrine and True ‘Anti-Globalization’

Although many Catholic organizations have joined the Genoa Social Forum and participated in the “anti-G-8” demonstrations, the Catholic Church has not officially been part of it. Instead, the Church, through Genoa Bishop Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, had organized its own demonstration one week before the G-8 summit, in order to distinguish itself from the GSF. The Church follows the papal encyclicals and speeches on the Catholic social doctrine, which have placed great emphasis on the Common Good of humanity as the goal of economic policy, and have directly criticized some aspects of globalization because of its visible effects in the general impoverishment of nations.

Among these aspects, is the deregulation of capital markets and financial speculation. However, the Pope does not formulate proposals or economic programs, and leaves that task to others. But when it comes to translating principles into programs, the Church finds itself caught on the horns of a dilemma: On one side, Christians cannot accept the definition of globalization as “inevitable,” which derives from a materialistic conception of history. On the other side, the Church is afraid that by totally rejecting globalization, the Church will become identified with its extremist fringes, the enemies of “capitalism” and technology who support the Chiapas and other “indigenous” insurgencies.

In an effort to overcome this apparent paradox, Cardinal Tettamanzi has suggested (a book with his speeches on globalization has been published to coincide with the Genoa summit) that globalization be considered “a sign of the times,” to take an expression from the Bible. This expression offers an interpretation of globalization as “made by man” and therefore changeable by man. At the same time, however, the “signs of the times” mean also that God takes note of globalization in His divine plan. In the Cardinal’s explanation, it is understood as if God wants to see what man makes out of it.

The shortcomings of the Church action were visible in the economic proposals presented by Catholic associations gathered in Genoa on July 7. Leaving aside the call for a debt moratorium, which some Church leaders have been pushing for 14 years, Catholic associations have included in their “manifesto”: a call for a sort of “Tobin tax” on financial transactions; the Kyoto Protocol carbon dioxide emissions; free information; public financing of anti-AIDS medicines; and abolishing barriers (import tariffs) in developed nations to marketing of Third World agricultural products.

An apparently similar, but in reality qualitatively different intervention, was made by Italy’s Sen. Ivo Tarolli, a member of the Catholic CCD party, who introduced legislation calling for an international conference to “regulate the financial markets.” The proposal, supported by 20 Senators from different government parties, was formulated also on the occasion of the Genoa G-8 summit. By introducing the element of a reorganization of the financial system, Senator Tarolli gives effectiveness to all other proposals such as debt cancellation, a tax on financial transactions, etc., which, however legitimate, become impracticable in the context of a collapsing world monetary and financial system.

Senator Tarolli also proposes that, in the context of debt cancellation for the poorest countries, cancellation of interest payment by large developing countries also be discussed. In addition, he proposes to constitute development funds with joint management by industrial and developing countries, to finance development projects in those nations whose debt is cancelled.

Tarolli stresses that his principle is not a redistribution of wealth, but that “if we develop the poor, we all become rich,” in the sense that industrialized nations create markets for their products. Tarolli had earlier introduced, in the previous legislature, a Senate motion calling for a “New Bretton Woods” international conference. He recently repeated that call, during hearings held by the Russian State Duma (lower house of Parliament) economics committee, chaired by Sergei Glazyev; lead testimony at those hearings was provided by the author of the New Bretton Woods concept, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. — *Claudio Celani*