The Italian Earthquake Didn’t Just Happen

May 14 (IPS) — Mounting scientific and other evidence points to the fact that the series of earthquakes which devastated the Friuli region of northeastern Italy, killing over 800 persons, injuring over 3,000 and leaving 100,000 homeless, was an “artificial” “natural” disaster, created and maintained by NATO. While at the present time there is only circumstantial evidence that NATO agencies directly created the earthquake itself, the fact is that the earthquake had been predicted by Italian seismologists, and no preparatory measures or even warnings were undertaken. Following the quake, the “relief” measures implemented were purposefully inadequate, designed rather to maximize the psychological impact and social destabilization of the regions affected. This artificial “natural” disaster is being used by Rockefeller-Agnelli as a pretext to militarize Italy under direct NATO control, while simultaneously discrediting the existing republican institutions as incapable of appropriate action.

The May 9 Washington Post, together with leading Italian press, reported that the Italian seismologist Raffaele Bendandi had predicted that the earthquake would occur. This capability to accurately determine the strength, time and place of an earthquake has only recently been developed, as noted in a September 1, 1975 Time magazine cover story on forecasting of earthquakes. Yet, with the information before them, the appropriate authorities failed to take any preparatory measures, or to warn the population in any way.

Suspicious Circumstances

The United States and associated NATO agencies have invested large sums in developing the capability for either creating or manipulating earthquakes. The research has been so extensive that, according to Science Magazine, virtually every earthquake seismologist in the U.S. has conducted work for the Defense Department. And a large portion of this work has been carried out under the direction of Dr. Edward Teller — ostensibly for the development of in situ gassification of coal — points toward a fully operational capability. In a situation where the potential for an earthquake is known to exist, it is quite feasible that this method would provide the means for setting it off.

The circumstantial evidence pointing to this is the following:

* According to Italian press reports, including the daily Corriere della Sera of the week preceding the quake, mysterious oil drilling operations were conducted in the Friuli region by unidentified persons, or organizations.

**Italian radio reported May 7-8 that the U.S. Navy was conducting oceanographic research in the northern Adriatic which is adjacent to the Friuli region. Shipping was cordoned off from the area. Mr. Robinson of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office of Research categorically denied that any of the navies’ 12 oceanographic research ships were in the Adriatic before, during, or after the earthquake. In recent years with the development of offshore oil drilling technology, the ability to drill thousands of feet beneath the Ocean bottom has been fully realized.

Grid of Political Developments Surrounding Friuli Disaster

One thing is absolutely certain: If Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller, Fiat owner Gianni Agnelli and their henchmen were actually able to order artificially-induced earthquakes, they would have ordered one for Italy precisely at the time that the Friuli disaster took place. The “disaster” was perfectly coherent with interests of these Atlanticists.

In late April, NATO press and other policy conduits began to clearly signal the activation of a military coup d’état operation for resolving the issue of whether Italy would or would not pay its enormous debt to the New York commercial banks. By April 24, the appearance of such code-phrases as “state crisis” and “NATO code” had become so

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The evidence that NATO in fact possesses the capability to not only capitalize upon but cause or at least focus earthquakes and other “natural” disasters (e.g., weather modification), is unannounced but well-documented in the public domain.

A leading Italian expert on earthquakes who was widely quoted as having predicted the Friuli tremors, Dr. Bendandi of the Seismology Observatory of Faenza in northern Italy, refused comment on the possibility that NATO exercised “geothermal warfare” capabilities to cause the current Italian calamities. Mr. Bendandi was willing, however, to state his “personal conviction” that “the Guatemala earthquake last year was caused artificially by an underground atomic explosion.”

That is only one of the methods under intensive study by NATO and the U.S. Defense Department for the last 20 years,