

## Report from Italy by Marco Fanini

### The 'war on crime'

*A series of new arrests by Judge Palermo confirms EIR's charges about control of the drug and weapons traffic.*

Judge Carlo Palermo, the noted magistrate from Trento, Italy, has found proof of the involvement of the Freemasonic Propaganda-2 Lodge in the international drug and weapons traffic, a network spanning what is otherwise known as "the Bulgarian Connection."

Judge Palermo has arrested Massimo Pugliese, a member of the P-2 lodge who has also worked in various divisions of Italian counterintelligence. This arrest led to the recovery of documents and correspondence between P-2 chief Licio Gelli (currently in prison in Switzerland) and other members of the P-2. These documents have provided the proof of the P-2's involvement in an illegal international traffic of helicopters, tanks, Exocet missiles, and the like.

It was Judge Palermo who last November had cracked a gigantic international drugs-for-weapons ring headquartered in Milan and spanning Europe, the Middle East, and the Golden Crescent. He had established at the time that drugs were the common currency used for payment of illegal weapons purchased on the black market.

Last November Palermo had arrested the Syrian Henri Arsan in Milan, who through his Stipam International Transports Company, one of the largest black market weapons traffickers in Europe. Arsan had worked with the Turkish mafia led by Cantas, Ertem Teguren, and Bekir Celenk, a mafia protected by the Bulgarian secret

services and hence also by the Soviet KGB.

This is the same Celenk who was since incriminated in the attempted assassination of the Pope, identified as the man who paid off Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk now behind bars for attempting the hit.

But Henri Arsan was also linked to sections of American, West German, and Italian intelligence. According to official documents, he had been supplying information to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration since 1972.

As the above indicates, Judge Palermo has uncovered a drugs and weapons contraband network that extends from East to West and is protected by corrupt sectors of the secret services.

On the Italian side, the intelligence faction involved is that linked to the P-2 lodge of Licio Gelli. It thus turns out that the statement issued by former Prime Minister Spadolini last December was correct: the Bulgarian connection and the P-2 are the same thing.

Let us look at the case of the latest arrests carried out by Judge Palermo, particularly that of Massimo Pugliese. Pugliese is an ex-member of SIFAR and SID (predecessors of the present secret services), and is now agent of the SISMI, the counterespionage entity. He is also a member of the P-2 and a director of ORUS, an export-import firm trading in weapons, whose board of directors features noted P-2

members Vincenzo De Nardi and Aldo Giacci.

Others arrested in Judge Palermo's criminal roundup were Ivan Galileos, Carlo Bertocini, Vincenzo Giovanelli, and Glauco Partel, all of whom are also alleged weapons smugglers and undercover SISMI agents. Trieste-born Glauco Partel is a particularly key figure. Fifty-six years old, with degrees in chemistry and philosophy, he is tied to dozens of fictitious corporations controlled by the SISMI and involved in weapons trafficking.

Partel is a polyglot who speaks excellent Russian and who, according to some sources, has had past contacts with the West German, American, and perhaps also Soviet intelligence services.

It was Partel who mediated the sale of part of the French-manufactured Exocet AM-39 missiles sold by the Swiss contrabandist Gerard Hallauer to the Argentine government during the Malvinas War. Roberto Calvi, the P-2 member and Ambrosiano bank chief subsequently murdered in London, was the reputed financier of the operation; Calvi is said to have turned over 42 billion lire in funds from his Banco Andino subsidiary to the Banca Credito e Commercio in Lugano, Switzerland.

The British Secret Intelligence Service, however, succeeding in blocking the sale of the Exocets.

Judge Palermo's investigations are leading back to the notorious "Monte Carlo Committee" organized by P-2 chief Licio Gelli and by Ezio Giunchiglia, with participation from financiers and political personalities from all over the world.

Among these were members of the Trilateral Commission, including Henry Kissinger, according to the testimonies gathered by Judge Aldo Gentile of Bologna.