

Gelli 'Comeback' Exposes Synarchists, But Threatens To Destabilize Italy

by Claudio Celani

The “puppet-master” of Italian politics, as he defined himself in 1980, Licio Gelli resurfaced in late September in an interview in which he insisted the Synarchist faction he notoriously represents, is again running Italian politics.

The Grand Master of the secret Propaganda Due (P2) freemasonic lodge disbanded in 1981—the largest international conspiratorial organization ever discovered in the western world—was at the center of Italian political and media attention in the 1980s as the Anglo-American secret operations through the P2 lodge and the “Gladio” network were exposed. Gelli gave an interview to the leftist daily *La Repubblica* on Sept. 28, to announce that he still pulls the strings in Italy.

Gelli is now 84 years old and has served a short sentence (under house arrest) for obstructing justice in the 1980 “strategy of tension” terrorist bombing of the Bologna train station. He told *La Repubblica* that his Synarchist conspiratorial “Plan for Democratic Rebirth” is being implemented step by step, partly by blackmail of Italian political leaders. His interviewer revealed that the infamous P2 leader remains extremely active and receives people in three cities; in order to meet him one has to wait for at least 12 days.

The resurfacing Signor Gelli is representative of the Italian terminus of an international financial power group which Lyndon LaRouche calls the Synarchist international, whose current most dangerous political front-man is U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. Gelli has been for many years a pivot between the Synarchist financial oligarchy and its political/terrorist arm. His public re-emergence comes just as the exposure of Cheney in the United States has intensified around the investigation of the operation against Ambassador Joe Wilson’s wife. Its purpose is clearly to destabilize Italy, knocking it out of a French- and German-led opposition to the Cheney group’s policies.

‘I See My Plan Being Implemented’

Defeating the European strategic opposition to the Synarchist “perpetual war” scenario, as well as the potential for a Eurasian policy of economic development, is Gelli’s target. So his “outing” is a political document to be read at several levels: on one side, to blackmail the Italian government; at the same time, to wave a red flag in front of the opposition; and to announce that the Synarchist project is alive and strong.

“I look at the country, read the newspapers, and think: Look, everything is being implemented, little by little, piece after piece,” Gelli told *Repubblica*. “Maybe, I should ask for authorship rights. Justice, television, police reforms: I wrote everything 30 years ago.” Of course, such a statement has heavy implications for Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, himself one of the 960 known members of Propaganda Due. Berlusconi has never denied having joined the P2, but he has denied being aware of its subversive aims. Gelli calls him “an above-average man. I remember well, already at the time of our first meetings, that he had this characteristic: He knew how to implement his projects. A man of action. We need those people in Italy—no talk, action.” Asked, “Do you still speak to Berlusconi?” Gelli responded, “What an impertinent question,” and noted that his most recent book was published by a company that publishes only three authors: Gelli, the Pope, and Berlusconi. Gelli praises Berlusconi because he recently appointed another former P2 member as coordinator of his Forza Italia party. “Berlusconi was right in cleaning up his party recently, to put it in the hands of a man like [Fabrizio] Cicchitto. I know Cicchitto well: He is good, competent.”

Why is Gelli boasting? And does he really control the Italian government? A partial answer was given by the former chairman of the parliamentary investigating committee on the P2, Tina Anselmi, in an interview in *Repubblica* the next day. Anselmi, very worried by Gelli’s statements, recalled that Cicchitto had given her committee one of the clearest explanations of how P2’s power worked. Cicchitto had explained that he, at that time a leader of the Italian Socialist Party, felt a distinct threat to his life, including from people shadowing him in a period when terrorism was rampant in Italy. “Friends told me: if you want to eliminate the threat, go to Gelli. I did that, and the threat disappeared.”

But Gelli’s arrows are not only for Berlusconi. He has some also for Vice Premier Gianfranco Fini, and for the third “strong man” in the government, Lega Nord (Northern League) leader Umberto Bossi. Gelli recounts his friendship with the founder of the neo-Fascist party, the Italian Social Movement (MSI), Giorgio Almirante: “We were good friends, we were in [Mussolini’s] Social Republic together. I financed him two times: The second time for Fini. He was a real promising guy, Fini. In the last couple of years, he sort of faded.” Gelli then, with studied ambiguity, told his inter-



Licio Gelli's "Propaganda Due" freemasonic lodge—the largest secret political conspiracy ever uncovered in the West—ran a right-wing/left-wing "strategy of tension" to make Italy ungovernable during the 1980s and 1990s, including the terrorist murder of minister Aldo Moro and numerous terror bombings like this at the Bologna train station in 1980.

viewer, "There is only one puppet-master; there cannot be more than one." Asked, "Who?" he replied indirectly: "Now? This is a very modest, mediocre political class. They are all blackmailable." "Everybody? Even Bossi?" "Bossi created his fortress with Padania [Northern Italy] and has elected 80 members to Parliament. He was clever. But he had a lot of debts."

On his "plan," and the nature of P2's power in Italy, Gelli claimed, "Look, I do not owe anything to anybody. But all of those whom I met, owe something to me. There are some rebels, whose lives I have saved, and, still today, when they meet me, they embrace me." Rebels? "Yes, those rebels, who were on the mountains, during the war. I was an officer between the Italian and the German command, and I saved a lot of them." Asked if he meant anti-Mussolini partisans, he replied, "Call them whatever you like, we were on opposite sides, but when you are in front of a friend, the uniform doesn't count for anything. Friendship, and loyalty to a friend come before anything else." That is why Gelli, an unrepentant Fascist, praises the spokesman of Berlusconi's party, Enrico Bondi, a former Communist. "I think that Bondi is competent too. He is a product of party discipline." The source of discipline "doesn't matter," Gelli emphasized. "What matters is discipline, and the respect for hierarchy."

A Short History of the P2

In his youth, "puppet-master" Licio Gelli was a member of the Fascist Party and participated in the Spanish Civil War on the side of the Falangists. After Sept. 8, 1943, he joined Mussolini's separatist Italian Social Republic (RSI) and founded a party section in the city of Pistoia, working as a military officer in connection with the SS. Soon after, however, he established contacts with factions in the Resistance, and participated in a military action against the German

occupation forces.

Later, in 1950, a report sent by American Embassy sources to Italian intelligence characterized Gelli as a Communist International agent. Thus, he fits the profile of those characterized as "nazi-communists" or "Synarchists" in wartime American intelligence files; these files described a conspiracy to establish Falangist-type regimes in continental Europe and Great Britain in the period immediately preceding World War II.

Gelli was picked up, with hundreds of "former" fascist military, intelligence, and police officials, by James J. Angleton's CIA, and recycled into the "anti-communist" government security structures of postwar Italy. Such structures, as Italy knows from painful attacks and exposures over decades, promoted right-wing, left-

wing, and mafia terrorist actions in a strategy to create chaos and confusion. Starting in 1969, with the bombing of the Banca Nazionale dell' Agricoltura office in Milan, this was called the "strategy of tension."

Gelli was mandated by his international masters to create the P2 project in 1965. He was introduced into Italian freemasonry and in a few years became head of the P2 secret lodge, supported by Grand Orient leaders Salvini and Gamberini. Gelli enrolled an incredibly large section of the national anti-communist elite: especially military and intelligence officials, but also politicians, bankers, and corporate leaders. The P2 also has affiliates abroad, especially in South America. It met strong opposition within Freemasonry; anti-P2 factions tried to stop Gelli by publishing leaks on his Fascist past, and his Cominform ties. But Gelli's backing was too powerful, and with dossiers on everybody, he silenced the opposition.

In 1976, the P2 strategy shifted after general elections saw an impressive advance of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) to 32% of the votes, only one point behind the ruling Christian Democratic Party (DC). Furthermore, Christian Democrat Aldo Moro's strategy of breaking the PCI from Moscow and involving it in a pro-western national coalition government, was proving successful. Gelli's masters now tasked P2 to conquer government centers of power and promote key institutional reforms, according to the guidelines described in a paper entitled "Plan for a Democratic Rebirth." On Feb. 16, 1978, Aldo Moro was kidnapped (and killed three months later) by the terrorist Red Brigades, the same day the "national solidarity" government he engineered, led by Giulio Andreotti and passively supported by the PCI, was sworn in the Parliament. Henry Kissinger's two-year-old threat, that Moro's attempt to nationalize the PCI "would have a bad end," was realized.

When the list of the members of the P2 Lodge was discov-

ered in 1981, Italians learned that the heads of *all* of the agencies which were supposed to find Moro's prison and arrest the terrorists, were P2 members. The Lodge's *international* connections were merely indicated by the documented association between Michael Ledeen—the leading U.S. neo-conservative today with the American Enterprise Institute—and the P2-controlled leadership of the SISMI military intelligence service. Francesco Cossiga, then minister of police, was Gelli's food friend.

Despite resigning after Moro's death, Cossiga became Prime Minister two years later, and Italy's President in 1985. In 1991, he launched a populist "anti-corruption, anti-organized crime" campaign against his own party, the DC; this was the starting point of the "Clean Hands" investigations and purges which dissolved all the postwar political parties and let new, populist parties fill the gap: the neo-fascist MSI (now the "post-fascist" Alleanza Nazionale); Berlusconi's new Forza Italia; and the chauvinist Lega Nord.

Gelli told his *Repubblica* interviewer, about Moro: "I went to Moro to present my credentials, when I was the consul for a South American country. He told me: You come in the name of a dictatorship, but Italy is a democracy. He explained to me that democracy is like a bean soup: To cook them, you must be very patient. I answered: Take care that your beans are not left without water, Signor Ministro." The threat is clear, not only against Berlusconi, Fini, and Bossi whom he named, but also others in the opposition, and Italian leaders opposing Cheney's gang's policies: You can end up like Moro did.

Target: Franco-German Axis

That the real target of Gelli's masters goes beyond Italy, became clear in the days following his interview. On Sept. 30, *La Repubblica* published a letter from former President Cossiga praising the "beautiful and courageous interview," insisting that he and Gelli "have always had good relationships," and that "the P2 affair was the first case of 'disinformation operations,' "—the other being "the anti-American pollution of the Moro case." That reference was to Kissinger's threat. Then, on Oct. 3, Cossiga launched a frontal attack against the Franco-German axis, calling for the ongoing European Union (EU) treaty convention in Rome, as dominated by Franco-German policies, to fail. This summit, according to Cossiga, "will be remembered as a black page in the history of Europe." Cossiga focussed on the "so-called EU Constitution"—actually a treaty which, while abolishing the veto power by treaty members, contains certain guarantees for national sovereignty on key matters of national interest. Its real change is that the power of the EU Council of Ministers is increased in respect to the unelected EU Commission, whose membership and role are reduced to those of a technical body rather than an executive one. The change would mean that a strategic alliance of France and Germany could determine EU policy on strategic issues and on economic policy.