

Italicus Train Bombing: Was Aldo Moro the Target?

by Paolo Cucchiarelli

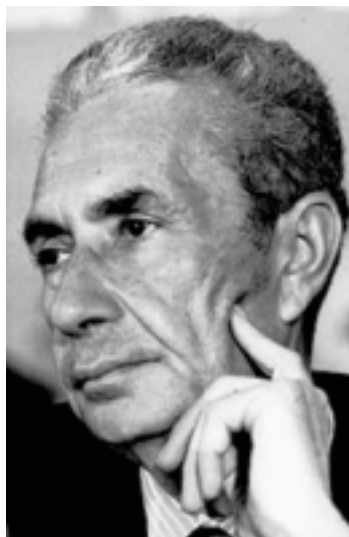
Following the warnings of Lyndon LaRouche and EIR about the danger of a new, global “strategy of tension” by the international synarchist networks, such as the bombs placed aboard of several Spanish trains all destined to come into Madrid at the same time on March 11, our correspondents have sought the expertise of anti-terrorist experts, historians, and political leaders in Italy, which was a major target of the original “strategy of tension” in the 1970s and ’80s.

*Paolo Raimondi, the leader of the LaRouche movement in Italy, has met on several occasions with Paolo Cucchiarelli, with the Italian national press agency ANSA, a renowned author of books on these matters, including *Lo Stato Parallelo* (The Parallel State) co-authored in 1997 with Prof. Aldo Giannuli, a consultant for the Parliamentary Commission on Massacres (Commissione Stragi), and in 2003 *La Strage con i Capelli Bianchi: La Sentenza per Piazza Fontana* (The Massacre by the White Hats: The Piazza Fontana Findings) on the Milan bomb attack of Dec. 12, 1969.*

As a result of these conversations, Paolo Cucchiarelli is making available to EIR some of his reflections and research on the Italy’s experience with the “strategy of tension” blind political terrorism of the 1970s and 1980s.

Aldo Moro was the head and leading statesman of Italy’s Christian Democracy, and served as Prime Minister five times, as well as in many other cabinet posts. He sought to create a government of the nation’s two majority parties, the Christian Democrats and the Communist Party of Enrico Berlinguer. For this reason, he made himself a target of the those whose interest lay in keeping the Cold War hot. He was kidnapped on March 16, 1978, by the “Red Brigades,” and after a highly publicized captivity which traumatized the nation, he was murdered on May 9.

Aldo Moro was leaving Rome to join his family for a short vacation on the mountains of Bellamonte near Trento, on Aug. 3, 1974. He was aboard the train *Italicus* which was bombed; 12 died, and 48 were wounded. At 1 a.m. on Aug. 4, the fifth car of the train exploded, while inside a tunnel under the Apennines, and caught fire. The bomb exploded when the car was only 50 meters from the end of the 18 km tunnel. Had it gone off earlier, and deeper inside the tunnel, the death toll would have been far higher. The train was carry-



Aldo Moro was Italy’s Foreign Minister and head of the Christian Democratic Party, when what is now revealed to have been a series of attempts began in 1974, to kill him or force him to change his policy of bringing the Communist Party into government. The right-wing synarchists disguised these terrorist acts as “left anarchist”; they ended in Moro’s murder.

ing 400 people, but Moro had gotten off and had to return to Rome, when he was called back to his office at the last moment to sign some urgent documents. This dramatic episode has been unknown until now. It was revealed by the statesman’s daughter Maria Fida Moro, who also made public some confidential thoughts of her mother, Eleonora, on this event which she has kept as a jealously guarded secret, because it was considered “exemplary” of the type of intimidation Moro was subjected to for his policy of national unity and dialogue with the Italian Communist Party (PCI) of Enrico Berlinguer.

That Aug. 4 was the last working day before the traditional Summer recess of what had been a terrible year for Italy: the referendum on divorce (May 12); the bombing in Brescia’s Piazza della Loggia (May 28); rumors of a so-called “liberal coup” planned for mid-August; the arrest of Gen. Vito Miceli, the head of the civilian secret service (SID) as part of the inquiry into the “Rosa dei Venti,” or “Compass Rose” (which is also the symbol of NATO); the coup structure with military protection, which involved businessmen and secret service layers who aimed to infiltrate terrorist groups and steer them towards specific operations.

In September that year, Foreign Minister Moro, visiting the United States together with President Giovanni Leone, received a threatening warning [from Henry Kissinger—ed.] not to continue on his slow but steady policy of dialogue with the PCI. Because of these threats, Moro became ill and returned immediately to Italy. Also in September, SID head Gen. Vito Miceli told the investigative Judge Tamburino: “Now you will no longer be hearing any mention of the black [fascist] terrorists. You will only be hearing about the others” (i.e., the “left-wing” or “red” terrorists).

The ‘Red’ Phase Gets the Green Light

Was this the green light for the second phase of the “strategy of tension?”



The 1980 bombing of the Bologna central train station was notorious; but six years earlier bombs hit the Italicus train Moro had just gotten off, as his daughter has just revealed. The March 2004 Madrid bombings had the same profile, despite the 'al-Qaeda' label hurriedly stuck on.

During August also, the resignation of President Richard Nixon, because of the Watergate scandal, had closed an epoch.

That was also when the red terrorism phase started, with the same aim as the black: Red Brigades leader Alberto Franceschini came to Rome and began preparations for an spectacular kidnapping. The target was Giulio Andreotti, who was supposed to be kidnapped and kept in the area of Maccarese, near Rome. Shortly thereafter, though, Franceschini and Renato Curcio, the two long-time Red Brigades leaders, were arrested, thanks to intelligence provided by an infiltrator named Silvano Girotto. A few years later, Franceschini, testifying to the Parliamentary Commission on Massacres, exposed the existence of a sort of "remote control" by men in Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa's anti-terrorism department in the Carabinieri—"they could arrest us whenever they wanted," he said—and by the Israeli Mossad, that had had contacts via emissaries with the Red Brigades from some time.

Mario Moretti took over the new terrorist leadership from that time on.

Moro had been telling his immediate collaborators for some time, that he wanted to retire from politics. Maybe now we can better understand the reasons for his fear. In 1976 the Red Brigades built up the Roman column and began preparations for an attack at the heart of the state: The original targets were Moro, and two other DC statesmen who had also served as Prime Minister, Amintore Fanfani and Giulio Andreotti. But from the Summer of that year, the Red Brigades' only target was Moro, and his kidnapping was carried out on March 16, 1978.

'The Bombs Are Ready, Stay Calm'

Now back to the *Italicus* train. It had to leave Rome's Tiburtina Station at 9:30 p.m., but the train was assembled beginning at 5:30 at Termini, the main station in Rome. The bomb exploded in the middle of the night, near the end of the tunnel outside San Benedetto Val di Sambro, between Florence and Bologna. It had been delayed leaving Florence, which stroke of luck meant the massacre was not of bigger dimensions.

No one claimed responsibility for this terrorist act, which Interior Minister Emilio Taviani indicated was one of the most mysterious aspects. Further, the original suspect group, the neo-Nazi terrorist cell in Tuscany, which was also suspected of having connections to Licio Gelli's Propaganda 2 freemasonic lodge, was let go.

But, now that we know that Moro was the target of the *Italicus* bombing, many other episodes assume a new meaning. For example, a possible relevant fact has to do with an SID employee named Claudia Ajello, who was initially implicated by the investigation, because she had been overheard making a suspicious telephone call on July 31, from a shop in Aureliana St., very close to the SID headquarters. Two people testified that they overheard Mrs. Ajello saying, "the bombs are ready" and speaking of trains and borders. According to the investigative records, she told the person on the other of the phone: "The bombs are ready. From Bologna there is a train to Mestre. There you can find a car to cross the border. Be calm, the passports are ready. Be calm." Mestre, near Venice, was also a center of the Ordine Nuovo black terrorists, which came out in the investigation into the Dec. 12, 1969 Piazza Fontana bombing in Milan. On that day, Moro had

told to his family: "We are at war."

Mrs. Ajello was a Greek-language translator, who was used as an informant, and also to infiltrate the Greek emigré opponents of the military junta in Athens. Whereas the SID stated that they had not probed the *Italicus* massacre, Mrs. Ajello's defense was that she had been phoning her mother, and what was overheard as "bomb" was the word "blond," and that she had used the term "sex bomb" because she was planning a tourist vacation. When she was questioned, two months after the fact, Ajello was accompanied by SID's Captain Lo Strumpo, who was present for the entire interrogation. At the end, after incredible and almost comical situations, Mrs. Ajello was sentenced to two years in jail, "because one cannot in any way presume that Mrs. Ajello, who for eight years has proven capable of delinquent intentions, will be able to abstain in the future from committing crimes."

At the same time, another incident occurred, which should now be reconsidered in a different way. A Francesco Sgrò told a lawyer, Mr. Basile—who, in turn, reported the story to Giorgio Almirante, the head of the neo-Fascist party MSI-DN; who, in July, informed Dr. Santillo, the head of the anti-terrorist department—that explosives were hidden in the basement of the University of Rome's Physics Department, destined for use against the *Palatino* train inside Tiburtina station. The explosives were alleged to be in the hands of extreme left students, under the supervision of Communist Party member Prof. Davide Ajò. This attempt to implicate the left parties collapsed within hours, but the role played by Sgrò remained unclarified. At the time, there were many rumors about terrorist actions. This warning came on July 18; the telephone call of Mrs. Ajello took place on July 31. But afterwards, the tension relaxed a bit, although the newspapers continually reported rumors about the coup attempt.

After the *Italicus* bombing, on Aug. 12, Sgrò went to the leftist paper *Paese Sera* and reported that he invented the story just to get some money from the MSI. What is important and interesting about this, is that the *Palatino* train was scheduled to leave Rome at 5:30 p.m., the same hour that *Italicus* was being readied at Termini Station to depart at 9:30 p.m. from the Tiburtina station. The coincidence permits us to reasonably suppose that Mr. Sgrò has been in some form informed of the preparation to bomb the *Italicus*.

The 'Cavallaro Case' and the 'Super SID'

Another significant event to better analyze the *Italicus* bombing is the so-called "Cavallaro case," after an officer in the military justice system, who revealed the existence of the "Compass Rose" structure in March 1974. As a 23-year-old officer with the right covers, he was able to enter all the Italian military bases. A coup, planned for April 1973, had been postponed until May 1974. But in March, Cavallaro, then under arrest, began to talk, and revealed that there were members of both the Italian and American secret services inside

the organization's leadership, as well as some powerful multinationals. This network, through intermediaries, "managed" both black and red terrorist groups. It was the so-called "Super SID," whose existence was known already. The question: Is Super SID the same thing as Gladio, or are they close but different entities?

Many began to speak about the "secret of the *Italicus*." Ermanno Buzzi, a black terrorist, was killed in Novara prison because he was ready to make revelations on the *Italicus* and other massacres.

Other Attempts on Moro

Furthermore, Aldo Moro had been the target of strange car accidents and curious medical treatments that undermined his health instead of improving it.

In two separate incidents while he was Prime Minister, two tires on his official car blew out simultaneously. After the first, the Prime Minister's office explained that they were Winter tires that could not be driven at high speed. But the incident took place while Moro was en route to San Pellegrino, at the time of the birth of the center-left government, and when physical threats had been made against him in certain right-wing papers (but not only these). The second time, both tires exploded while Moro was travelling to Apulia.

Many other threats and warnings against Moro and his policy have still to be told.

In 1976, an important CIA agent named Philip Agee was asked if there had been "infiltrations into the Communist parties and into right and left extremist organizations?" He replied: "These infiltrations happen in various ways, above all through the recruitment of militants who could be blackmailed over their legal problems, or who have been pushed into criminal situations. There are also many 'volunteers.' These agents are used to collect intelligence, but also for provocations and in organizing spectacular acts of violence, such as in those exemplary acts of the *Italicus* and of Piazza Fontana."

Another of Moro's daughters, Maria Agnese, during the first "Moro Trial" on July 20, 1982, reported on a dialogue she had with her father after the *Italicus* massacre. This is what one can hear from the tapes: "The only episode I remember, in which he spoke in a precise manner of the phenomenon of terrorism, was not related to the Red Brigades, but to the *Italicus* massacre. We did not talk about it immediately after the bombing, but some time later. He said that there are similar interests between the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union, and he thought that the *Italicus* was part of these interests. Even if they are different in their implementation, but in Italy are similar. He made an observation, starting from the tragedy of the *Italicus*, and told me: The Soviet Union and the U.S.A. have a coincidence of interests on what has to happen in Italy."

Was this "coincidence," that Moro and his policy had to be stopped at all costs?