

Mafia on Defensive First Time in 30 Years

By RAY MOSELEY
United Press International
 Palermo, Sicily — Italian liberator-hero Giuseppe Garibaldi tried to do it in the last century. Benito Mussolini claimed to have done it in this century. Now, modern Italy is trying again — to wipe out the Mafia.

For the first time in 30 years, the Mafia, perhaps the largest and most feared underground criminal organization in the world with influence strong even in the United States, is on the defensive.

Its leader are behind bars, or in hiding. Temporarily, at least, it has ceased to be the unchallenged bully boy of Sicilian life, threatening and shooting down those who get in its way and keeping the nearly 5 million people of this island in abject poverty.

The police, and the entire Italian nation, have declared war on the Mafia.

On the outcome depends whether a band of outlaws is more powerful than the legal authority of a modern government, and whether Sicily is ready at last to take its place in the 20th century.

Attempts to wipe out the Mafia have been made before, most notably by the late Il Duce. No one has ever succeeded.

The present "war" began to take shape last year, when several Capuchin friars were found to have become involved in the murder and extortion rackets of the criminal society. Civic and political groups in Sicily, shocked by testimony coming out of the trial, demanded that the central government in Rome act once and for all to eliminate



INTERROGATED—Father Antonio Juluana, a panel of judges during a trial at Messian Agrippino is shown being interrogated by in this 1962 photograph. (UPI)

swarmed to Sicily. A roundup began. Backed by armored cars and armed with machine guns, the police went into the back streets of Palermo and the little outlying towns dotted with orchards or orange, lemon and almond trees.

Stockpiles of TNT, dynamite, machine guns and rifles were confiscated.

Prepares to Work

In Rome, the parliamentary commission charged with investigating the Mafia elected its officers and prepared to get down to work.

It has been a good beginning. But will it, Sicilians are wondering, kill the Mafia? Will law and justice triumph? Or will there be simply another cycle of bloodletting and fear, with the Mafia wounded, but still alive?

If arrests and investigations were the whole solution to the Mafia problems, it would have been eliminated long ago.

The real problem is getting evidence that will stand up in court, finding witnesses who will talk and courts that aren't afraid to convict.

The problem is in many ways much like that which existed in the United States a few decades ago when Al Capone was brought to trial for income tax evasion because authorities could not establish cases on more conspicuous criminal activities.

Situation Complicated

In Sicily, the situation is complicated by "omertà" — the tradition of silence to death — the tradition of refusal to talk with authorities. This tradition has its roots in the fact that for nearly 2,000 years Sicily was under foreign domination.

The word Mafia itself (which also is sometimes spelled Maffia) is of obscure origin. One theory is that it comes from the Arab word "maffil," meaning union or assembly.

When Garibaldi landed in Sicily in 1860 he promised to break up the big feudal estates and give the peasants their own land. But after the war was victorious and the peasants had occupied the land, one of his own lieutenants was sent to shoot them down.

The peasants turned to the Mafia for protection.

When Mussolini came to power in 1922, he instituted police state methods to try to eliminate the Mafia. As many as 150 Mafia leaders at a time were hauled into court. Their victims testified against them.

The ringleaders were given life sentences or banished to lonely islands and Mussolini eventually proclaimed that the Mafia was dead. Many reference books today say that Mussolini destroyed the Mafia.

But with the end of World

War II, the Mafia came back stronger than ever.

The feudal estates had been broken up by the Italian government, but that failed to stop the Mafia. The rustic outlaws in peasant costumes just put on flashy suits, bought expensive cars and moved in on the cities.

In doing so, they were copying the style and methods of the big-time gangsters in the U. S.

Sawed-off shotguns and kidnapings for ransom were old-fashioned. The postwar Mafia relied on machineguns, dynamite and TNT, and they went after the lucrative business enterprises in the cities.

Fruit Market Prize

The bustling Palermo fruit market was one of their prizes. Rival factions fought for control of it, and men were shot dead in broad daylight in the market itself.

The faction that eventually won control decided who would buy and sell in the market and the prices that would be paid.

There is hardly any business activity in this city of half a million people that has been untouched by the Mafia.

A few months ago a bridge contractor decided to operate without the Mafia's services. One night, all his trucks and equipment were blown up.

Another Palermo firm, to avoid having to do business with Mafia truckers, bought a boat to haul its materials from one city to another. The boat was blown up before it made its first voyage.

Since the war, the Mafia also has gone into politics for the first time, and in some areas no candidate can be

electd who doesn't have Mafia approval.

Some of the stiffest opposition to the Mafia has come from the labor unions, and scores of labor leaders have been among Mafia victims.

Police estimate that about

500 persons have been killed by the Mafia in the last 15 years. The toll for this year so far is estimated at 23.

The area's brightest young people move elsewhere when they reach maturity because there are few opportunities

for them as long as the Mafia is in control.

Tourists stay away for fear of being kidnaped or killed.

Until Italy finds a means to eliminate the Mafia, millions of its citizens are destined to continue living in fear.



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Japanese Freighters Carry Supplies to Chinese

By ROBERT CRABBE
United Press International
 Tokyo — Freighters flying the Rising Sun flag glide daily out of Japan's harbors into the blue Pacific — headed for Communist China.

Stowed in their holds are economic vitamins that China, big but industrially flabby, needs to harden her bones and strengthen her muscles.

At ports like Shanghai and Tsingtao, the Japanese ships unload fertilizer for Red China's communal farms and steel for her tractors. There are insecticides to protect the crops that the Chinese Communists desperately need to feed their people.

Returning to Japan, the freighters carry Red Chinese coal, pig iron and soybeans. All of these Japan could buy — albeit at higher prices — in the non-Communist world.

Strengthening a Menace

The United States doesn't like it. U.S. policy is that anybody who trades with China is strengthening a menacing international bully.

"Americans feel that it is incongruous to trade with a country of such unstable behavior as Communist China," says a State department career man whose duties at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo keep him in close touch with far Eastern trade.

He adds that there are no signs that the American viewpoint is going to change.

A questioner asks him how China, industrially backward and still in the infancy of atomic research, can be regarded as a threat to the United States.

"Great powers don't get powerful overnight," is the answer. "It's a slow process of accretion, of adding little increments of power here and there. If you're going to get tough with them, the time to do it is in the beginning."

Make View Known

American diplomats in Tokyo have not hesitated to make the U.S. view on Red China trade known to the

Japanese public. But so far, the United States has made no move to apply the economic pressure that it obviously could put on Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda's government.

One reason is that when the Japanese freighters dock in China, they have a lot of company. A cargo ship from Yokohama may well be found sharing a Shanghai pier with a merchantman from Norway, Britain, France or West Germany.

"The fact is that the United States has encountered a great deal of difficulty in selling its allies on boycotting Red China."

Last year Japan's two-way trade with Red China reached \$80 million, with Japan selling about \$36 million worth of goods and buying about \$40 million worth.

Worth This Year

This year, the two-way flow is expected to be worth about \$150 million. It still is substantially below the level of the 1930s, Japan's great period as a trading partner of China.

From 1930 to 1939 two-way trade between China and Japan annually averaged \$214 million. On the average, Japan traded with China at an annual deficit of \$17 million, because Japan needed Chinese raw materials worse than China needed Japanese goods.

In the foreseeable future,

This view was borne out when a Canadian grain trading mission recently returned home from China empty-handed. The Chinese have been paying cash for Canada's wheat for three years. Now they are demanding that Canada accept part payment in goods, a sign that the Chinese at least feel strong enough to bargain.

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Construction of New Safeway Store In Center to Start

Construction of a new Safeway supermarket at the Medford Shopping Center, almost twice as large as its present market there, will start "immediately," Mark A. Goldy, shopping center manager, announced today.

The new supermarket will be located on the east end of the J. J. Newberry store in the shopping center, to the north of the present market. The new building will face east.

"We anticipate a late fall opening," according to Goldy, who also announced that when Safeway vacates its existing market the space will be taken over by PayLess Drug store, which now occupies the building immediately to the west.

Latest Safeway Design

The new Safeway store will cover over 28,000 square feet of area, compared to the present store's size of 16,000. "The store will be of the latest Safeway design," Goldy added, "and will feature its own bakery, wider aisles and many more checkstands than the present store."

Contract Awarded For School Rooms

Construction is expected to start Monday on a classroom addition to Wilson school, and bids for a classroom addition to Lone Pine school will be opened Aug. 5.

Ausland Construction company, Grants Pass, who submitted the low bid, was awarded the contract at a special school board meeting last week. Ausland's bid, which includes the base bid with one alternate, was \$90,190.

Other bidders for the project were Murphy Construction company, Roseburg; H. Barnhart, Medford, and Myers D. Jones, Medford.

The Wilson school addition will be a team teaching complex which will include two large teaching areas with facilities to divide them into regular size classrooms, and a teacher's conference area.

Bids for a classroom addition to Lone Pine school will be opened by the school board Aug. 5. Both additions are expected to be ready for students this fall.

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