

OTHER NATIONS

increase duties on goods produced in Israeli-occupied territories and increase bilateral educational exchanges, in order to promote democratic and egalitarian values. Such moves might encourage moderate Israelis, who must "show their compatriots just how intolerably dangerous" *Gush Emunim* might become.

The Fading of Eurocommunism

"The Italian Communist Party: Goodbye to Eurocommunism" by Philip A. Daniels, in *The World Today* (Aug.-Sept. 1987), The Royal Institute of International Affairs, 10 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE, United Kingdom.

When the Italian Communist Party (PCI) won 34.4 percent of the national vote in 1976, its highest percentage since the founding of the post-World War II republic in 1946, the Communists seemed on the verge of full participation in government. Since that peak, however, the party's trade union support has weakened, and fewer young people are joining up. PCI voting strength declined to 26.6 percent in 1987. Daniels, a British political scientist, argues that prospects for a Communist resurgence in Italy are dim.

At the peak of its popularity in 1976, the PCI formed a "national solidarity" government with the Christian Democratic Party. The Communist Party never gained the ministries it sought, however, and in 1979 reverted to its former role as the opposition party. An attempted coalition with the Socialist Party (PSI) failed because that party's leader, Bettino Craxi, knew that the Communist Party, three times larger than the PSI, would dominate any partnership. Craxi instead joined the Christian Democrat-dominated governing coalition, serving as prime minister from 1983 until March of 1987. He attempted to isolate the PCI, accusing the Communists of being undemocratic and not truly committed to Italy's alignment with the West.

At the 17th Party Congress in April 1986, PCI leader Alessandro Natta called for a new alliance with European socialist and social democratic parties, particularly the West German Social Democrats. This alliance would replace old ties with French, Spanish, and Portuguese Communists. By accepting Italy's membership in NATO and displaying its independence from Moscow, the PCI has moved closer to the views of European Social Democrats. The goal of Natta's proposed alliance, perhaps based in the European Parliament, would be to forge links with non-aligned nations and "achieve a more independent role for Western Europe between the superpowers." The new coalition would embrace environmentalists and feminists. It has yet to take shape.

Despite their decline, Italy's Communists are still stronger than their counterparts in France, Spain, and Portugal. Why? The PCI is more flexible and self-critical. Yet, as Daniels sees it, the Communists must, like the West German Social Democrats and the British Labour Party, find "a clear vision of the meaning and relevance of socialism in the late 20th century" if they are to survive.