

Liguria: The Riviera of Poets and Calvino

DH Lawrence stayed in Liguria for a while. His description of the "perfect" place where he lived — a tiny bay enclosed by cliffs dotted with olive trees and just a few pink fishermen's cottages with yellow roofs — might apply to many localities in the region. The features of the landscape he speaks of are common throughout Liguria. Just as the enthusiasm of writers and poets who discover Liguria — its sea and its hinterland — is common. The place Lawrence chose to settle in was Lerici at the easternmost tip of the Riviera del Levante. Byron had been there before him and the likes of Von Scheffel, James, Erika and Klaus Mann and Richard Queneau all followed later, extolling the bay as he had done. Shelley even dedicated a series of lyrics to the bay ("Lines Written in the Bay of Lerici"). The poet lived at San Terenzo and drowned in the gulf in 1822, returning from a trip to Livorno with his wife, it was also in San Terenzo that Sam Benelli wrote his most famous play, "La cena delle beffe" in 1909. Mario Soldati, one of the few members of the older generation of Italian writers capable of using the expressive techniques typical of our time, has also found his "magical

space" on the eastern Riviera del Levante. Turin born and bred a lover of his native Piedmont, Soldati is now just as attached to Tellaro, the fishing village where he has lived for several years. Poetic inspiration is not the sole prerogative of the Riviera del Levante. The whole region has been influenced over the centuries but especially in recent decades — by literary presences rooted in the land and the sea. At the farthest tip of the Riviera di Ponente to the west, from Sanremo to Ventimiglia, the hinterland appears as "an enchanted country." Here some of the most impossible, yet credible stories, have been set in the last few years. Giacomo Piovasco di Rondo, the boy who climbs up a tree and never comes down again, is the hero of "The Baron in the Trees," one of Italo Calvino's most famous novels. Calvino spent the first 20 years of his life in Sanremo and set many of his works in its Mediterranean and Apennine surroundings.

The cement fever had taken over the Riviera: here you saw the flats that were already being lived in, with boxes of geraniums, one identical to the next, on the balconies, there the block that had just been finished, with snakes of white lead smeared on the windows, waiting to house Lombard families eager to come down to

bathe; further on yet another castle of scaffolding.

Calvino was one: he went to Turin in 1945 to work for Einaudi. It was the same route followed by Edmondo De Amicis a few decades earlier. De Amicis, who was born in Oneglia in 1846 and died in Bordighera in 1908, is generally considered to all intents and purposes "Turinese". It was, after all, in Turin that he set his most famous novel "Cuore" ("The Heart of a Boy"), a portrait — some say faithful, others pretentious — of the newly united Italy, which still bears the influence of the Kingdom of Sardinia, enclosed between the mountains and the sea. Gian Pietro Vieusseux, a father of Italian culture, was also born in Oneglia, in 1799. He is famous as the founder of the Florentine academy which bears his name, and which is still an Italian literary institution. Although the "enthusiasm" mentioned at the beginning does not reach the heights of lyricism, it nonetheless reflects a clear-cut reality in which beauty is not only offered but also "acknowledged": it has somehow come to light through words and has hence become universal. This is what happens, for example, with the simple poetry of Angiolo Silvio Navaro, author of "Che dice la piogerellina di marzo?" (What does the spring shower say?), a classic at Italian primary

schools. Born in Diano Marina in 1866, and a narrator as well as a poet, Navaro wrote a number of lyrics directly associated with his native region. The "Canto di Arma di Taggia" is one example.

The relationship between the discovery of beauty and the pages written about it might be described at some length, taking in virtually all the towns and villages on the Riviera. One might, for instance, cite the Albisola of Angelo Barile the Finale Ligure of Mario Novaro, Silvio's brother, or of the poet Giovanni Boine. Another poet and writer who later removed to Turin, Francesco Pastonchi, was born in Riva Ligure. In the same period, on the eastern Riviera, Ceccardo Roccatagliata Ceccardi, a symbolist poet and one of the last great Italian bohemians, was born in Ortonovo in the province of La Spezia. Carlo Bo, dean of the University of Urbino and a major contemporary cultural figure, was born in Sestri Levante in 1911, while Giovanni Giudici, the poet and essayist, was born in Grazie Varnano in 1924.

Camillo Barbaro (Santa Margherita Ligure 1888-Spotorno 1967), a great poet and lover of his native region, deserves a special mention. Also born in Santa Margherita was Vittorio G. Rossi, a journalist and travel writer.

Eight centuries later, Genoa born Egenio Montale wrote poems impregnated with the sea and the land of Liguria.



New Italian Foreign Policy

Continued from page 8

play, no longer expecting to be, as was often the case before, 1945, the factor that could tip the scales between opposing factions, the so-called "decisive weight," but in order to improve its prestige and domestic image. This attempt led to some positive results mostly thanks to US support rather than help from the European allies, but was only partly successful, both because of certain complications on the political-military operational level and because of the still inaccurate identification of the country's global interests.

4) The detachment of the migration phenomenon from a strategic management of foreign policy: right after the war, the migratory flows began heading once again for their traditional destinations, while the legal country still lingered in the quest for an elusive African destiny and in the protection of useless and costly colonial leftovers, paradoxically receiving support from the same Latin American countries whose willingness to establish special relationships with Italy was not included in any global cooperation project.

5) The continuation of a Mediterranean policy (once the return to Libya became impossible) very much unlike the colonial and postcolonial policies of France Great Britain but substantially aligned with the United States, although progressively shifting away from Washington's stands, mainly because of economic motives and contingent security reasons related to the recurring terrorist strikes. Along with its participation in the European process, Italy, as it did in the aftermath of the First World War, also made an effort to increase its regional influence, by establishing stronger ties with the Southern European states although such relations owing to the ruling regimes of those countries never became systematic.

medium powers themselves. Aside from debates on terminology, it is a sure fact that, considering the new international scenario, the constant factors of Italy's foreign policy that were described earlier take on different features and require careful adjustments. Therefore, these are the options now available to Italy:

1) The antineutrality option is no longer based, fortunately, on the increasingly remote possibility of a global war but on the reality of more circumscribed conflicts. Thus, when this option is put into practice, it must be carefully considered, since the result could be even military responsibilities in joint interventions aimed at policing or peace-making in critical zones. The ongoing escalation of military commitment in various areas will have to follow an order of priority concerning conflict hotbeds, within the context of both national interests and humanitarian initiatives.

2) Once again, the permanent alliance with a dominant power is divided by the need to manage simultaneously the American connection on the one hand, since it represents an insurance policy in the global framework, and the German connection on the other, since it appears to be unavoidable in the European institutional and political framework. Such a split does not necessarily reflect the historical imbalance between the German and British connection that characterized the monarchical governments since even Germany, as a non-nuclear power, needs to maintain steady relations with the United States in the field of security, similar to Italy's. A certain imbalance might however emerge in the economic field from the growing contrast between the expansive trend of the dollar area and the restrictive trend of the mark area.

3) The accession to a post among the great powers no longer depends on the formal participation in global arrangements but on the amount of commitment that Italy is willing to display in the field of military deployment as well as in the field of ideas and programmes, for instance on the occasion of community presidencies.

4) Italy can no longer afford to manage Italian communities abroad in a merely bureaucratic fashion but it must include the Italian diaspora in the context of its global policy. Certainly such a development

is not meant to pursue the obsolete goal of obtaining areas of influence, but it represents a necessary step in order to define a set of rightfully demanded operating priorities, without forgetting, among other things, the problems that the Italian entrepreneurial system faces in securing strategic positions on the European market, and consequently its need to become stronger outside of Europe in order to have more pull within Europe.

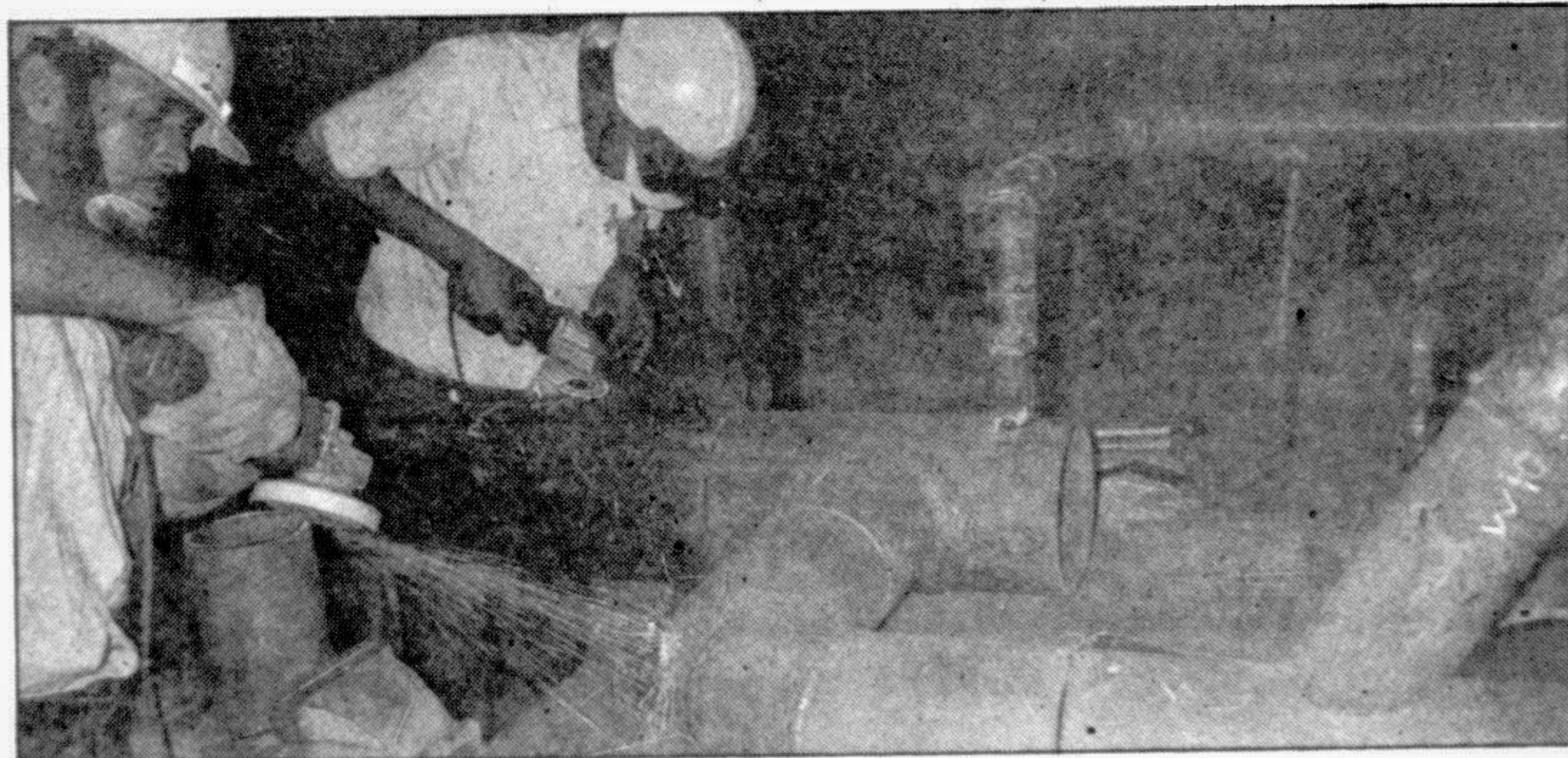
5) The Mediterranean policy must be revised according to a geopolitical and geo-economic perspective that expands enormously the area's boundaries to the east, as far as the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf, embracing a permanently critical zone in which the United States clearly intends to play a leading role that tends to become increasingly exclusive. Therefore, we ought to start thinking about our operating possibilities and decide where they can be deployed. According to a survey conducted in 1980 on the reality an image of Italy's foreign policy, Italian public opinion turns out to be almost unanimously in favour of European unification, but at the same time the evaluation of Italian policy on the issue is equally negative. Basically, such pessimism is related to the exceedingly high expectations of Italian public opinion, which sees the European Union as the "salvific myth" of the country's foreign policy.

The Maastricht Treaty has exploded this magical and superstitious concept of Europeanism: Europe is not the panacea for Italy's troubles, on the contrary, Italy must recover on its own.

Italy has a good chance to lay aside historical disguises and wear the custom-made outfit of a mercantile republic, but without the limits imposed by a strictly economy-oriented vision of international relations. This republic could be a partner in freely accepted and negotiated, but never overbearing leaderships, rationally appealing but not idle within an ever-progressing European Union. A more responsible reliance on itself and on its freedom of action and imagination may lead Italy to exploit all the opportunities offered by a new international reality, at the same time getting rid of the muddled schemes that in the past have dimmed its credibility and weakened its diplomatic impact.

Warmest felicitations to the Government and the friendly people of Italy on the occasion of their

National Day



**TECHNO-FOCHI
(BANGLADESH) LTD.**

Joint
Experience
Company

Headquarter
House No 65-B
Road No, 27-Banani
Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh
Ph: 885075, 886194, 888270
Fax: 880-2-884818
GPO Box No: 2849
Dhaka-1000



**FILIPPO
FOCHI S.p.A**



TECHNOCON LIMITED

TECHNO-FOCHI is one of the Fochi Group's subsidiaries located in Dhaka (Bangladesh). The firm has been set up in May, 1992 as a joint venture between Italian FOCHI S.p.A. and local TECHNOCON LTD. TECHNO-FOCHI is a construction contractor operating both in civil, electrical and industrial sectors.

Major Activities

- Pre-fabrication of Steel Truss and Pipes
- All types of mechanical erection construction of Industrial Plant
- Electrical and Instrumentation installation
- Procurement
- Steel works erection
- Commissioning and start up assistance
- Cost control planning
- Training of Manpower
- Civil Construction

All kinds of prefabrication is run by Techno-Fochi through a modern fully equipped workshop located at Gazipur district near Mouchack Bazar. Techno-Fochi promptly responds to the various requests of our clients. It is extremely important that our job is carried out in strict compliance by foreign and local expertise with the International standards of quality and time.

Heartiest felicitations on
the occasion of the
National Day of Italy

ABB
ASEA BROWN BOVERI

ABB SAE SADEMI S.P.A

PIAZZALE LODI, 3

1-20137 MILANO

ITALY

ARLINKS LIMITED

REPRESENTING

ABB ASEA BROWN BOVERI

GROUP OF COMPANIES

P.O. Box 79, 20 OUTER CIRCULAR ROAD, RAJARBAGH, DHAKA-1217

PHONES: 404654, 404284, 403291, TELEX: "642429 ARKS BJ" FAX: 880-2-831964