

# Embargo: the punishment for an innocent people, my letter to Z. Brezinski



ROMANO TAGLIATI

Saddam Hussein is certainly an extremist and a warmonger. Since 1979, when he took the power in order to become the leader of Islamic countries, he has come three times into war. Gheddafi, who is not an extremist, is perhaps eccentric or maybe he seems as if he is because he doesn't want to be judged; however, in his country he keeps the romantic idea of a revolution bound to be written on his "Green Book" like "La città del Sole", a book by Tommaso Campanella. Proclaiming himself anti-American and anti-Israeli (and being often suspected to back pro-Palestinian international terroristic acts in a "concrete" way), he has incurred in American hatred and, in some occasions, he has directly paid for his attitude. Castro, who had the merit of putting down Batista's regimen, of promoting an agricultural reform and of creating a national plan for public education, is today the last head of the State - apart from the Chinese and the North Korean

ones - who keeps on following and completely enforcing the principles of Marx's philosophy. This philosophy, though, is clearly impossible to be peacefully enforced in the interest of the People, and this has been fully demonstrated since the beginning of the century. Closed in his island, ignoring the state of neglect in which his country lies and keeping to deny the evidence of the facts, on the contrary he affirms to be the one who has saved his people from American consumers' culture and who has kept intact the high principles and human feelings lost by American people. Three completely different men and countries, whose only common feature is this: for different reasons they have been against the U.S.A. and, in exchange, they have all been submitted to a ridiculous embargo that has literally brought them on their knees. However, Castro, who is more cultured than the two other leaders, is aware of the fact that he is lying. Therefore, scraping through, he calls the Pope and exploits a mercy that his "faith" struggles (in theory), he implores him to stand up for an opening that his strictness has always refused. It is a world full of contradictions: it is the evidence that the first sheer revolution is not that of the "working-class"; on the contrary, citizens must fight

against any kind of dictatorship in their country. Russian people know it very well; after a communist regimen lasting more than 70 years they now live in a kind of medieval state. Maybe Iraqi people - whose civilisation is the most ancient one of the world - and certainly Cuban people too - who live the tragedy of eastern Europe, where citizens used to look at shops full of any kind of goods that they couldn't afford - know it.

Hanger is a disease that stops you from thinking and that can reduce you to the sorry state of the negation of yourself, or, what's worse, of the mere obedience. For it is to these "men" that people obey. These people give in more and more to blackmail, their average lifetime is often not long enough to fight against the cheats and the tragedies that lie behind those speakers' public speeches full of words such as "Motherland", "Family" and "God". There are certainly foreign responsibilities too. The word "embargo" is quite recent. But for us, the Italian, the word "sanctions" is enough to think again of another dictator that stood for this "people of heroes, of mariners and of Saints", when the maize sown in the flower-beds before railway stations and even in public gardens made us ridiculous rather than stop hanger and stop us from taking part in a

cruel war. The Iraqi people is peaceful and so is the Libyan one. The Cuban one, living in a sunny and full of Afro-Cuban rhythms, is slightly similar to 1945 Neapolitan people, described by Curzio Malaparte in an effective

ing. It is useful for increasing prostitution whose clearest evidence is given by former Soviet countries, that bring it to Western ones; Cuba itself provides it often for very little money to tourists that visit this island. The embargo is useful for

punishment in a wealthy way, surrounded by Ferrari cars and caviar, by bejewelled lovers and highly-placed prostitutes wearing only Chanel No 5. They wonder why their children die for starvation and thirst, which are provoked by



and dramatic way. An embargo used as a form of struggle, in fact, is only useful for punishing innocent people. For burying children, for sentencing to death the suffering people who are in hospitals where everything, even hope, is lack-

making planes whose old parts cannot be replaced fall down. And finally, it is useful for sowing hatred in those people that inevitably wonder why innocent people suffers from hanger whereas the guilty ones still live without any

the same people that, in their speeches, assert that they want to fight bad dictatorships in the name of a kind of generous universal philanthropy, only because they're good, very good. What a strange kind of goodness!