

SECURITY: OUTLINES FOR A NEW STRATEGY OF FIGHTING CRIMINALITY AND NEW MODELS OF PROTECTION OF COLLECTIVITY

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My participation will analyse the issue "security" from the perspective of the civil employee of Police who has operated on the road for many years, with experience in Palermo, Reggio Calabria, Naples where I directed the Flying Squad in 1982, and then like questor in Catanzaro, in Reggio Calabria for four years and now here, in Bari for eight months.

Before showing my point of view, it is indispensable that I explain the general definition of the function of Police, which is divided into Police of security and Criminal police.

The Police of security depends on the Authority of public security and it is characterised by the general protection it offers to community from threats or dangers of the breach of peace of the public order and of the security of the citizens.

The function of the Criminal police, on the contrary, is that of intervening subsequently as to the facts and it has penal importance.

This explanation is fundamental because, when I speak about strategy, I will explain how, following the directions of the department, we try to make the two moments interact, that is to say the one of prevention and the one of repression.

From a dogmatic point of view the two activities seem clear-cut and separate since they develop according different forms, modalities, laws and rules, but such differences are recomposed in unity in the common aim of the "right to the security" therefore the guaranty of orderly and safe civil cohabitation.

The repressive answer of the State towards phenomena of great crime like terrorism, political eversion and the Mafias, has been always efficient, while little replies have been obtained on the level of fighting widespread crime, perhaps because Justice, meant in a broad sense, takes too long to work out thousands of proceedings. However, great or little, macro or disseminated criminal phenomena they could be, I think that the fight against recrudescence of the crime is a result that cannot exclusively be reached strictly on the project of sanction, through the penal trial-like circuit. Also a different and more serious penalty, that can be inflicted for the criminal actions that torment society, is destined to have inadequate efficacy.

The preventive function that is attributed to criminal sanction ends up having mostly formal efficacy, as a matter of fact suffice it to say that, on the project of the legal consequences provided for by the law for the commission of the greater part of the crimes, the Penal code and the legislation in force provide with the strictest disciplinary treatment. All this underlines a crisis of the preventive function of punishment that, without making a sociological analysis, has to be ascribed to the widespread knowledge that the judicial machine does not stand out for punctuality, immediacy and incisiveness of the threatened repressive reaction, which is the final aim of the investigative activity.

It must not be undervalued that, when the repression is put into action, the crime has been consumed and the damage has already been suffered. Therefore I think that a modern State which takes care of the always increasing collective requests of security and of tranquillity of the environment where one lives must be able to prevent rather than repress in order to avoid

those phenomena of panic in the public quiet, of social alarm often accompanied by a feeling of distrust and of blame towards who has the duty to organise and to defend the civil cohabitation.

People do not feel safe and the threat of illegality and of violence is perceived like impending, in spite of the fact that in the last ten years there has not been an increase of the crimes and indeed, like the Prefect emphasised, in the city of Bari a decrease has been recorded, dictated by a greater productivity of the State apparatus as concerns repression, arrests and the denunciations have increased.

I would like to point out briefly what the origin of the widespread worry is, since I think that the Prefect, the Questor and the members of the committee all together must think about the reason why people are still afraid, think about the causes, in order to study the problem and to try to find the adequate solutions.

In this analysis we must include, as well as the causes located before, also an effect of amplification provoked by the mass media, like the Prefect in its participation said; amplification of some phenomena or serious events that contribute to increase the social alarm, since often people get scared for what they read.

We are crossing a whirling transformation in which phenomena like extracommunitarian immigration involve problems of crime, landing of mafia, criminals, prostitution, poor people who need to be assisted, and they are nearly all clandestine. All this involves a remarkable increase of work for the Police as concerns assistance, control of the crime that facilitates and takes advantage of the transfer to our territory of extracommunitarian people.

Moreover, at the origin of all this, there is an insufficient efficacy of the action of control of the territory that worry people so much as to wish a policeman under their house. The cities grow, spread, problems increase and need more and more diversified and complex participations. The content of the demand of security expressed by the community has changed and the demand goes beyond the primary need of mere protection of the individual safety, turning into factor of quality of the life.

It is necessary to implement the security system, revising the modes of intervention so that the preventive and the repressive moment of the criminal police can be complementary and put together functionally.

Technologies give us the possibility to transfer rapidly the information to people who, elaborating it, take advantage of it in order to carry out investigative activity and this allows continuous interaction between the cognitive acquisition phase, the investigative phase and the action of control of the territory. Moreover, the investigative activity, as well as getting to the arrest of the criminals who commit crimes, work in the field of the control of the territory, since it sets the territory free from delinquents and supply new input to those who work on the road.

Thanks to directions that the Prefect and the committee gave us, we are using a new mode of work, different criteria that have allowed us to adopt little devices, such as winking lights at dusk that sometimes represent a point of reference for the community, while the flying-squads on the territory, systematically updated, supply useful directions on the historical truth of the moment, of a precise area. Following the directions of the Department, we want to experiment with new models of protection of the city, a new policy of security, as I said

before, a new way to be present on the territory, a "correct and qualified" presence as the Head of the Police said, a presence that goes beyond the simple task of Police. But in order to do this, like the Prefect said, it is necessary that there is respect of one's own competences and attributions, a presence on the territory of the whole society, in all its institutional and social articulations, with capillary garrisons and not only of the police, so as to be able to constitute a strong obstacle to the crime-committing.

The Head of the Police, through the directives, speaks about specializations, anchorage to the territory, term that I consider improper, we should speak about territories as we do not refer only to the reality of the city, but also to the rural world, to the road and railway network, to the hydrogeologic structure, to the environmental and cultural patrimony, as well as the satellite networks and that of computer science communication.

From this comes the necessity to qualify the staff, as the Prefect indicated in his participation, realizing a symbiosis between technology and the various professionalities, rendering projects like the technotelematic interconnection of operating rooms of the Police a reality also in Bari; all this in the first place will allow to follow our patrols on the road, and to give the operator of the operating room the possibility of being able to supply the adequate help in case of necessity, thus increasing the rapidity of the intervention, diminishing considerably duplications and superimpositions. In such context, that involves also the Financial Police, operates the precious collaboration of the Municipal Police.

In Bari, under the protection of the Prefect, a pool of experts works on the control of the territory, on the strategies and tries to locate the more sensitive zones, those at greater risk and the hour bands with higher density of frequency of crimes. All this allows to modify the projects of work continuously and allows a planning of the activities of control of the territory that provides the involvement of a variety of institutional and social subjects, like the Mayor, meant like expression of the popular will, who collects directly the demands of security that come from the community. Our city has been one of the first to put in practice such strategies stipulating protocols of agreement between the several authorities, and the necessity of having to invest in the security guarantees not only a precondition of the development but also a dynamic factor destined to accompany processes of economic and civil increase until, we hope, it will become integrating part of it.