

Special Report :

Political Blunders Speed Demise of Brandt and Palme

European Press Focuses on Brandt Agency As He Orders IPS Expelled from Press Assoc.

BONN, BRD, Oct. 14 (IPS) — The Arbitration Committee of the Foreign Press Association, the main press association in the West German capital, abruptly expelled the International Press Service from its membership today. IPS was given no hearing, and the Arbitration Committee would not disclose the reason for the expulsion, even though on Monday the committee's secretary told IPS that it had no complaints against IPS at all. Informed press sources here, who are embarrassed by such a childish antic, quickly disassociated the Bonn press corps and the Social Democratic Party from the expulsion by insisting that Social Democratic chairman and 30-year CIA agent Willy Brandt was the only one to stick his neck out and ram through IPS's expulsion.

IPS also learned that during the expulsion deliberations, the Foreign Press Association was also negotiating with Brandt to get him to speak before one of their meetings. Brandt only made up his mind to speak on last Thursday, which is also the day the Arbitration Committee agreed to expel IPS.

Brandt's attempt at illegal press censorship is in immediate retaliation for several revealing questions IPS asked the former West German Chancellor at a press conference at the Frankfurter Book Fair four days ago. At the time IPS caught Second International leaders Brandt, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kresky in a public lie before a hundred of Europe's top journalists as all three tried to dodge questions about reports in several Scandinavian papers accusing Brandt of masterminding currency smuggling to anti-communist Finnish trade unionists — possibly under CIA orders. After all three lied that they had no connection to the incident, Palme warned the reporters, "IPS is an agency for which you don't have to answer any questions; you simply have to organize other journalists to kick them out."

There is also evidence that fascist Franz Josef Strauss, a known NATO agent and West Germany's foremost Maoist organizer, was involved in the

expulsion. A week ago, IPS learned that Strauss lodged a complaint against IPS for asking him, during his birthday party, why he had visited Mao's China twice this year. During the summer, a reporter for the Swiss bankers' paper, the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, demanded that IPS be expelled for "asking disturbing questions at a press conference." IPS was also denied accreditation to the Conference on European Security and Cooperation in Helsinki by the United States State Department.

For a year, the European Labor Committees have so thoroughly documented Brandt's 30 years of agency that each time he tried to lash out at IPS, which he has correctly targeted as the source of his misery, he has just sunk deeper in his own muck. In fact, Brandt is hysterically bringing Neue Solidaritaet, the ELC's West German weekly, to court on Oct. 21 for printing evidence of his agency which the New York Times, The Chicago Sun-Times, and the Swedish paper Expressen printed — with less documentation — three weeks ago.

In the middle of September, before recent articles in the bourgeois press also exposed Brandt, and as a series on Brandt was just beginning in Neue Solidaritaet, a worker in Dortmund told ELC organizers, "If only 20 per cent of what you say about Brandt is true, then Brandt is really a fascist." Since then, there have been Europe-wide forums on



Brandt to fundraise for a legal defense that have drawn up to fifty people in some West German cities. A poster showing a picture of Brandt standing next to John McCloy, the hated Rockefeller man who ran the Allied Occupation of Germany, and David Rockefeller himself is now up all over West Germany. When ELC organizers saw that same worker a week ago, he said, "I almost cannot believe it. I believed in the SPD and in Brandt and now it turns out that he is a CIA agent."

Palme Tells Party Press to Smear ELC; Instead All the Dirt Lands in His Lap

Oct. 14 (IPS) — Over the past 48 hours, one of the most intense and uncanny battles in modern political history has been fought between the International Caucus of Labor Committees (ICLC) and the Rockefeller agents of the Second International in both Sweden and West Germany.

In Sweden Olof Palme, the ghoulish Social Democratic Prime Minister, ordered an absolutely unprecedented press slander barrage against the European Labor Committees which included every Palme-connected news-

paper — led by the major Swedish daily the Aftonbladet. A monitoring of merely two of these newspapers over the last two days tallied 13 articles — nine full pages of newsprint — about the Labor Committees, with each story more preposterous than its predecessor. Palme even ordered his country's Intelligence Service to investigate the 30-member Swedish ELC as "spies."

In West Germany, Willy Brandt, the exposed 30-year CIA agent who heads the Social Democratic Party, stuck his neck way out and personally ordered

the expulsion of the ICLC-affiliated press service, IPS from the Bonn Foreign Press Association (VPA) (see accompanying article).

Within approximately 12 hours, the Labor Committee had turned the enemy's offensive back in their faces. By this writing, the freakouts by Brandt and Palme have become the most serious political mistakes of their careers as agents — mistakes that are now hastening their final demise.

As a result, Labor Committee offices have been flooded by a growing stream of journalists who want to find out the real reasons behind the attacks. They are asking for the politics and economic issues behind all this, and are of course being supplied with the answers.

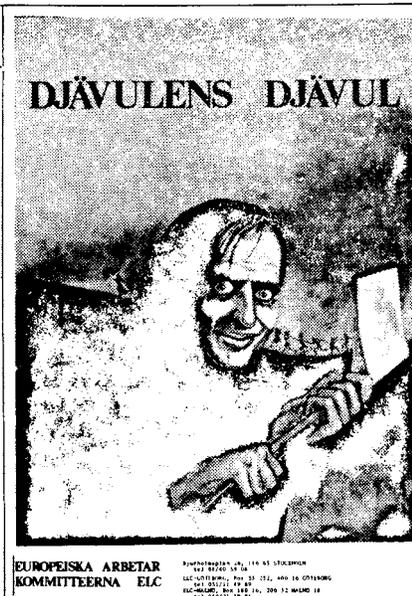
Journalists who are coming to check on Labor Committee dialectical economics classes leave the lecture hall with a sense of awe and in the articles they don't even try to conceal their admiration of the ICLC's professional scientific competence.

In short, the Palme-Brandt freakout has supplied the Labor Committees with an unprecedented access to mass audiences.

What immediately prompted the freakout by agents Brandt and Palme was their realization that they had been caught in a naked lie by IPS at their press conference with Austrian Second International agent Bruno Kreisky at the Frankfurt bookfair last week. Honest journalists among the international press corps walked away from that conference convinced that Palme and Brandt were U.S. agents and were involved in the conducting of CIA funds to anti-communist agents in Portugal and Finland.

These revelations which have since been blasted throughout the European press, are now triggering a crisis that could bring down Palme's government. The Palme-ordered slander campaign against the ELC is now occupying the same space that only last week had been devoted to a discussion of the Prime Minister's homosexual perversions, his deteriorating mental condition, and charges of his CIA agency.

The first volley of slanders came Monday with the Aftonbladet featuring



a three-page spread. Two inch-high, front page headlines announced: "U.S.-Controlled Espionage Against Palme." Every newsstand was given an advertising poster with this headline — an expensive promotion normally reserved for "major scandals." But Aftonbladet was determined to make the ELC major scandal "material." "Infiltrators under Communist cover report to computers in New York...CIA pays."

An article in the centerfold discusses the Labor Committees "luxurious headquarters in New York where the orders go out..."

The next day, the Aftonbladet decided to create the illusion of competent journalism, and dispatched its New York correspondent to Labor Party headquarters in New York to check out "this nest of well financed agents."

As the reporter was shown around the organization's far-from-luxurious offices in Manhattan's Garment Center, he decided that these agents were indeed devious. "Tell me the truth," he asked members of the organization's executive, "exactly who are you agents of?" "We are agents of the Finnish Customs Service," an executive committee member replied. Last week, the Finnish Customs Service had arrested the treasurer of the Finnish

Social Democratic Party trying to smuggle a donation from the CIA conducted via Palme and Brandt, to the anti-communists in the Finnish metal-workers union. The reporter turned red.

The Aftonbladet reporter filed an embarrassing story, admitting that his paper had exaggerated:

"In contrast to what you read in yesterday's paper, worn-out furniture, chairs with the stuffing hanging out and broken desks give an impression of an organization on the verge of ruin."

But this could all be explained, the Aftonbladet editors reasoned. "The financiers of the ELC realized that the project does not function according to the original plans, and therefore have stopped fuelling the organization with money." (!)

In Sweden, the Aftonbladet decided to dispatch reporter T.A. Porseryd to one of those ELC "brainwashing sessions" — an educational in Dialectical Economics. After hearing what the ELC had to say, he admitted that his paper was indeed concocting lies. He filed a story that could not help but reflect his fascination with the ELC's program: "(ELC leader) Kerstin Tegin lays out the text with emphasis...She has read Marxist economics and knows it well...She is no doubt a good teacher...(her) main point is fusion power to increase the living standard throughout the world.

For unflinching willingness to carry out the orders, the editors of Aftonbladet will soon be slapped with a \$5 million libel suit. Their boss, O. Palme will be named as a co-defendant.

Palme's problems are far from over. Industrialists angered by Palme's destruction of the Swedish economy to support the dollar and his efforts to sabotage East-West trade are also turning his attack on the ELC against him. The regional paper of the famous Swedish steel region of Gävle covered the "Aftonbladet affair" by giving an extensive objective interview with an ELC spokesman who emphasized programmatic policies such as fusion energy and expanded Comecon trade.