

Submarine warfare in Scandinavia accelerates missile crisis threat

by Michelle Steinberg

On May 4, in a serious escalation of the ongoing Scandinavian submarine warfare, the Swedish navy detonated two underwater mines in coastal waters near the city of Sundsvall, aimed at a foreign submarine. According to observers, an oil slick appeared on the surface immediately after the mines blew up, but Swedish Navy Commander Bertil Daggfeldt said that no divers would be sent immediately to investigate what was hit. Commander Daggfeldt, the official military spokesman, also stated that the mines were set off after reported "optical observations of what was undoubtedly a mini-submarine showing the periscope."

The target of the detonated mines was one of the mysterious Soviet "mini-submarines" first named in the report of the Swedish parliamentary commission released in a press conference by Prime Minister Olof Palme on April 27. At the same time, a submarine sighting off Norway, a NATO member country, brought the incidents into the sphere of "super-power confrontations." On April 28, Norwegian Defense Minister Andres Sjaalstad issued an official statement that "We are prepared to destroy the submarine if it refuses to surface."

After seven days, the Norwegians ended their search efforts unsuccessfully, but not before several missiles were fired at suspected enemy submarines.

Specialists confirm analysis

On May 4, the same day as the Swedish mining attack, a lead editorial entitled "Submarine Theory" appeared in the *Sydsvenska Dagbladet*, a major Swedish daily newspaper based in the southern city of Malmö. The article states that the Soviet mini-sub violations of Swedish territorial waters are not directed against Sweden but are intended as "warning shots" for NATO and the United States. "In its propaganda against the NATO decision on intermediate range missiles and cruise missiles in Western Europe, Moscow has threatened that the implementation of that decision will trigger countermeasures from the Soviet side, which will also be directed against the United States."

"Is all this lively submarine activity in the Baltic and off the Norwegian coast designed as warning shots against NATO and the United States? Is the purpose to demonstrate the Soviets' capability of using submarine weapons of a partially radically new nature to operate virtually without impunity as far as they like in the territorial waters of foreign powers and

even in harbor areas?"

The *Sydsvenska Dagbladet* article is a direct restatement of the analysis put forward by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in a statement issued after the release of the Swedish commission report (see *EIR*, May 10). LaRouche warned that the technology of mini-submarines deployed by "mother ships" identified in the Swedish commission report is the possible first signal of a looming "Cuban missile crisis," which the Soviets will provoke in preemption of the Euromissiles deployment.

According to military experts in the United States and Europe who have held discussions with *EIR* since the release of the Swedish commission report, there is a high probability that the Soviets will respond, as they have warned, to the Euromissile crisis by a several-track deployment that will give them a parallel "launch on warning" capability against the United States.

Among the threats from the Soviets that the United States could face during 1983 are the following:

- 1) The placement of as many as three to five Soviet missile-carrying submarines off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States, possibly augmented by forces in the Caribbean.

- 2) The placing of Soviet missile-carrying submarines in the North Pole region, possibly augmented by mobile SS-20s.

- 3) The possibility of nuclear and thermonuclear underwater mines or thermonuclear-armed robotic submarines within U.S. coastal waters near major population centers, if the Soviet navy has deployed "stealth" technology for a more advanced variety than those provocatively deployed in Swedish coastal waters.

Since 1969, there have been approximately 279 sightings of Soviet submarines in the waters off the coast of Sweden and Norway. While some naive or treacherous policy makers may cite this fact to deny the significance of the escalated deployments of Soviet submarine warfare around Scandinavian countries, ignoring the clear statements of intent emanating from the Soviet Union will cause American and other NATO leaders to be unprepared, and, this time, far more vulnerable than in 1962.

In his April 28 statement on the day following the Swedish commission release, LaRouche warned that the fact that the "sneak attack" technology indicated by the Soviet mini-submarine capability had been made public through Olof

Palme is a primary part of the Cuban missile crisis scenario.

Palme, one of the top leaders of the Socialist International, and one of the closest allies of Henry Kissinger, is part of the international effort to sabotage the implementation of President Reagan's new strategic defense doctrine. Through his leadership of the East-West Palme Commission on disarmament—the flagship of the peace and nuclear freeze movements—Palme has consistently advocated policies which mean the weakening of the United State militarily vis-à-vis the Soviet Union.

Documentation

'Preparatory phase in Soviet military plan'

On April 26, the Swedish Submarine Defense Commission completed a report on Swedish defense capability against alien submarines, and the nature of a series of submarine invasions which occurred in heavy density during October 1981. Excerpts from the report follow.

Section 5. The Hors Bay Incident

. . . The incident occurred during the month of October, starting on Oct. 1 at 12:50 p.m., when two draftees' observation of backwash and a submarine periscope in the vicinity of Furuholmen-Berganäs in Hors Bay caused an initial anti-submarine deployment with helicopters and patrol vessels until Nov. 1, when the search for submarines in the area was halted. . . .

The commission strongly denounces rumors that the anti-submarine hunt in Hors Bay resulted in the sinking of one submarine. The "vacuum-cleaning" operation begun immediately has not given any results in the form of findings of material from a foreign submarine or material pertaining to a foreign power. On the other hand, the investigation has produced other results of great significance for the reconstruction of what really did happen.

Tracks on the sea floor have been found in the area around Hors Bay-Mysingen Bay:

In Hors Bay, i.e., in Djupviken and Mäersgarn and in the strait between Huvudholmen and Alvasta Laangholm.

Tracks have been found outside of Danziger Gatt.

Tracks have been found in the northern part of Mysingen Bay.

As is shown by the video-photographic material [accompanying the report], these tracks indicate two different varieties of sea floor tracks, both coming from mini-submarines and, on top of this, tracks from a sea-floor-parked conventional submarine.

The documented tracks indicate two different types of

mini-submarines. At certain locations tracks have been found indicating a caterpillar tread vehicle, while other tracks indicate keel scratches on the sea floor by another type of mini-submarine. At one location outside of Mälsten (just outside the magnetic tripwire) a large number of tracks have been found, tracks of both types of mini-submarines as well as sea floor scratches of a conventional submarine thought to have been functioning as the "mother ship."

A careful evaluation of the information from the sea floor shows that the mini-submarines have been manned, and that they can travel "floating" under water, propelled by a propeller or driven by caterpillar treads on the sea floor. Due to their small size they can operate in very shallow waters.

It can be justifiably presumed that the submarine intrusion into the naval base area at Hors Bay constituted only a small part of a larger and coordinated operation over a larger geographic area. This is a pattern also observed in relation to other intrusions of foreign submarines into Swedish waters.

In the Stockholm archipelago, this operation included probably six submarines, of which three were mini-submarines of as yet unknown character.

These submarines have probably operated such that a conventional submarine has served as a base of operations for one mini-submarine.

One mini-submarine in this operation has been operating in the Stockholm central archipelago. After leaving its mother ship this mini-submarine has intruded into the inner archipelago. Certain observations even indicate that this mini-submarine penetrated all the way into Stockholm harbor during the last week of September. . . .

Section 7. The question of submarine nationality

. . . In sum, all these indications together with known patterns of operations from the Baltic Sea area, make both military and civilian Swedish experts believe that the intrusion into Hors Bay, as well as other intrusions during the 1980-82 period have been made by submarines belonging to the Warsaw Pact. . . . After careful consideration, the commission has adopted this view. . . .

Section 10. Security conclusions

One theory is that a foreign power wishes to provoke an increased anti-submarine defense effort on the part of Sweden. . . . This theory is strongly questionable. . . . The same goes for all other political motives for the intrusion. Another kind of reason for the intrusion which can be rejected is that of military training and maneuvers without relation to military operations. It would be absurd to imagine that anyone would take such a risk. . . . It is important in this context to differentiate between motives and intentions directed against the other military bloc [NATO] and those directed against Sweden. . . . The main conclusion is that the submarine activity represents preparatory phases in an operative military plan.