

Does a KGB spy work for Sweden's Palme?

by Göran Haglund

"There is a KGB man in the circle around Prime Minister Olof Palme. This is what Norwegian spy Arne Treholt has told the Norwegian security police, according to the French weekly *VSD*." Thus began an article in the Swedish Social Democratic newspaper *Aftonbladet* on July 9, under the frontpage headline, "KGB Man Works for Palme."

The report in the July 5-11 issue of the French weekly *Vendredi, Samedi, Dimanche* about a KGB agent in the immediate circle of the Swedish prime minister, has been picked up by the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, the West German *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, and now even by *Aftonbladet*, the largest-circulation Social Democratic newspaper in Palmeland itself.

The international exposure, severely compromising Olof Palme, largely parallels similar revelations published by the *Executive Intelligence Review* and its international news service, NSIPS, throughout Europe. It also follows the virtual hand-to-hand combat against Palme's cronies that the representatives of this magazine have been forced to engage in at the Stockholm Arlanda airport, as reported in last week's *EIR* editorial. After pointed *EIR* exposés of Palme's systematic policy of selling out to the Soviet Union, Palme has decided to attempt an illegal ban of *EIR* sales at the main Stockholm airport.

Palme's Eastern connection

Now, it appears that more people—including some within Palme's own party—have been stirred to speak up about Palme's Eastern connection. Curiously, the July 9 *Aftonbladet* exposure of Palme reappeared a second time on July 10, with a note explaining that the reason for republishing the same article was that in some editions of the July 9 issue, due to a printing press malfunction, some pages had come out completely blank, among them the inside page carrying the article about Palme and the KGB!

While the debate has been opened over Palme's links to the KGB, the evidence of Soviet policy inputs into the oh-so-neutral Stockholm cabinet are accumulating. In the East German Defense Ministry weekly *Volksarmee*, Swedish De-

fense Minister Anders Thunborg is cited, during his recent visit to East Berlin, expressing "his conviction that the visit will further develop the cooperation between the two states and their armies [emphasis added]."

Shortly after the defense minister, self-professed peace emissary Palme himself paid a visit to the court of East German party chief Erich Honecker, arriving at the Peenemuende military airbase on June 29, amid the largest East European Soviet military maneuvers since the war, yet embracing his East German hosts as warmly as ever.

As a sign of the times, the Swedish armed forces have been sent on vacation. Sweden's biggest and northernmost airbase, that of Wing F21 in Luleaa, which is responsible for guarding Sweden's northern flank facing the giant Soviet military base at Murmansk, has been closed for a three-week vacation. The entire Swedish northern coast, 40% of Sweden's vast coastline, is patrolled by *one* small boat. The general preparedness of the country is a joke, with the armed forces reduced to 25-40% of normal strength. Only 53 of the Swedish Navy's 125 major vessels are manned, and a mere 125 of 450 combat aircraft are manned.

Yet another outrageous example is that Arlanda International Airport outside Stockholm is totally defenseless. One expert commented, "The Soviets could land one full Airborne Division there unopposed, then drive in style to Stockholm and occupy it." Through precisely such methods—the rapid seizure of key unguarded airfields—the Nazi surprise attack "Weser Exercise" ["Weserübung"] against Norway in April 1940 succeeded in occupying all critical points within 24 hours.

The total standing force of the army and coastal artillery is down to 20,000 men, of whom 13,000 are recruits who have had a maximum of three months of basic training, often without rifle-range training and therefore armed with sticks! After 4 p.m. weekdays and from Friday afternoon to Monday morning, bases have only a skeleton staff of a maximum 20 men per regiment, which makes a grand total of 1,000 unprepared men for Sweden's 50 peacetime regiments combined.

The nation's capital, Stockholm, is guarded after 4 p.m. and on weekends by 60 armed soldiers, of which 40 represent the Palace Guard and 20 the weekend force at the capital's Coastal Artillery base K1. On top of all this, Palme has just ordered the Swedish Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Ljung, to work out plans for how to eliminate Sweden's four armored brigades!

In a comment to the press, the Swedish Defense Staff, neutral as it is, said things aren't as bad as they seem. First of all, the "military situation in Europe is calm right now," and second, all of the other countries around the Baltic also take vacations. Presumably, the hundreds of thousands of Warsaw Pact troops training for blitzkrieg actions and amphibious landings on the Baltic coast were merely having a summer picnic.