

Northern Flank by A. Borealis

Palme covers up Soviet threat

The recent Soviet tailing of a Swedish airliner may signal that Sweden is heading for its own "Berlin crisis."

The latest shocking instance of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme's appeasement of the Soviet Union has compelled this Resistance fighter to take pen in hand. I inaugurate this column with the vow that I shall not rest until "Red Olof" is removed from office, and Sweden assumes its rightful place in the Western alliance.

It is, of course, no particular surprise that Palme hushed up for more than two weeks a Soviet incursion into Sweden's airspace that could have ended in a tragedy like the shootdown of the Korean Airlines flight last year. Palme is, after all, one of Moscow's top Western assets. Until recently he was the protector of Arne Treholt, the Russian spy who joined the Norwegian foreign ministry in order to conduit the KGB's plan for a European "nuclear-free zone" into the West—via Palme's Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues.

A descendent of Latvian and Finnish noble families, Palme comes from a long line of scoundrels. His uncle, Johann August von Knieriem, headed I.G. Farben operations at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Palme's cousin was British Communist Party chief R. Palme-Dutt.

In the spirit of the Radio Free Sweden program which has recently begun weekly broadcasts to the population of Stockholm, telling the inside story of Palme's crimes, I report to you now the new military threat facing Sweden as a result of the treachery of its prime minister.

On Aug. 25, the Swedish press

exposed a gross violation of Swedish airspace by a Soviet jet fighter. The Sukhoi (Su-15) combat plane tailed a Scanair civilian airliner, en route from Crete via Warsaw to Stockholm, for about five minutes, or 20 miles into Swedish airspace over the large island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. The incident occurred on Aug. 9, more than two weeks before it became known to the public.

The two Swedish interceptor jets sent up to meet the intruder approached the scene only after the Soviet jet had returned unchallenged to the East: The Swedish Draken fighters had to be sent all the way from the airbase of Aengelholm in the southwest of Sweden—some 200 miles away—a consequence of the low levels of readiness that have resulted from Palme's appeasement policy.

The Soviet pilot was therefore free to set the Sukhoi's guided-missile sights on the airliner with its 274 passengers. No warning or indication was ever given to the pilot of the civilian airliner.

For eight days, Palme did nothing. Finally on Aug. 17, the government meekly asked the Soviet chargé d'affaires in Stockholm, Yevgenii Rymko, to visit the foreign ministry for "explanations." Needless to say, no explanations were given, and my sources in Stockholm tell me that an anti-appeasement faction of the foreign ministry decided to reveal the incident to the press, in order to slow down the "normalization of Swedish-Soviet relations" that Palme is working toward,

after the scandal that has broken out over Soviet submarine incursions into Sweden's territorial waters.

The incident followed several other revelations or warnings of the Soviet threat. On Aug. 22, the authoritative defense yearbook *Jane's Fighting Ships* revealed that no fewer than 150 covert missions have been carried out by Soviet spetsnaz commando units inside Sweden since 1962: "The equipment of this elite group, trained in the techniques of raiding, sabotage, reconnaissance and political murder, includes small submarines and each group has its quota of assault swimmers, some of whom are defecting nationals of the country being visited."

On Aug. 20, the military commandant of Stockholm, Col. Hadder Stjernsward, warned in the daily *Svenska Dagbladet* of the vulnerability of the nation's capital to a Soviet surprise strike: "The understanding of the capital as a prime target of a surprise attack has now been recognized in a wider circle."

Colonel Stjernsward also attacked "the scandalous plots" of the Palme regime against "our armored brigades [which] form the core of the defense of southern Sweden," as an "ongoing, unprecedented self-destruction. . . . We have to realize," he said, "that right now there are operations being carried out against our country."

High-level Swedish military sources reached on Aug. 23—after the airspace violation but before that incident was known to the public—said that Sweden's entire Air Force now had been put in full readiness. Referring to the vulnerable situation of the island of Gotland far out in the Baltic, one observer familiar with recent Soviet moves against West Germany commented that "now Sweden has its own emerging Berlin crisis."