

## Northern Flank by A. Borealis

### Invasion corridor opened in Sweden

*The new East-West highway connecting northern Sweden with northern Norway is perfect for a Soviet invasion force.*

**A**mid great fanfare, a new modern highway has just been completed between the northern Swedish iron-ore center of Kiruna and the Norwegian port of Narvik. The new highway was officially opened in a festive ceremony conducted in style by King Olav V of Norway and King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, both of whom were dressed up for the occasion in military uniform.

Yet official Sweden did not mention a word about the military significance of the highway, nor did the media. Ostensibly, the road was constructed merely to promote tourism in the land of the midnight sun, northern Norway and Sweden.

Danish media, however, broadcast that military officials in both Sweden and Norway vehemently opposed the building of the road, precisely because of its obvious military implications.

In fact, looking at a map, the new highway between Kiruna and Narvik is but the last stretch of a continuous road and railway connection from Soviet troop concentrations on the Kola Peninsula all the way westward to Narvik and the North Atlantic. The highway would greatly facilitate a Soviet surprise strike across northern Sweden into Norway.

Two independent sources, with access to the immediate circles around Prime Minister Olof Palme, have volunteered information strongly indicating that the construction of the Kiruna-Narvik highway is no mere blunder, committed by naive civilians to whom the threat of a Soviet invasion may seem intangible. Undoubtedly, Palme

is convinced he has struck a deal with the Kremlin. If the two sources are right, that deal would include the following point: In the event of war, the Russians will not occupy Sweden, if Palme ensures that there are three guaranteed invasion corridors across Sweden, through which Soviet troops can rapidly advance into Norway, the actual target of a Soviet occupation force!

Astounding as this may seem, there is an historical precedent for such a deal: During World War II, Hitler's Wehrmacht troops were transported by railway across neutral Sweden to and from Nazi-occupied Norway. The wartime national-unity government of Social Democratic Prime Minister Per Albin Hansson decided to violate its neutrality policy in favor of Hitler's demands of troop transports through Sweden, to avoid an outright Nazi invasion and occupation.

Today, the Red Army has built up a formidable military force on the northern flank of Europe. Of two Soviet divisions on the Kola Peninsula, the 54th motor-rifle division directly targets the new invasion corridor. That division has at its disposal no fewer than 200 tanks—more than Norway's entire tank forces—plus a large number of armored personnel carriers and a missile battalion with Frog missiles which are now being replaced by new SS-21 missiles.

The 54th motor-rifle division is based at Kandalaksha, a town located at the northwestern tip of the White Sea, and at Alakurtti some 60 miles to the west. From there, a direct railway

line goes further west to the Finnish city of Rovaniemi on the Arctic circle, from where there is now a direct road connection via Kiruna to Narvik.

Soviet interest in northern Norway has increased markedly. Top Norwegian defense sources have stated that "there is growing evidence that the Soviet Union is regularly sending small, unmanned aircraft into Norwegian air space." Such drones have carried out prolonged overflights of Finnmark, the northernmost part of Norway, for at least two years.

Two years ago, a Norwegian airliner mysteriously crashed off the northern coast, killing all on board. Investigations showed that the cause of the crash was something hitting and smashing the tail rudder. In late September 1984, a flare, deemed certain to have come from a drone, dropped onto the ground in Finnmark. Reportedly, it was found by the Norwegian authorities complete with its Russian markings. Such flares have been regularly dropped over the sea north of Norway as markings for Soviet ships to move to a designated spot to pick up the drone.

Norwegian sources are certain that the drones have been conducting electronic intelligence missions and probably detailed terrain mapping for Soviet cruise missiles. Finnish military sources have also emphasized a pattern of Soviet overflights of Finnish territory by both manned and unmanned planes, primarily in the north.

Imagine the tragedy of Norway's king Olav. As crown prince, he spent World War II in his London exile leading the resistance against Hitler's puppet Quisling regime along with his father, King Haakon VII—and now, the 81-year-old king Olav, unaware of this fateful deed, merrily cut the ribbon opening a new invasion path to Narvik.