

## Northern Flank by A. Borealis

### The 'King Canute Memorial Conference'

*A Soviet scientist decorated for beam-weapon work announces that beams won't work—it all makes sense in Palme's Sweden.*

Five hundred aging peaceniks and terrorist sympathizers gathered in Stockholm on Feb. 15 to hear Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, Soviet Academician Yevgenii Velikhov, and U.S. arms-control advocate Herbert Scoville, rail against President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) in the deluded conviction that the program can still be stopped by political means.

The conference, entitled "The Risks of Accidental Nuclear War: Inevitable or Preventable," was sponsored by Palme's "peace" apparatus. Not only was it preceded by West Germany's official embrace of the SDI, it was followed by British Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher's grudging endorsement, thus signaling an inevitable European united front behind Reagan. But, alas, reality is an irrelevancy in current Swedish political life, exemplified by a "what, me worry?" foreign minister who routinely denies Soviet submarine incursions in Swedish territorial waters.

Hence, it was probably only in Sweden that Palme, Velikhov, Scoville, and company could have gotten away with what they did. The occult phrase, repeated over and over again, was: "The SDI can never work, and no one except President Reagan thinks that it can." That Velikhov himself recently received a top Soviet award for his accomplishments in plasma physics and directed-energy weapons—which he publicly insists will never work—is possibly evidence of

the dialectical process in action.

After agreeing that the SDI will never work, all then agreed—led by Palme—that such systems are *supremely dangerous*, and although they would never work, would give the United States a first-strike capability. You see, a not-working system in American hands is dangerous, but a not-working system in peace-loving Soviet hands will simply not work, or not threaten anybody.

This all makes perfect sense when you are in Olof Palme's Sweden.

Unfortunately for him, some rudely reality-oriented individuals were present. The Fusion Energy Foundation circulated an open letter to Velikhov calling on him to manifest some shred of scientific morality and reaffirm the commitment he made at the scientists' conference in Erice, Sicily in September 1983, to joint U.S.-Soviet work on defensive beam weapons.

Velikhov responded with an inquisition-like attack on scientific optimism, comparing current SDI efforts to the "medieval attempts to find the philosopher's stone" and to "alchemy." He quoted the late Soviet scientist Artsemovich: "High technology solutions become the opium of some governments."

Velikhov continued this assault on science at a press conference, insisting that there was 100% unanimity in the international scientific community that beam weapons won't work. When he was challenged by Stockholm *EIR* correspondent Clifford Gaddy, Veli-

khov went so far as to assert that Edward Teller, one of the intellectual authors of the U.S. beam-weapons policy, opposed Reagan's "space weapons" program. Said Velikhov, Teller *only* supports ground-based, "pop-up" lasers!

But Pugwash Movement member Herbert Scoville took the cake. The day before, Scoville, president of the U.S. Arms Control Association, told a seminar at the Swedish Institute for Foreign Affairs that SDI administrator Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson himself believes that the President's program can't work!

Visiting *EIR* Washington correspondent Susan Kokinda countered by citing chapter and verse from Abrahamson's congressional appearances, and then asked him, in light of the European momentum behind the SDI, if he really thought the program could be stopped. Momentarily forgetting that the SDI won't work, Scoville conceded, "No, unfortunately not." At a press conference the following day, he admitted that *he* won't work: "I must confess that I am impotent to influence the Reagan administration."

Palme, Scoville, and Velikhov also tried the sabotage approach taken by Max Kampelman, the former Mondale adviser who is now Reagan's chief Geneva negotiator. Scoville recently wrote an article denying the feasibility of precisely what the program is directed at achieving, defense of *all* missile targets. Palme declared that, while an ABM capability to protect population centers won't work, the United States could develop limited, point-defense systems to protect missile silos. Echoed by Velikhov and Scoville, he called this a dangerous destabilization of deterrence.

All in all, the trio gave a very creditable imitation of the mythical King Canute's attempt to order the onrushing ocean to retreat.