

Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

Perle wrecks U.S.-Norway relations

The former Assistant Secretary of Defense is spearheading an effort to alienate staunch U.S. allies. On whose behalf?

The transfer of militarily sensitive computer technologies to the Soviets by the Norwegian state-owned arms company Kongsberg Våpenfabrikk and the Japanese high-technology firm Toshiba is being exploited by the "Mossad lobby" in the United States. Led by former Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle, the Mossad lobby is trying to divert attention from its own role in betraying U.S. secrets and to disrupt U.S. relations with Europe and Japan, viewed by the Mossad as unwanted rivals for U.S. strategic benevolence.

The Norwegian and Japanese leaks of sensitive technologies was raised by the United States at a January meeting in Paris of the COCOM organization, founded in 1951 by NATO and Japan to supervise East-West trade policies. Under false pretenses, Kongsberg and Toshiba shipped computerized propeller-milling equipment to the Russians that will enable them to manufacture silent-running submarine propellers. After realizing the extent of the damage caused by the high-technology transfers to the Soviets by Kongsberg Våpenfabrikk, the Norwegian government moved to prevent a repetition of the violations of the COCOM rules.

The Oslo government launched an investigation into possible further violations by Kongsberg, and announced a toughening of the Norwegian law, to be implemented in consultation with U.S. experts.

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and Defense Minister Johan Jørgen Holst briefed U.S.

Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in April and May. Weinberger, during his May 12-15 visit to Norway, expressed his appreciation of Norwegian actions.

But outrage over Norway and Japan's violations of the COCOM trade restrictions, intersecting an anti-Japanese protectionist mood and calls for trade war legislation, continued to build in the U.S. Congress. While the administration has pressed for enforcing better cooperation and resisted sanctions against Norway and Japan, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly in mid-June to demand compensation, and Sen. Jake Garn, according to the *New York Times*, suggested that "we ought to really hurt Toshiba."

Such attitudes toward U.S. allies have long been championed by Richard Perle, who was forced out of the Defense Department partly as a result of his attempt to burn all bridges to Europe. An agent of those Israeli Mossad networks implicated in the Iran-Contra affair, Perle was rehired by Shultz, as a consultant to the State Department! Along with his Mossad crony and former deputy at Defense, Stephen Bryen, now promoted as director of the DoD's Technology Transfer Branch, Perle has spearheaded the attacks on Kongsberg and Toshiba.

In a *U.S. News & World Report* article, Perle seconded congressional calls for sanctions against the Norwegians and the Japanese, proclaiming that U.S. allies have done what U.S.

adversaries were unable to do in damaging U.S. anti-submarine defenses.

While insisting that Kongsberg's technology leaks to the Russians are not to be downplayed, having damaged Norwegian security interests to the same degree as those of the United States, pro-American circles in Norway are distressed at the hostile intent of declarations such as Perle's.

In a June 24 editorial in the conservative daily *Aftenposten*, Perle was pointedly rebuked. Citing his proclamation in *U.S. News & World Report*, the Oslo daily noted that "the agitated sentiment prevailing in certain American circles is damaging the trust which each alliance must build upon. Even after the Kongsberg scandal, there must be room for the good cooperation that will guarantee our national security."

But it is precisely such U.S.-European cooperation that the Mossad lobby is out to damage, in its zeal to make Israel appear as the foremost U.S. ally. Technology leakage to the Russians does not bother the Mossad. Where was Perle's big mouth when Jonathan Pollard's systematic betrayal of U.S. military and intelligence secrets to Israel was blown, secrets in many cases passed on to Moscow? The Mossad network activated its assets in the press, the State Department, and elsewhere to suppress every key feature of the case, just as it had protected Pollard throughout his espionage career.

In 1970, Perle, then an aide to Sen. Henry Jackson on the Senate Armed Services Committee, had himself been caught red-handed spying for Israel. A wiretap of the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C., ordered by the National Security Council, revealed that Perle was passing classified information to the embassy. Despite some protest, the power of the Mossad machine protected Perle at that time.