

Dirty tricks vs. LaRouche backfire on Sweden's gov't

by Göran Haglund

Using the murder of Olof Palme as a pretext, an illegal, but government-sponsored political intelligence operation has been conducted by a circle of intimates of former Stockholm police chief Hans Holmér—the same group which wrecked the Palme investigation from the very beginning. Prime Minister Palme was assassinated on Feb. 28, 1986, and the perpetrators have never been brought to justice.

The prominent dirty-tricks bunglers now exposed as violating what is left of Sweden's rule of law, a clique politely described as a clandestine brotherhood of unwed men, is the same crowd that was already caught trying to blame the Palme murder on associates of U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

The forced resignation of Justice Minister Anna-Greta Leijon on June 7, to preempt a sure vote of no-confidence announced for the day after, was but an attempt at damage control of a scandal that threatens to rock the very fundament of Swedish Social Democratic rule.

The international East-West arms-smuggling combine, whose operations have everything to do with Palme's assassination, is now being exposed as continuing privately the same political vendetta against LaRouche which Holmér, while still in office in Sweden, failed to bring to a successful end in the first year of the so-called Palme murder investigation. Holmér provided the Swedish rallying-point for forces operating internationally in conjunction with the U.S. FBI, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Lt. Col. Ollie North's Project Democracy, to eliminate LaRouche from the political landscape.

After Holmér was dumped as the Stockholm chief of police in the spring of 1987 and transferred to an anti-drug

post with the United Nations in Vienna, his longtime buddy Ebbe Carlsson, a private citizen, was secretly assigned to go on where Holmér had stopped. The assignment of Carlsson was cleared with Justice Minister Leijon and the highest level of the cabinet, National Chief of Police Nils Erik Åhmansson, and the Chief of the Security Police (SÄPO), Sune Sandström—but was concealed from the prosecutors and many of the police officers who were officially assigned to continue the Palme investigation, after the dismissal of Holmér.

Nominally a book publisher, Ebbe Carlsson is in fact a top operative of the Social Democrats' secret political dirty-tricks organization, nicknamed SAPO—a pun on the acronyms of the Social Democratic Party (SAP) and SÄPO. Since the early 1970s, the Social Democratic SAPO, newly purged from nationalist, military-linked personnel previously employed in campaigns against communist influence in the labor movement, has been in a recurring fight with SÄPO, which, despite similar purges, has retained pockets of nationalist resistance to the appeasement policy toward Moscow overtly introduced by the Palme regime.

The key actors now exposed in the Ebbe Carlsson ring of SAPO agents were all brought together by the mid-1970s. In 1975, Carlsson himself was the information secretary and Åhmansson the police secretary of the Justice Ministry. Holmér was the SÄPO chief and Leijon the immigration minister, responsible for fighting terrorism. Another key player, current ambassador to Paris Carl Lidbom, was a cabinet member without portfolio, responsible for legislation, and a link to the foreign ministry was provided by Sverker Aström, the grey (Social Democratic) eminence of the Swedish gov-

ernment's diplomacy.

According to eyewitnesses of the terrorist occupation and blowing up of the West German embassy in Stockholm in 1975, a megalomaniac Information Secretary Carlsson already then behaved as though he, and nobody else, was the chief of the Swedish police forces. Carlsson had already gained notoriety in 1970, when working as a labor reporter for one major Swedish daily, he had been caught keeping a file of index cards on each of his colleagues, reporting their various qualities and deficiencies.

The Carlsson-Holmér ring

Reportedly, Ebbe Carlsson first approached Lidbom in 1987 about pursuing a private track in the Palme murder investigation, and Lidbom brought in Justice Minister Leijon. Carlsson himself bragged that he has been talking to Holmér every day for the last 12 years, and Åhmansson has admitted meeting twice with Holmér since Holmér's dismissal, as well as meeting with Leijon and Carlsson in the latter's home "several times this spring."

The scandal broke on June 1 as Sweden's largest-circulation tabloid *Expressen* revealed that Ebbe Carlsson had been secretly assigned by the government and by National Chief of Police Åhmansson, to pursue a private investigation into the Palme murder. This included Carlsson's participation at briefings given by Åhmansson to Leijon, including confidential information not supposed to be released to private citizens. Subsequent revelations showed that both Leijon and Åhmansson had issued letters of recommendation to Carlsson for him to use in opening doors with police and intelligence services in Britain and other countries.

As this sensational news flooded the pages of all Swedish press, it was also revealed that one of Holmér's handpicked former bodyguards, who in the meantime had been assigned to be the bodyguard of Ebbe Carlsson, was caught "accidentally" in a customs check on June 1 attempting to smuggle into Sweden very advanced, illegal bugging technology, of a type which not even SÄPO can use without the strictest restrictions. The wireless bugging equipment had been purchased for a six-digit price from a Hamburg firm, and was supposed to be smuggled into Sweden on Carlsson's behalf, after a request for permission to legally procure such equipment had been rejected by the chief of SÄPO!

The bugging equipment was to be brought to a 10-room apartment in Stockholm, made available at the end of March 1988 as Carlsson's secret headquarters, but police sources do not exclude the possibility of its having been used abroad, for example in West Germany or France. Before the end of March, Carlsson's private operation, including several war councils with Holmér personally, had been conducted from his own office as an executive of the large publishing house of the Bonniers, the most prominent Jewish family in Sweden.

Allegedly, the track pursued by Carlsson's SAPO ring

was that Palme was murdered by the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), on behalf of Iran, in retaliation for Palme's interfering with Swedish arms exports to Iran. For this purpose, Carlsson is to have met with former Iranian President Abolhassan Banisadr, since 1981 living in exile near Paris, and also to have traveled to Damascus, Syria, to visit the headquarters of the PKK—a rather suicidal undertaking by somebody who's convinced that the PKK killed Palme!

Even the Swedish press openly speculated that a more likely target of the Carlsson SAPO ring was not Iran or the PKK, but the remaining nationalist elements of SÄPO or other political enemies of the Social Democratic regime. In this context, the timing of the scandal is not uninteresting.

Recent weeks have seen an unprecedented intensification of the defense and national security debate in Sweden, ranging from the virtual military occupation of Stockholm carried out as a defense maneuver during the May 7 Day of the Army, through a best-selling book on a Russian 1992 surprise attack on an isolated Sweden, to one of the most intense submarine hunts ever conducted, in early June, with the firing of more live ammunition than ever before against what everybody except the government knows to be Soviet intruders.

It has also been noted that the exposé of the Carlsson ring's illegal activities and the capture of his bodyguard by the customs service occurred only weeks before a new report was to be issued by another commission investigating the functioning of SÄPO, a commission expected to recommend a further undermining and purge of the professional competence of SÄPO, attempting to destroy any remaining independence from the peculiar ideological bias imposed by the current regime. The commission, whose report is likely to have been significantly delayed by the need to investigate this last round of "intelligence irregularities," is chaired by Paris Ambassador Carl Lidbom, one of the leading lights of Carlsson's SAPO ring.

New libel hits LaRouche

Danish national television, under threat of a lawsuit, was forced to retract a libel against Lyndon H. LaRouche and associates. In a June 8 broadcast on the resignation of Sweden's justice minister, the network showed a picture of LaRouche and said that a suspect in the Palme assassination was "Lyndon LaRouche's Nazistic organization in the United States."

When informed that LaRouche's collaborators in Denmark had won two libel suits and secured a court order prohibiting such statements, the station aired a retraction and apology the following day.