

Stasi agents: 'We spread lie that LaRouche killed Palme'

by Göran Haglund

In several media appearances in Sweden, an ex-officer of the State Security Service (Stasi) of the former East German communist state, Herbert Brehmer, has admitted that the Stasi launched a major disinformation effort to blame the European Labor Party (ELP) and Lyndon LaRouche for the Feb. 28, 1986 murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. The detailed confessions were made in a front-page article published in the weekly magazine of the Swedish Journalists' Association, *Journalisten*, dated Aug. 20-26, 1992, and in two subsequent half-hour national radio broadcasts on Aug. 29 and Sept. 1.

Brehmer's confessions provide detailed confirmation of repeated assertions by LaRouche and the ELP that the Palme murder was used to launch a massive black propaganda operation against LaRouche and his associates. In the weeks after the murder, the major news outlets in western Europe and the Americas, as well as many in the Soviet bloc, indulged in an outburst of lies targeting LaRouche.

In the United States, this defamation played an integral part in the secret intelligence warfare leading to several political frameup trials, as well as in LaRouche's imprisonment by the Bush administration on Jan. 27, 1989. A key role in this was played by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), as we shall show.

The slander campaign came fast on the heels of the March 18, 1986 election victory of two associates of LaRouche in the Democratic Party primary in the state of Illinois. Mark Fairchild, one of the two, commented on Sept. 1, 1992, upon hearing of the Stasi revelations: "When I woke up on the morning of March 19, 1986, I heard two very surprising things on the radio. One was the charge that LaRouche had

killed Palme; the second was that I had won the nomination for the post of lieutenant governor." The ADL and company launched their propaganda barrage to ensure that the LaRouche candidates' movement would *not* succeed at the ballot box again.

How the disinformation was launched

In Sweden itself, all media, whether printed or broadcast, went full blast along the lines initiated by the Stasi, in a wave of disinformation that peaked by mid-March 1986. On March 18 alone, *Aftonbladet*, the chief outlet of the Social Democratic Party, ran 16 pages on the Palme murder, 10 of which were devoted to defamation of the ELP; the day after, another 8 pages on the murder, 4 of which devoted to bald lies about the ELP. Other media followed, one day after another, in the psychological-warfare equivalent of a saturation bombardment, designed to once and for all extinguish LaRouche's influence and ideas from the country.

The slanders were then picked up by NBC-TV and other outlets in the United States, and were broadcast worldwide. Soviet television ran a "documentary" on the Palme murder, accusing LaRouche of masterminding the crime.

The revelations now published in Sweden fully corroborate the 102-page Special Report published by *EIR* in October 1986, entitled "A Classical KGB Disinformation Campaign—Who Killed Olof Palme?"

In his confessions published in *Journalisten*, ex-Stasi officer Brehmer details how "Department X was assigned the task of getting involved in the Swedish police investigation" after the Palme murder. Department X was the Stasi unit in charge of disinformation, or "Active Measures," as it was

called by East German spy chief Markus Wolf, who modeled Department X on the Soviet KGB's "Desinformatsia" department. Brehmer says:

"At my desk, I drew up the outlines of how the ELP theory would be conducted into the Swedish police investigation. The plan was to have a national Swedish newspaper receive an anonymous telephone tip-off. It was to happen already during the week after the murder." The article adds: "As an alternative, the information would go directly to one of the special tip-off phones made available by the police. The content would be along the lines that the caller 'knew that the ELP had committed the crime.' In addition, he or she had 'witnessed hectic activity in the ELP headquarters in the night.'

" 'Nothing was really true, but it sounded well-informed and credible,' Brehmer recalls.

"There were several advantages to specifically targeting the ELP. On the one hand, the lack of evidence could be compensated for if the newspaper reporters found something that really tied the ELP to the murder itself. On the other hand, the planted information would contribute to diverting attention from 'surely innocent' groups of the left-wing."

Brehmer explains: "The crime could only have been perpetrated by right-wing extremists. And that we wanted the police leadership in Stockholm to quickly understand."

Indeed, on March 3, *Ekstra Bladet*, Denmark's largest-circulation tabloid, ran an article claiming, "Sources in the police leadership reveal they are looking intensely at right-wing extremist groups, such as the Swedish neo-Nazis and the so-called 'European Labor Party,' which also has a branch in Denmark." Dated Stockholm, this first article connecting the ELP to the Palme murder was based upon a manuscript shown by a reporter of *Expressen*, Sweden's largest-circulation tabloid, according to the *Ekstra Bladet* reporter.

Also on March 3, *Tageszeitung*, a Berlin-based leftist paper, ran an article from Stockholm, with formulations identical to those of *Ekstra Bladet*, directly citing *Expressen* as its source. One day later, on March 4, *Expressen* ran its own version of the Stasi disinformation about the ELP and the murder. From then on, egged on by such Soviet media as Radio Moscow, TASS, and *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, western media increasingly picked up the cue, until the mid-March crescendo of lies and slanders against the ELP and LaRouche.

Stasi penetration of Sweden

But the Stasi did not merely have a couple of phone calls placed to some newspapers and police headquarters in Stockholm. The *Journalisten* article details: "For the Palme case alone, Registry Department XII had selected 89 possible IMs, secret informal collaborators. All of them were considered suitable for operations in Sweden. . . . Four persons were considered especially well-suited. Two of them were IMs residing permanently in Sweden, probably a married

couple. Another was IM I/2191/78 with 'very good connections to state and political circles in Sweden and to leading officials of the Social Democratic Party (SAP).' And IM I/1326/79 who had 'close relations to the Swedish embassy in the G.D.R. [German Democratic Republic—East Germany].'

Included in the radio broadcasts, but not in the published *Journalisten* article, were several "conspiratorial goals" which had to be achieved by the Stasi:

"1) Establishing relations to Swedish police and security forces; 2) Getting access to information about the measures taken by Swedish police and security forces; 3) Exploiting connections to left- or right-wing extremist groups in Sweden; 4) Exploiting connections to criminals in Sweden, especially arms dealers, smugglers, and forgers; and 5) Exploiting connections to highly placed persons in political and other functions in Swedish society."

The article goes on: " 'This information was unknown even to me,' Brehmer says. 'But irrespective of whether my operation underwent changes along the way or even completely went overboard, the Stasi in any case achieved its goal. I still remember how pleased we were when the 33-year-old [Victor Gunnarsson, who had once signed an ELP election petition, but otherwise had no relationship to the party] was arrested as the murder suspect. His contacts with the ELP contributed to causing general disgust for the ELP. That was the only thing that counted in March of 1986.' " (Not only was Gunnarsson's "link" to LaRouche non-existent; he was not even the assassin. He was later released for lack of any evidence against him.)

Stasi's friends in the United States

The Stasi disinformation was spread internationally by the ADL. In the spring of 1986, both the ADL and NBC News featured allegations that associates of LaRouche were involved in the assassination. During the summer of 1986, Irwin Suall, Fact-Finding Director of the ADL, traveled to Sweden to exploit the story, and wrote reports to the U.S. government. Swedish police officials traveled to the United States to consult with the task force framing up LaRouche.

Despite the subsequent discrediting of the LaRouche-Palme allegations by Swedish authorities, both the ADL and NBC ran the story again in December 1986. The U.S. government, through prosecutors in Boston, Massachusetts, participated in this new round of disinformation as well.

On Jan. 22, 1992, LaRouche, two of his co-defendants, and his attorneys, including former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Odin P. Anderson, filed a legal motion identifying the disinformation campaign in the wake of the Palme murder as the centerpiece of an intelligence warfare covert operation designed to frame up LaRouche. This assertion was dismissed by Judge Albert Bryan, Jr. as "arrant nonsense." Bryan rejected the motion, which would have given LaRouche his freedom.

The Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet's March 19, 1986 editorial page printed a hooded Ku Klux Klansman, lying in the caption that this was Lyndon LaRouche.



The Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet shows "Gunnarsson" (face covered by black square, lower right corner) holding a European Labor Party poster in 1976. After the "scoop" had been propagated around the globe, Aftonbladet admitted, in a minuscule note the day after, that "Gunnarsson" was actually a Social Democrat attempting to tear down the ELP sign.



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 TEXT:
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 DE WF 0048 110010
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 FM FBI WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE
 TO DIRECTOR FBI PRIORITY
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 UNCLAS
 UNSUB (A); OLOF PALME, PRIME MINISTER OF SWEDEN - VICTIM
 (DECEASED), STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, FEBRUARY 28, 1986
 RE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION ON APRIL 21, 1987, BETWEEN SA
 BOSTON, AND SA WASHINGTON FIELD; AND
 BUREAU TELETYPE, DATED MARCH 20, 1987.
 AS SET OUT IN REFERENCED TELETYPE, INVESTIGATORS FROM THE
 ARE CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON, D. C.,
 CONCERNING CAPTIONED MATTER. AS BOSTON IS AWARE, SUSPECTS IN
 CAPTIONED MATTER HAVE LINKS TO THE LYNDON LA ROUCHE ORGANIZATION
 AND THE HAVE REQUESTED TO CONFER WITH AND
 HIS ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (AUSA) IN REFERENCE TO THE

INDICES SEARCHED
 INDEXED
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 INITIALS: INITIALS:
 APR 21 1987
 FBI - BOSTON

PAGE TWO DE WF 0048
 INVESTIGATION OF LYNDON LA ROUCHE. WITH CONCURRENCE OF SAC,
 BOSTON, SA AND WILL
 TRAVEL, APRIL 22, 1987, TO BOSTON, ABOARD NORTHWEST FLIGHT 330,
 ARRIVING AT 10:24 A.M.
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This FBI document, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, shows the attempt of the agency and the U.S. Justice Department to link LaRouche to the Palme assassination.

A22 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1986

Suspect in Palme Case Had LaRouche Party Tie

Swedish Group Says Link Was Cut in '85

By John Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writer

The 32-year-old man arrested in connection with the assassination of Swedish prime minister Olof Palme was formerly an active member of the Swedish political group with right-wing U.S. candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. but the Swedish group said it had severed ties with him because of his sinister activities.

Victor Gunnarsson, 32, was arrested by police in Palme's Federal District of Columbia, became associated with LaRouche's European Labor Party in December 1984, when he approached members of the party on the streets, said Michael LaRouche, a party spokesman, in a news conference.

lowers moved to that area to join him.

The Swedish party (known by its initials, EAP) is one of a number of European labor parties.

LaRouche Documents Linked to Palme Case

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 — The Federal Bureau of Investigation obtained documents during a raid of the headquarters of Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. that could be helpful to Sweden in the search for the killer of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

with LaRouche's Victor Gunnarsson, 32, who was arrested by police in the Federal District of Columbia, according to interviews with current LaRouche Party observers of the party, an examination of party documents showed.

VICTOR GUNNARSSON
Chiefly in European Labor Party

Documentation

In October 1986, six months after the launching of the Stasi operation to try to pin the murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme on associates of Lyndon LaRouche, EIR published a 102-page Special Report, titled "A Classical KGB Disinformation Campaign: Who Killed Olof Palme?" Keeping in mind that the recent revelations by the Stasi agents themselves were not available to the team of EIR researchers, the reader can appreciate the accuracy of the report, which documented the campaign of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), NBC-TV, Soviet spokesmen, and others, to spread the slander around the world. We reprint excerpts from the preface, "Tracing the Tracks of Palme's Assassins," by Swedish European Labor Party spokesman Michael Ericson.

After the news of the Palme murder hit the press, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Founder and Contributing Editor of *Executive Intelligence Review* magazine, launched "Operation Edgar Allan Poe." LaRouche issued a memorandum of investigative hypotheses regarding the assassination of the Swedish prime minister. LaRouche indicated a way to "trace the tracks" of those who decided to kill Palme, by observing their unavoidable attempts to cover them up. . . .

My party—the European Labor Party (ELP)—was created in Sweden in 1975, inspired by the economic and philosophical ideas of LaRouche. We have pursued a policy of full sovereignty for our nation, in *concordance* with other sovereign republics—refusing to submit to the role of a "satrapy" to an empire wishing to gobble up its neighbors. . . . That is the primary issue which has distinguished the ELP from the leadership of Palme's Social Democratic Party. Other political differences are subsumed by that underlying difference. That is why, as we were later to discover, the Soviet secret services began to target our activities in Sweden in the very beginning, when our influence was still small. . . .

The architects behind the disinformation campaign likely viewed Sweden as a weak flank in this mobilization against the growing Soviet threat. The Soviets undoubtedly thought that they could get away with laying the Palme murder at the doorstep of the ELP, as a first step in dismantling the LaRouche mobilization globally. The Swedish news media, being what they are, again followed the Soviet's lead on this matter. . . .

Whether or not the media believe their own lies is not the issue here, although they did not hide too well the origin of these lies. Their negligence has given the *EIR* staff an opportunity to lay bare the Soviet disinformation apparatus in a way which has never been done before. At the present critical juncture in European politics, this report serves a vital role in exposing a campaign which now threatens the very existence of our nations.

Operation Edgar Allan Poe

On March 4, 1986, less than a week after the Palme assassination, LaRouche issued a research memorandum, launching what he called "Operation Edgar Allan Poe." He outlined investigative hypotheses to solve the question of who killed Olof Palme. In this memorandum, LaRouche made the following included points, most relevant in light of the recent revelations:

The most important clues to be considered come from the area of news-media coverage of the killing and investigations. Two characteristics of such news-media coverage must receive special emphasis in the inquiry:

- Efforts to divert suspicion to or away from certain classes of suspects.
- Efforts to exploit the killing to generate a politically or strategically significant reaction.

It need only be mentioned, that the Soviet disinformation channels are, so far, most active in attempting to generate variously politically or even strategically significant reactions to the killing. The pivotal question, is whether political exploitation of the killing is merely opportunistic, or whether the exploitation reflects in one sense or another the motivation for the killing.

So far, the most probable hypotheses are:

A. That Palme had been actually or plausibly instrumental in some recent action or action-in-preparation, which prompted some agency to require the immediate killing of Palme as either revenge or prevention.

B. That Palme was killed by the Soviets or some related agency, because the political value of Palme's bloody shirt was esteemed to greatly outweigh the usefulness of the living Palme. This would coincide with the use of either elements of international terrorism or Soviet-steered ultra-right-wing groups as accessories to the action.

LaRouche's 2255 Motion

The "Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, Correct Sentence" under 28 U.S.C. 2255, made by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and his co-defendants on Jan. 22, 1992, included the following point:

80. The fabricated assassination allegations continued through 1986, 1987, and 1988. In the spring of 1986, both the ADL and NBC-TV News featured allegations that persons associated with LaRouche were involved in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. (See Appendix 57.) During the summer of 1986, Irwin Suall, Fact-Finding Director of the ADL, traveled to Sweden to exploit this story and wrote reports to the U.S. Government. (See Appendix 58.) Despite the discrediting of the LaRouche-Palme allegations by Swedish authorities, the story was run in December 1986 by NBC and the ADL. The Government participated in this new round of disinformation as well, leaking and mischaracterizing confidential notebook materials maintained in the exclusive control of Boston prosecutors. (See Appendix 59.)