

# Disinformation from the Stasi's psywar kitchen: the KGB and HVA

Part 2, by Anno Hellenbroich

In his explosive interview with the Swedish journal *Journalisten* at the end of August, Dr. Herbert Brehmer, a specialist in disinformation who used to work for the communist East German intelligence service, the Stasi, says: "Three days after the assassination of [Swedish Prime Minister] Olof Palme [on Feb. 28, 1986], Department X [of the HVA, the Stasi's Main Reconnaissance Administration], received orders to intervene into the investigations being conducted by the Swedish police. The department was to determine, from the standpoint of marxist social analysis, who the murderer or murderers of Palme could have been." Without leaving his desk, Lieutenant Colonel Brehmer had proceeded to draft the thesis "that only right-wing extremists could possibly have committed the murder," and then launched the lie in the international press, that Lyndon LaRouche and his European co-thinker party, the European Labor Party (EAP)—which in the meantime had been labeled "right-wing extremists" by the media—were responsible for the murder.

Brehmer went even further: "There were various advantages to taking particular aim at the EAP." First, in order to steer attention away from certain "innocent left-wing groups." "But beyond this, the media and the police would mutually influence each other to more closely scrutinize the EAP and other right-wing extremist groups. And it would also be possible to tie the West German security police, the Verfassungsschutz, into the murder plot. The head of the Verfassungsschutz happened to be a close relative of one of the EAP's West German leaders." Brehmer is referring to Heribert Hellenbroich, who until 1985 was president of the Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (BfV), and who for six weeks was president of the West German foreign intelligence service, the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), before the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl sent him into retirement because a highly placed BND colleague of his, Tiedge, had defected to the communist German Democratic Republic (G.D.R.).

## KGB versus LaRouche

This assignment to spread disinformation about the EAP, was entirely in keeping with the policies of the HVA's "big brother," the Soviet KGB. Already at the end of the 1970s, the Moscow center had seen to it that LaRouche's policies—especially his proposal that the United States and the Soviet

Union jointly build a defensive shield against nuclear missiles, what became known as the Strategic Defense Initiative—was given due commentary in the East bloc press. This led to increasingly crude smears and slanders, all the way to Moscow's outright demand in 1986, that the U.S. prosecutorial authorities take up the "LaRouche case."

Hence it is not surprising that such disinformation campaigns were being cranked up by the HVA.

Brehmer's statements afford us a rare inside look at the way *desinformatsia* operates. For even now, three years following the collapse of the East German communist regime, and one year after the upheavals in the former Soviet Union, documents and statements relating to cooperation between the HVA and the KGB, especially in the field of disinformation, are still very difficult to come by. One reason for this, is that the HVA was "permitted" to dissolve itself, so that today only a small quantity of documentary material is available; even the HVA's electronic data banks were destroyed with the consent of the authorities who dissolved it. Moreover, one repeatedly finds that when the question of collaboration with the KGB comes up in the course of discussions with individual HVA officers, the discussion partner usually falls silent.

But in fact the Stasi, officially known as the Ministry for State Security or MfS, was practically an identical twin of the KGB. In the immediate postwar years, the Soviet military administration vigorously backed the formation of the Stasi. The MfS security apparatus, which came into existence in 1950, was closely intermeshed with the KGB's outposts. Everywhere, on the most diverse levels, one could find KGB liaison officers who automatically received on their desks all the materials gathered by Stasi operatives.

It has been said that at least 80% of the information which the Warsaw Pact procured in West Germany was the result of the HVA's espionage work. In early 1990, competent observers estimated that the greater proportion of the HVA's 4,000-5,000 agents had found new employment with the KGB, following transfer negotiations conducted through HVA chief Markus Wolf. Others spoke of 400-500 spies who were still undercover in Germany, and who had offered their services to the KGB.

The fact is that, in addition to those "reconnaissance specialists" who were still active in early 1990, many more

of the 1,000 ex-G.D.R. citizens who are still active in other countries, and who were only allowed to travel abroad after the most intense scrutiny by the MfS, must now look around for new employment. Some of them have offered their talents to western intelligence services. A few have gone into early retirement or are currently unemployed. (It may be of no small importance for understanding the KGB's role in the period of the collapse of communism, that in 1988 it appointed a new chief for the KGB's operations in the G.D.R. to replace Shumilov: Gen. Lt. Gennadi Titov, who as a general major in 1984 was reported by the world press to be the controlling officer of the exposed Norwegian KGB spy Arne Treholt.)

### Foreign exchange operations

A large portion of this information has been covered up again. It concerns an operation which the German public had previously known almost nothing about: the international network of firms built up as a top-secret mission by HVA "Special Operations Officer" (OibE) Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, the G.D.R.'s top procurer of foreign exchange. Schalck-Golodkowski jumped over to the West just in the nick of time, in order to tell the BND and the CIA a few things about the collapsed G.D.R. But the inability, and also the unwillingness which has been shown to put Schalck-Golodkowski on trial, shows that he is still holding a trump card: Because of their own personal involvement, western politicians have been apparently unable or unwilling to put before the public the truth about western collaboration with the East German communist party (SED) leadership. To that extent, the title of a recently published book, *The Schalck-Golodkowski Empire Lives On*, is all too true. A few things, for example, have become known about the East German firm IMES, such as its arms shipments to Iran as part of the Iran-Contra affair, in which U.S. Vice President George Bush participated.

The West's dealings with the Schalck-Golodkowski empire is a symbol of its dealings with the entirety of the HVA's espionage activities. The virtually complete destruction of all documentation of the HVA's activities was apparently one of the secret conditions agreed upon in the "four-plus-two" talks on German reunification, because it was felt that an intact account of the activities of the MfS's secret service would reveal too much of the postwar political architecture.

### Moscow's best espionage jobs

On top of this comes the fact that in addition to the HVA's direct ties, the former G.D.R. exhibited the greatest dependence abroad on the KGB and the GRU (Soviet military intelligence). In Berlin-Karlshorst, one KGB branch office employed an average of 1,000 people, most of them engaged in western reconnaissance. In Potsdam-Cecilienhof, there was a KGB counterintelligence unit with about 100 staff. Some 100 KGB agents also worked directly with the Red



*Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and his wife participate in a May Day rally in 1983. Three years later, Palme was assassinated, and the KGB and Stasi blamed it on Lyndon LaRouche and his associates.*

Army's military intelligence service. We have very little hard information on this, even now. KGB liaison officers were working at the MfS headquarters on Normannenstrasse and in its 15 state administrative offices. Much collaboration resulted from the official agreements made in the 1970s between Moscow and its "fraternal socialist countries."

A high point was reached in 1979, when Moscow set up its Soud central computer, which the HVA continuously fed with personal data. Aside from the G.D.R. and the U.S.S.R., six other "fraternal socialist countries" were hooked into the system: Bulgaria, Hungary, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. Romania's Securitate was not considered reliable enough, and was excluded. The 1980 Moscow Olympic games were used as a convenient pretext for establishing this data base: It would aid in "averting the danger of terrorist attacks." In the course of its last 10 years, the MfS fed personal data into this computer on 15 categories of people, such as collaborators and agents of opponent intelligence services (ca. 17,600), collaborators with centers of ideological diversion (ca. 3,000), hostile correspondents (ca. 3,750), terrorists, hostile diplomats, hostile activists, and undesirables (ca. 20,600). By the time of the revolution in 1989, approximately 75,000 of such personal profiles had been fed into this computer (which is still available to the KGB today) and have been neither destroyed nor revealed to the Bonn government.

This has great significance, because the indictment handed down by the federal prosecutor's office on Sept. 25 against

Markus Wolf accuses him of having committed treason and bribery, over the many years he functioned as head of the HVA, during which time his close collaboration with the KGB played a special role. We must assume that the overwhelming majority of the personal data input by the MfS into the Moscow computer relate to people who are currently residing in Germany.

### **The model: KGB 'desinformatsia'**

Department X was created in 1966 at the behest of Markus Wolf on the Moscow model, and in the following years, under the resourceful Colonel Wagenbreth with his 60 agents, it caused much evil mayhem in West Germany. Under KGB chief Aleksandr Shelepin, the "Desinformatsia" section had been reorganized into Department D. Defectors report that after Stalin's death, many had wanted to develop a new "information strategy" toward the West. This in fact occurred, under the close supervision of the Information Committee of the Communist Party Central Committee, the GRU, and the two main KGB departments for "active measures" (Reconnaissance and Counterintelligence).

Colonel (later General) Agayants was appointed head of the new "Disinformation" Department. His deputy was Colonel Grigorenko, a specialist in domestic counterespionage and in operations inside emigré organizations. Another important specialist for Germany, Austria, and NATO was Col. Vasily Sitnikov. An important arm of the Central Committee's political direction was the International Department, led at the time by Boris Ponomaryov.

One year after Yuri Andropov's accession to power in 1968, Department D was transformed into Department A. In the early 1970s, its status as a "department" was upgraded to that of a "service." At the same time, Department V, responsible for "wetworks"—murder, kidnaping, and sabotage—was reorganized and made into an adjunct of the "illegal" arm of the KGB, the Main Administration S. Department A (Disinformation) and Department V (Murder) were now brought together under the First Main Administration of the KGB.

One prominent player in the disinformation campaign against LaRouche and the EAP, as was reported in an October 1986 *EIR Special Report* on the Palme assassination, was Boris Pankin, the Soviet ambassador to Sweden. From 1973-82 Pankin was director of the Soviet "copyright agency" VAAP. His deputy was the above-mentioned Colonel Sitnikov. This post was a convenient location from which one could spread falsified information into the West via legal front organizations, without any fear of disruption. It was no coincidence that during the stormy phase of the past few years, Pankin was appointed ambassador to Prague, an important foreign outpost in the current efforts to reshape the former Soviet empire.

Insiders report that down to the present day, Pankin harbors great animosity toward LaRouche and his political

movement. Pankin, along with his close friend and erstwhile head of the Soviet news agency TASS, Sergei Losev, constituted the central coordination point for disinformation against the West. Typical of this was a book authored jointly by Losev and Vitaly Petrusenko in 1975 entitled *A Dangerous Game: CIA and the Mass Media*. Six pages of this book are devoted to LaRouche and the philosophical organization founded by him, the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC). Citing the German newspaper *Die Tat*—a regular pipeline for Stasi disinformation—the NCLC was presented as anti-communist and CIA-controlled. The Soviet disinformation specialists went so far as to claim that former CIA director William Colby and his assistant Ray Cline had "admitted" that they had financed the NCLC's newspaper *New Solidarity* to the tune of \$90,000, and that 80% of its editorial staff were CIA or FBI agents. From then on, this counterfeit report was rehashed over and over, especially in news media with "left-leaning" readerships.

### **HVA propaganda against the SDI**

Some of the documents found during the breakup of the MfS graphically reflect the ultimate objectives of the Stasi's political reconnaissance, especially regarding what the Soviet Union was demanding of it. For example, a commentary on the February 1979 guidelines on the scope of the HVA's operational work reads in part: "in order to prevent any surprises, smash opposing bases in the G.D.R., gain knowledge about enemy centers and carry out countermeasures, support the policies of the SED . . . to let greater support arrive from the U.S.S.R."

Workbooks of trainees in Department XV (Espionage) show the following goal orientation: In 1982, the trainees were informed that there existed "a heightened war danger" and that therefore top priority should be given to the fight against disarmament treaties. The socialist camp was being endangered "by the use of laser beam weapons."

### **Target: EAP**

Thus, no one should be amazed to find that a 1986 directive on the HVA's upcoming priorities shows the European Labor Party near the top of the list, along with the Greens and the Council for an Undivided Germany. This task was assigned to Department II of the HVA, Responsible for Political Parties, Organizations, and Churches in the Federal Republic of Germany, under the leadership of Col. Dr. Kurt Gailat.

Those who worked with the EAP and its leaders such as Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche were not only victims of a worldwide disinformation campaign around the Palme assassination; they were also victims of the espionage which Wolf's spooks from Department II were carrying out on Moscow's behalf.

*Next: Schalck-Golodkowski and his empire today.*