Sweden toes the Anglo-American line

A military critic charges a “Munich betrayal,” as the government pursues a suicidal policy toward Russia.

Sweden’s Social Democrats lost the national elections in autumn 1991, and a non-socialist government coalition was formed. But one would be hard pressed to detect any difference in policy between conservative Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas and her Social Democratic predecessors, like Pierre Schori and Sten Anderson. The government in Stockholm is continuing to act as ahenchman for the Anglo-American financial elites, particularly in respect to Russian policy.

Prime Minister Carl Bildt attended the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland at the end of January, and was given the role of countering the speech of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Chernomyrdin declared, simply, “No shock therapy.” Bildt retorted that the reason for the deep problems of the Russian economy was that it had been dominated by “too much therapy” and had experienced “too little shock.”

Bildt’s role as a mouthpiece for the International Monetary Fund’s warfare against Russia has serious implications for the national security of Sweden, as some influential have recently charged. A Russia plunged into poverty and chaos is a dangerous neighbor indeed.

Bildt ought to have seen this with his own eyes when he was in Murmansk last fall, acting on behalf of the election campaign of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. Did he and Kozyrev reach a common understanding of the Russian imperial concept of “the near abroad”? This concept, which refers to countries that were once members of the U.S.S.R., sends a chill down the spines of Sweden’s Baltic neighbors. “Reformer” Kozyrev has demanded that the Russian military be allowed to station troops on the territories of the independent countries, in order to “protect the ethnic Russians” there. Kazakhstan’s President Nursultan Nazarbayev charged that this policy is equivalent to Hitler’s policy toward the Sudeten Germans in 1938.

Bildt is giving his support to the free market reformers, led by former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar. Gaidar’s “shock therapy” created the breeding ground for the rise of Third Rome ideologue Vladimir Zhirinovsky. Now, Bildt is trying to curb the influence of Zhirinovsky by supporting a Great Russian expansionist policy. Bildt ought to have seen this with his own eyes when he was in Murmansk last fall, acting on behalf of the election campaign of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev. Did he and Kozyrev reach a common understanding of the Russian imperial concept of “the near abroad”? This concept, which refers to countries that were once members of the U.S.S.R., sends a chill down the spines of Sweden’s Baltic neighbors. “Reformer” Kozyrev has demanded that the Russian military be allowed to station troops on the territories of the independent countries, in order to “protect the ethnic Russians” there. Kazakhstan’s President Nursultan Nazarbayev charged that this policy is equivalent to Hitler’s policy toward the Sudeten Germans in 1938.

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