
Book Reviews

Who killed Olof Palme? The coverup continues

by Lotta-Stina Thronell

Stories About Palme

by Toma Ahland and Birgitta Zachrisson
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Ten years have passed since Sweden's controversial Social Democratic Prime Minister Olof Palme was murdered, late in the night of Feb. 28, 1986. *Stories About Palme* is one of several books which have been issued on this occasion. The authors, who include 30 interviews in their book, try to portray Palme as his friends and enemies saw him, rather than presenting any hypothesis on why Palme was killed. Ten years after the assassination, Swedish authorities have made no headway in finding the killer or killers, and a political coverup prevails.

EIR, however, has published information over the years that, if pursued, would yield quite a different investigative result.

In late summer 1992, for example, former East German secret police (Stasi) agent Herbert Brehmer publicly admitted that he had been tasked to launch a disinformation campaign to pin Palme's assassination on Lyndon LaRouche and his Swedish associates in the European Labor Party (EAP). Brehmer's confessions provide detailed confirmation of repeated assertions by LaRouche and the EAP that the Palme murder was used to launch a "black propaganda" operation against them. In the weeks after the murder, the Soviet KGB and major Western news outlets indulged in an outburst of lies against 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) and NBC-TV. The slander campaign came fast on the heels of the March 18, 1986 election victory of LaRouche Democrats in the Illinois state Democratic gubernatorial and secretary of state primaries.

Lyndon LaRouche repeated, in the Nov. 24, 1995 issue of *EIR*, his charges that Palme, before he was killed, "was a major political threat to the entire apparatus of combined East bloc [and] other 'Iran-Contra' gangsters involved in what was the most extensive and most murderous weapons-and-drug-trafficking operation of the recent quarter-century."

Palme's friends and enemies

A red thread throughout the interviews in this book, is that Palme's own incalculable personality created a great deal of controversy. One of the non-socialists attacking him was Gösta Bohman, who was the leader of the right-wing Moderate Party until the early 1980s. In Bohman's 1974 book, *Reflections About My Sweden*, he stated that Palme's rhetoric was poisoning the political climate in Sweden. In his 1983 book, *This Is the Way It Was*, Bohman repeated that "a heavy responsibility rests upon Olof Palme for a changed and poisoned climate in society." In the daily *Dagens Nyheter* in 1983, Bohman wrote about Palme and "his infamous, his perfidious, his uninhibited, and almost reckless attacks upon his adversaries." Asked by the *Stories About Palme* authors about his these statements, Bohman answered: "that was my judgment then and I see no reason to retract it now." Bohman added, "this is the way he was seen, and it is one of the reasons for the so-called hatred of Palme."

Bohman charges that Palme's condemnations of the U.S. bombings of Hanoi in December 1972 were ill-advised and unpatriotic, and caused an open feud with the United States. According to Anders Ferm, the close Palme collaborator who was then Swedish ambassador in Washington, he was summoned to the U.S. State Department and "bawled out" by Alexis Johnson on orders from Henry Kissinger and President Richard Nixon. Gunnar Helén, a former Liberal Party leader in Sweden, stated in the book that through this 1972 speech critical of the U.S. bombings, Palme "made himself the intellectual conscience of the entire Western world, by comparing Hanoi to names of places from World War II where Communist and Nazi acts of violence had been committed. And that was what had provoked Nixon and Kissinger so terribly, to be compared to the Nazis."

Reading the interviews in the book, it seems that the Portuguese government takeover by the Socialist Party in the 1970s had been a turning point in relations between Kissinger and Palme. Social Democrat Anders Thunborg, former Swedish defense minister, describes the revolution in Portugal, and how Palme and the Socialist International in Europe acted to "convince the Americans" that the country was not lost. And Social Democrat Carl Lidbom, former Swedish justice minister, describes how "we sat a whole day in cabinet negotiations together with Kissinger, and, among other things, we discussed the urgent question concerning Portugal. . . . And only [the new Portuguese Premier] Mario Soares and his Socialist Party could save democracy there, and Olof's message to Kissinger was that, instead of backing the right-wing

forces in Portugal, he ought to back Soares. Later on, Kissinger admitted that Olof was right, but at the time they did not agree.”

After that, however, whenever Kissinger would go to Sweden, he made a point of visiting two people: fellow Trilateral Commission member and Kissinger Associate Per Gyllenhammer, and Olof Palme.

In 1980, Palme accepted a job as United Nations peace mediator in the war between Iran and Iraq. Another close collaborator of Palme, Jan Eliasson, discusses how Ayatollah Beheshti, a senior operative of the ruling Islamic Republican Party in Iran, was visited by eight U.N. representatives in 1981. He only let two of them in, Eliasson and Palme, because they were the only ones who spoke German, and he himself did not speak English. Eliasson: “I have almost never seen

Palme so upbeat, as after this meeting. We felt that we had met a person, who had the power to get the religious leaders to accept a peaceful solution. But he tragically died later.” Beheshti was murdered in Teheran in the middle of 1981.

Asked whether there were any discussions about arms deals between Palme and the Iranians and Iraqis, Eliasson says he cannot remember any. Concerning the Swedish weapons producer Bofors, and an eventual arms deal with Iran, Eliasson just answers that it surfaced only in 1985.

The book underscores the need for further investigation of what actually happened in Palme’s peace talks with Iran and Iraq. Did Palme perhaps make himself inconvenient for the international arms cartel, for the complex involved in the Iran-Contra scandal, in which Kissinger and Bush, among others, are implicated?

Palme’s killers were LaRouche’s enemies

Lyndon LaRouche made the following remarks in an interview with the weekly radio broadcast “EIR Talks,” on Feb. 29.

... First of all, we know essentially the major motive for killing Palme. Palme was a totally disreputable person. But sometimes, God works in very mysterious ways. And this very disreputable person, Palme, was, in the mid-1980s, prominently and publicly, the selected figure to blow open the arms trafficking of George Bush and his British friends. The international Iran-Contra operation, which involved the Afghan war; arms sales to India, to offset what was being done through Pakistan; funding both Iraq and Iran in the Iraq-Iraq War; the drug-running Contra operation, which George Bush was running together with subordinates such as Oliver “Buck” Revell of the FBI and Ollie North of the—nominally of the CIA—in Mena, Arkansas, for example. Not Clinton. This was Oliver North, Oliver “Buck” Revell earlier, and Georgy Porgy Bush.

So, at that point, about 1985, there was a blow-up, a raid which was totally unexpected, on an Israeli agent, an arms dealer, in Malmö, a suite, his office. These offices, because they were so well-protected by political influence, had a lot of paperwork in there which, had they acted more discreetly, they would not have had there.

So the customs officials of Germany and Sweden involved in this raid, came out with a host of information leading, pointing toward leading Swedish arms firms and international drug-traffickers and gun-runners *such as*

Oliver North, and the Bush people, and the Israelis as well, as being involved in this weapons-trafficking, conducting of U.S. weapons, drug-trafficking, and so forth, all into India, Pakistan-Afghan war, Iran, Iraq, and so forth.

Now, Palme was the head of this so-called peace operation, and was going to investigate who the gun-runners were, who were supplying all these weapons from Sweden and elsewhere. Palme then was hit.

A well-prepared hit

Now apparently, it was a very well-prepared hit. Because at about the time they were preparing to hit Palme, they were working with George Bush’s and Oliver North’s Soviet friends, who also happened, at that time, to be enemies of mine because of the SDI, to have me take the blame for the Palme hit.

The proof of this came out later, even though we had inklings of that already in—as early as March 1 or 2 of 1986, we had inklings that there was a Soviet hand behind this operation, but not exclusively Soviet. And then, later, after the Wall came down in East Germany, a couple of officials of Abteilung 10, which is the International Special Operations Division of the former Stasi, the East German Security Ministry, produced reports and paper, documents, proving that the operation against me, trying to link me to the Palme assassination (an operation which had been prepared *prior* to the Palme assassination), had been leaked by them, using agents that they controlled in the Swedish press and other press. . . .

So it’s no wonder that the Palme assassination becomes a mystery. . . . The interest in a coverup by the leading Swedish press, in covering up the Palme assassination and the involvement of elements of the Swedish Social Democracy, including friends of Henry Kissinger there . . . has led to this result. . . .