

Cracks appear in Palme assassination coverup

by Dean Andromidas

The 11th anniversary of the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, Feb. 28, was commemorated with feature articles in leading dailies, special television programs, and even a privately sponsored conference where concerned non-governmental individuals presented their views on the investigation of the crime.

This year, yet another investigative avenue, the so-called South Africa track, came to light, and may very well prove who was responsible for an assassination that has gone unsolved for the last 11 years. In September 1996, former South African intelligence officers revealed that three South African intelligence operatives were responsible for the murder. This admission led to an investigative trail, which, as *EIR* has shown, if vigorously pursued, could end directly on the doorstep of former U.S. President George Bush.

After the South African revelations, in October 1996, *EIR* published a *Special Report*, titled "George Bush and the 12333 Serial Murder Ring," which pointed to links between Bush and what has come to be known as the "Iran-Contra affair," along with a series of unsolved murders and assassinations throughout Europe and elsewhere. The victims, in addition to Palme, include German politician Uwe Barschel (1987), Canadian weapons engineer Gerald Bull (1990), Belgian politician André Cools (1991), former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (1991), and many others.

On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of Palme's death, *EIR* presented its *Special Report* at a seminar in Stockholm on Feb. 24. The report had already been widely circulated among journalists, police authorities, and intelligence and political circles in Sweden, and the well-attended seminar, plus a series of meetings with private investigators and others concerned with this issue, elicited a surprising amount of interest in *EIR*'s investigative leads.

The response was surprising for two reasons. First, the LaRouche movement—of which *EIR*, along with the Schiller Institute and the European Labor Party, the electoral arm of the LaRouche movement in Sweden, are a part—had been named, immediately after the assassination, as a leading suspect in the murder of Olof Palme. The accusation was splashed across the pages of newspapers and TV screens internationally, and had the intended effect of isolating the LaRouche movement, and covering up the trail of the actual

assassins. In October 1986, *EIR* published a report titled "A Classical KGB Disinformation Campaign: Who Killed Olof Palme," which documented that the charges were baseless and absurd, and that they should have been investigated as a KGB disinformation campaign—an investigation which, if properly carried out, would lead to the actual murderers of Palme.

Six years later, in 1992, the *EIR* analysis was proven absolutely correct. Dr. Herbert Brehmer, former chief of disinformation of the Stasi, the East German secret police, told *Journalisten*, the weekly publication of the Swedish journalists' association, that he personally had launched the disinformation campaign, connecting LaRouche to the Palme assassination, through his agents working in Western media. These revelations served to increase the credibility of *EIR*'s own investigation, among those with a serious concern to get to the truth of who murdered Palme. But despite the Brehmer admission, LaRouche's views continued to be blacked out of the Swedish media.

The second reason the response was surprising is that there is still great political pressure to continue the coverup of the assassination, even though there are new South African leads and new efforts within Sweden to get at the truth.

A serious response

Although the Swedish media were conspicuously absent at the *EIR* event, there were many serious individuals in attendance. In addition, this author had a series of private discussions with individuals in Stockholm, who demonstrated a keen interest in the *EIR* investigative approach to the assassination, particularly the South African track and the role of George Bush and the international "munitions cartel." The failure of the press to show up at the *EIR* event, is not just a reflection of the "LaRouche" factor itself; leading elements in the Swedish government are trying to keep a lid on the overall investigation.

In addition to *EIR*'s efforts to crack the coverup, another conference took place in Sweden on Feb. 22, that was devoted to getting at the truth of the Palme investigation. This conference is an annual event, privately sponsored by Swedish businessman Fritz G. Pettersson. Pettersson, who has taken it upon himself to serve as a critic of the government's continuing coverup, maintains the largest private archive concerning the Palme assassination. This year's conference themes paralleled, in important respects, those of *EIR*'s special report.

For example, echoing the *EIR* report, Pettersson's summary of one of the major presentations on the possible motivation for Palme's assassination, pointed to "the role of Palme as a mediator in the war between Iran and Iraq, illegal weapon deals, and the bribes in the Bofors [weapons] deal, which made Palme dangerous and inconvenient for powerful interests in Sweden, as well as in other big weapon-exporting countries. The so-called South Africa track. . . ." That pre-

sentation, given by Göran Lundin, put forward the notion that Palme's policies concerning Central America, Africa, and the Middle East put Sweden in a "de facto state of war" with several leading powers.

The second speaker was Gösta Söderström, who was the first policeman to arrive at the scene when Palme was shot outside a Stockholm cinema. He documented very serious discrepancies between the official report of the events on the night of the murder, and his own knowledge. Although he has been able to prove this knowledge, he has been ignored and ridiculed by the authorities, despite the fact that he was a 40-year veteran of the police department with the senior rank of inspector at the time of the assassination. In a question posed by *EIR* on the evidence pointing to George Bush and foreign intelligence services, Söderström replied that the fact that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other foreign intelligence agencies, played key roles in the investigation, left open the real danger of a much broader international coverup.

The press likewise declined to cover this conference.

Conspiracy of silence breaks

The Palme investigation is in the hands of two committees. One is the official police investigation committee in cooperation with the state prosecutor, and the second is a parliamentary oversight committee. After 11 years, almost all evidence pertaining to the crime is held in secret by the police and prosecutor's office. Despite its mandate, the parliamentary commission does not have access to all this information. This commission has even been denied access to the official autopsy report, a fact that has led to the resignation of several parliamentarians named to the committee.

The police investigation committee expressed little interest last September, when three South African intelligence operatives—Col. Eugene De Kock, Col. Dirk Coetzee, and Peter Casselton—identified three individuals responsible for the killing of Palme: South Africans Craig Williamson and Anthony White, and one Swedish citizen, Bertil Wedin. Although all three of them had well-known histories of carrying out dirty operations, including assassinations of leaders of the African National Congress, and although the Swedish activities of both Williamson and Wedin were well known in Sweden, official attempts were made to quash any in-depth scrutiny of the new evidence from South Africa.

It was only after there were leaks of official information in the Swedish daily *Expressen* (allegedly by the parliamentary commission), that the police sent a team to South Africa. That team returned empty-handed, and a few days later, the police commission announced it was determined to find a "lone assassin." In fact, the police commission renewed the attempt to charge an obvious patsy, Christer Pettersson, an alcoholic whose earlier conviction for the Palme murder was overturned by an appeals court because of the flimsy nature of the evidence that was brought against him. These same Swedish

police investigators have been aided by the U.S. FBI, the experts on finding lone assassins.

By contrast, there have been two other interesting developments since the South Africa revelations. On the very day that the new South African track came to light, a new chief of the Swedish criminal police was named, one Lars Nejlén, who, shortly after his appointment, announced a need to bring "fresh blood" into the police investigation committee. Several weeks passed with no change. Then, in December, it was announced that the chairman of the police committee, Hans Ölvebro, was suspended because of an investigation into his alleged cheating on 40,000 kroner in income taxes. Ölvebro had been one of the strongest advocates of the lone assassin theory.

Despite this shake-up, the police investigation committee continues to drag its feet on the South African track. However, sources close to the investigation are waiting for more information to surface from the South African investigation.

One of the most serious breaking developments in the case is the mysterious death of Peter Casselton, one of the key South African informants who had revealed the role of Bertil Wedin, a Swedish citizen, in the assassination. Casselton was reportedly killed when a truck, which he was supposedly repairing, crushed him. The death was ruled an accident. As further testimony to the level of control over the Swedish media, Casselton's death was reported only by the daily *Expressen*, the same daily that was the first to reveal the South Africa track in Sweden. Despite the fact that Casselton's death occurred in December, normally well-informed journalists, and others dealing with the Palme case, were not aware of it until recently.

Craig Williamson: the untold spy scandal

The identification of the South African agent Craig Williamson as one of the conspirators involved in the Palme assassination, opens up a trail that would lead to some of the highest levels of Swedish political circles, according to *EIR*'s sources. A series of articles appearing in the Swedish daily *Aftonbladet* and the magazine *Vi*, since 1994, by investigative journalist Ander Hasselbohm, documents Williamson's role in Sweden since 1976. Hasselbohm reports that Williamson penetrated the Swedish-financed International University Education Fund (IUEF), where he served as deputy director from 1976 until 1980, when he was exposed as a South African intelligence agent. This should have been one of the most important spy scandals in Swedish history at the time, but it was never sufficiently investigated.

The IUEF was founded by the Swedish Social Democratic Party for the purpose of financing the education of African students. Williamson, allegedly posing as a South African dissident, was able not only to penetrate the organization, but to become its deputy director in charge of its office in Geneva, Switzerland. Among the other directors at

this time was Pierre Schori, a top Social Democratic foreign policy specialist, and currently Sweden's deputy foreign minister, and Mats Hellström and Bernt Carlsson, two other leading Social Democrats. Schori, Hellström, and Carlsson, who were responsible for running the organization, were known as the "the three musketeers" by those familiar with the IUEF. Williamson, as deputy director of the IUEF, worked closely with all three.

IUEF played a leading role in financing students associated with the African National Congress and other organizations acting against apartheid. Therefore, Williamson's position as deputy director gave him access to valuable information that was used to target these potential leaders for harassment and murder. In fact, the arrest and death of Steve Biko, the well-known leader of the Black Consciousness Movement, at the hands of the South African secret services, was attributed to information Williamson gathered at the IUEF. Despite warnings from members of the ANC and some intelligence services, that Williamson was acting in the service of South African intelligence, he was not removed from his position. In fact, Williamson became one of Sweden's most important collaborators for South African affairs. Only after Williamson's role was exposed in the British daily *Observer* in 1980, was he forced to leave the IUEF, and this affair eventually forced the shutdown of the organization.

The significance of Williamson's early relationship with Schori and Hellström becomes important in light of the events of 1986. By 1986, Schori had become one of the leading figures in the Social Democratic Party, and had developed close personal relationships with such international individuals as Henry Kissinger, Armand Hammer, and Michael Ledeen. (Ledeen played a key role in Iran-Contra.)

In *EIR*'s 1986 report on the Palme assassination, Schori was identified as potentially involved in a coverup of the assassination, because of his international connections, both East and West. Schori was also one of the most adamant backers of the bogus "LaRouche track." It is not surprising, therefore, that today, as deputy foreign minister, Schori is one of the key supporters of Yoweri Museveni's Uganda (now responsible for the current genocide occurring in Africa) within Sweden's foreign policy establishment.

Another Williamson colleague at the IUEF, Mats Hellström, was Sweden's foreign trade minister between 1983 and 1986, at the time when Sweden's Bofors-Nobel, a key member in the "munitions cartel," exported hundreds of millions of dollars of munitions to keep the war going between Iran and Iraq.

In 1986, Bernt Carlsson was an intimate adviser to Palme, assisting him in his capacity as official UN mediator for the Iran-Iraq War. On Dec. 21, 1988, while in London on a mission in his role as UN mediator for Namibia, Carlsson boarded Pan Am Flight 103 bound for New York. He died over Lockerbie, Scotland, when that flight was bombed.

Book Reviews

Aiming at victory in Ireland

by Paul Gallagher

Michael Collins

by Tim Pat Coogan

Roberts Rinehart Publishers, Boulder, Colo. 1992
475 pages, paperbound, \$16.95

Xenophon, the Greek military leader and friend of Socrates, who showed how to defeat the Persian Empire, wrote, "Whoever wants to keep alive must aim at victory."

Michael Collins was among the precious few of Irish leaders against the British Empire, over centuries of losing fights, who was focussed on Xenophon's point. Collins's life has been portrayed recently by a motion picture and two books. He was the effective military commander of the Sinn Féin-led Irish forces against the British Empire during 1916-22, during which years the Irish came closer to militarily and politically winning national independence, than at any other time. Collins was the initial organizer and commander of the Irish Republican Army, although this will be misunderstood by those thinking of today's IRA, with its several splinters largely a creation of British Intelligence operations over 70 years.

Irish independence struggles against Britain have continued for so many centuries, with so little hope of success in their own terms, that in the history of them, only the most important questions of political, economic, and cultural *principle* command attention. Simple sympathy for these struggles is immoral, even among the Irish. The British Empire is the powerful and organized enemy of today's humanity; hundreds of millions of lives in Africa, Eurasia, and Ibero-America depend upon defeating that empire. The vast majority of the Irish struggles show nothing—or, worse than nothing—about how to defeat the British.

A potential for victory

Against that background, the 1917-21 joint leadership of Sinn Féin founder Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins stands out with the "invisible" quality and distinction of a *potential* for victory. What they were able to accomplish, as measured