

# Sweden urged to join the Western Alliance

by Konstantin George

Will Sweden abandon its traditional neutrality—which under current Prime Minister Olof Palme has become an accommodation with Moscow—and join the Western Alliance? For the first time in postwar history, a debate over this crucial question is raging through the country, despite Palme's best efforts to stifle it. A positive answer is not only vital to the future of Sweden itself; a pro-Western Sweden would provide Western Europe with a militarily defensible Northern Flank (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Germany north of the Elbe), in contrast to current vulnerability to a Soviet attack.

The debate was sparked by the European Labor Party (EAP), known as Palme's most vigorous opposition, which took out ads in national and regional press featuring the slogan, "Only an alliance with the West can save Sweden." This was also the theme of a July 20 rally in Almedalen Park, in the historic walled city of Visby on the island of Gotland. Four hundred participants came to cheer the EAP's campaign against Palme's deal with Moscow and his Orwellian police state.

Tradition has it that every party holds a speech rally in Almedalen Park in late July. Although the EAP is still too small to qualify for representation in the Parliament (Riksdag), the crowd at the rally was larger than those attending presentations by several parliamentary parties. It heard EAP chairwoman Kerstin Tegin-Gaddy; Alf Enerström, leader of the opposition to Palme in the Social Democratic Party; and the anti-Palme Social Democratic figure, Hans Ericson, head of the powerful Transport Workers Union until 1980.

Pro-Soviet Palme is sitting on a powderkeg, reported a two-article series in the *International Herald Tribune* on July 27 and July 28-29, titled "Swedish Neutrality: Crisis in the North?" "A decade ago, approximately one-fifth of all Swedes regarded the Soviet Union as unfriendly to Sweden. Today, four-fifths share that view."

"But," continued the Paris-based paper, "something unexpected has also happened. For the first time in postwar history there is an open debate about Swedish security options, which boil down to three—accommodation with the Soviet Union (the Palme course), traditional neutralism, or alliance with the Western powers. . . . The fact that there is even talk about the theoretical possibility of options, particularly the alliance concept, is a major departure in the postwar

Swedish defense debate."

Even the leading Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet*, whose chief editor, Ola Gummesson, is not only close to Palme but heaped adulation on East German leader Erich Honecker during Palme's June 28-29 visit to East Germany, was forced recently to cover blunt threats issued against Sweden by Soviet Central Committee member and Palme Commission member, Georgii Arbatov. Arbatov, speaking in Ottawa in May, had equated the Swedish shooting at Soviet submarines caught in Swedish territorial waters with the Soviets' brutal murder of 269 civilians aboard the Korean Airlines flight last Sept. 1.

Similarly, *Izvestia* of July 27 launched a tirade against an alleged "neo-Nazi" and "neo-Quisling revival" in Norway. As in the case of the Soviet intimidation campaign against West Germany for alleged "neo-Nazi revival," "revanchism," and "violations of the Potsdam Agreements," the Kremlin is building the pretext for a military move to occupy parts, or all, of Scandinavia.

## Palme strikes back

Five days after the combined EAP and anti-Palme Social Democratic forum on Gotland, Palme on July 25 delivered the Social Democratic keynote speech in Almedalen Park. He led the speech—rewritten after July 20—with a bellowing attack against "playground extremists . . . who want to change Sweden's traditional neutrality policy." The theme, the hysterical tone, and the refusal to name the object of attack, left no doubt in the mind of anyone who had read the "Western Alliance" ads as to whom and what Palme was talking about.

Palme's July 25 hysterics are nothing compared with the Palme-controlled Swedish media, which are doing everything to stop the next national ads, which were drafted by the Social Democratic opposition to Palme and signed by Alf Enerström and Hans Ericson, who state their support for the defense and economic policies of the EAP. The latest ad was scheduled to run in *Svenska Dagbladet* on Aug. 3. Palme's buddy, *Svenska Dagbladet* Chief Editor Ola Gummesson, phoned from his vacation spot to the paper's offices in Stockholm, killing the ad which was set to run. The following excerpts show why Palme felt compelled to throw the weight of his "1984" police state apparatus against it:

"We, along with tens of thousands of other Social Democrats of whom we are the spokesmen, say it is high time to stop Palme's kind of Orwellian language and his political disinformation. . . . The EAP, a small but very active and very forceful party, has made Palme and his apparat launch a violent attack on the EAP. . . . The EAP demanded at the big meeting at Visby that Sweden be defended at all costs, and it even could be very wise for Sweden to abolish its neutrality, and now, under the growing Soviet threat, ask for U.S. help in the form of beam-weapon anti-missile defense protection, as President Reagan has proposed, even to those who do not join NATO. . . ."