

Northern Flank by A. Borealis

Palme ordered to refute KGB exposé

Soviet Ambassador Boris Pankin ordered the Swedish government to oppose a book exposing some 80 KGB and GRU officers in Sweden.

In a display of subservience to his Soviet masters, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme has agreed to officially deny the truthfulness of an exposé of the Soviet secret services contained in a book, *The KGB in Sweden*, released in Stockholm on Oct. 22.

The book reveals that no less than 26 of the 38 accredited Soviet diplomats at the Stockholm embassy can be identified as Soviet secret intelligence agents. If you include those at the Soviet consulates and trade representation in Sweden, about 60 KGB officers and 20 GRU officers—ranking from captain upwards—are identified in the book with name, rank, and picture.

The book asserts that Sweden is the third largest target of Soviet intelligence operations in the West, next only to the United States and West Germany. The book's main deficiency is the failure to fully account for the obvious Soviet masterspy in Sweden, Ambassador Boris Pankin himself. Previously, Pankin, whose assignment to Sweden dates from Palme's reelection as Prime Minister in the fall of 1982, headed the KGB's "Service A"—formerly "Department A"—for "active measures," including disinformation.

But Palme did not respond to the book's exposé by taking action against the illegal Soviet activities. Nor did he respond with an embarrassed silence, as one might have expected. Rather, on Oct. 25, three days after the book had been released, Palme had the un-

dersecretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Ulf Larsson, sharply denounce the exposé as "unfounded," adding that it is "serious that the book raised accusations against a whole embassy." In other words, the massive Soviet espionage was not regarded a problem—the book was!

Coincidentally, the liberal daily *Dagens Nyheter* on Oct. 26 published a most interesting statement by Maj.-Gen. Yuri Lebedev of the Soviet General Staff. Note that this statement was issued on or before Oct. 25, the same day as Undersecretary Larsson denounced the book. Responding to a question about whether the Swedish government is doing enough about anti-Soviet sentiment, Maj.-Gen. Lebedev stated: "Naturally, it is correct that the Swedish government could react negatively against this phenomenon that does exist in the country. It could make it understood that such statements are unfounded"—exactly the word used by the government in denouncing the KGB exposé!

The same day, *Dagens Nyheter* printed another statement, issued by the Scandinavia specialist of the Soviet news agency Novosti, Igor Pavlov. Using a mixture of praise and implicit threat, peculiar to Soviet politics and lower forms of mafia disputes, Novosti editor Pavlov declared: "We consider the government of Palme to be a workers' government, a kind of ally within the international workers' movement. We understand very well Palme's situation, that he has enemies

at home. We do not want to hurt him [sic]."

Meanwhile, Palme faced widespread suspicion from his "enemies at home" that the Soviets had pressured the government into denouncing the book. Undersecretary Larsson was deployed on Oct. 26 to proclaim that his statement the previous day had not been prompted by any official Soviet complaint. On the contrary: "It is possible that my criticism prevented a Soviet complaint," Larsson lied.

However, Undersecretary Pierre Schori of the foreign ministry, after meeting Ambassador Pankin for one hour on Oct. 25 to discuss the matter "officially," admitted to the press that the foreign ministry's assistant secretary for political affairs, Jan Eliasson, had lunch with Pankin to "unofficially" discuss the exposé on Oct. 24, one day before the government denounced the book. Denying that any Soviet protest had ever been filed, Schori sophistically insisted that the Pankin-Eliasson lunch was merely "unofficial," and "didn't count."

But the Soviet chargé d'affaires at the Stockholm embassy, Yevgenii Rymko, said on Oct. 28 that the Soviet embassy did issue an official protest to the Swedish government during Pankin's one-hour meeting with Schori. While this is still denied by Schori, the press spokesman of the foreign ministry, Lärs Lönnbaeck, conceded that "if the Soviet Union afterwards wants to call it a protest, then it is a protest. It is up to them to decide if it is a protest."

Expressing how pleased the Kremlin is with Palme's cooperation, Soviet press attaché Pyotr Kogoyenko stated that the Soviet embassy didn't have to demand any direct measures against the book. "It is sufficient that the Swedish government Undersecretary Ulf Larsson has declared that the book is based on lies."