

EIR Investigation

KGB attempted to link LaRouche to Palme killing

It was the Soviet KGB's Lieutenant-General Boris Pankin who was behind the Swedish press's campaign to link U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche to the killing of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, according to experts of the Soviet desk for *Executive Intelligence Review*. EIR officials announced on March 23 that a preliminary documentation exposing the KGB plot had been sent to the printer for publication within the week.

The essential facts of Pankin's position and activities were brought to light in a celebrated trial in Greece during 1982. It was established that since no later than 1973, Pankin had been head of the Soviet KGB's Department A, responsible for coordinating the planting of KGB disinformation in the Western news media. That trial also disclosed that Pankin coordinated the activities of his own Department A with the KGB's assassinations department, Department V, the two interfacing in Directorate S, and that Sweden is the key base of Pankin's operations into the West generally.

The Athens trial disclosed, that Pankin ran his disinformation into the Western news media under the cover of the Soviet Copyrights Agency (VAAP). Pankin was director of the VAAP, with Vassili Sitnitkov as deputy director. VAAP has a staff of approximately 400 officials in Moscow, and runs 27 branch offices in various parts of the Western world. The trial showed that Pankin's role in the circumstances of the killing of CIA official Richard Welch and the orchestration of Andreas Papandreou's election as Prime Minister of Greece, had been conducted through Luxembourg, via a KGB front called the Gesellschaft für Die Förderung des Presses und Verlagswesens, under the direction of an East German, Karl Raab. This KGB front in Luxembourg was owned by two Swedish fronts for the KGB, Svenska Vastfik Export, and Orvag AG. The known official of Orvag AG was a Swiss (Zuerich) resident, Albert Rees.

Svenska Vastfik's interests included both the Luxembourg KGB front and the publication of the West Berlin Communist Party. The Luxembourg KGB front was shown to include several firms in various nations, including 80% ownership in the Delaware firm of Control Data Worldtech, Inc.

The present operation

It was through these and other channels of KGB Department A that Pankin personally directed the international effort to link LaRouche to the killing of Palme. Pankin ran this operation with prominent Soviet officials, including Georgii Arbatov of the Rockefeller-linked U.S.A.-Canada Institute, and with assistance of such KGB Department A officials as Col. Iona Andronov, currently based at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, and Col. Sergei Losev. Losev was the KGB official immediately in charge of the Swedish news-media lies against LaRouche.

Both Losev and Andronov have long records in special operations against LaRouche. Losev was co-author, with Vitalii Petrusenko, of several books and articles. Petrusenko's 1976 book, *Dangerous Game: The CIA and the Mass Media*, accused LaRouche and his associates of being paid agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency; the book cited former CIA Director William A. Colby as authority for this charge. Andronov was the KGB disinformation officer prominent in efforts to cover up the Bulgarian connection to the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II; as part of this operation, Andronov ran extensive operations against LaRouche.

The attempt to link LaRouche with the Feb. 28 killing of Palme began with a public declaration by Georgii Arbatov on March 1. Immediately, known KGB assets in the Swedish and Danish left-wing news media began circulating a succes-

sion of wild falsehoods against LaRouche, each of which they were subsequently obliged to retract. With the detention of Swedish police asset Ake Viktor Gunnarsson, approximately March 11, 1986, left-wing Swedish and Danish news media announced leaks showing that a person linked to LaRouche was responsible for the Palme killing, a leak which Swedish police denied repeatedly until Monday, March 17. Later Olof Palme's widow, an eyewitness to the assassination, testified that Gunnarsson was definitely not the shooter, and Gunnarsson was released. However, from Monday, March 17 through Wednesday, March 19, the social-democratic press-trust throughout Europe gave front-page prominence to wild lies circulated by the Soviet KGB's Department A.

During this interval, the offices of the Soviet KGB's news service, Novosti, identified Losev as the official in charge of the news-media handling of the charges against LaRouche.

Despite the evidence that Gunnarsson was not the shooter, the Soviet networks in the U.S.A. as well as Europe were determined to escalate the Soviet KGB's propaganda against LaRouche, using such resources as drug-lobby figure Dennis King in this operation. Then, on Wednesday, March 19, the news broke, that two candidates supported by LaRouche had won nomination to top Illinois state offices. Although the KGB-controlled news media in Scandinavia attempted to sustain the wild libels against LaRouche, the effort collapsed outside Scandinavia and West Germany. West Germany's press gave minuscule reports of Gunnarsson's release, and refused to cover the Illinois developments then dominating the news media of the United States and also reported in most of the world's press outside the U.S.

The KGB and the killing of Palme

Strong circumstantial evidence tends to confirm the opinion among top-level intelligence services of several nations. It is the Soviet KGB which is suspected of killing Olof Palme, as part of a wave of high-level and other KGB assassinations planned during the recent 27th Soviet Party Congress. The Soviet indictment of Palme is featured in the January 1986 edition of *Soviet International Affairs*. According to intelligence sources, other prominent social-democratic figures besides Palme are on the target-list, as well as other key figures mentioned as "endangered" in recent Soviet press reports. The evidence that the KGB killed Palme is strongly circumstantial, but it is certain, that by attempting to blame LaRouche and the CIA for the killing of Palme, the KGB aimed to kill several birds with one stone: to set LaRouche up for assassination, and to link LaRouche to the CIA, blaming the latter as ultimately behind the Palme killing.

Since the early 1970s, the Soviet KGB has classified LaRouche as a "principled adversary." Initially, during the 1968-1974 period, the KGB suspected that LaRouche was an asset of a right-wing faction of the CIA, running sophisticated operations against the New Left and Communist parties.



Lieutenant-General Boris Pankin, the mastermind of the Soviet KGB's plan to blame LaRouche for the assassination of Olof Palme.

During the 1980s, the KGB has corrected its assessment, to rate LaRouche as a dangerous sort of "loose cannon." Since April 1983, Moscow has placed the greatest possible pressure on both the U.S. Democratic Party and the Reagan administration, openly demanding that the White House cut off all contact with LaRouche, as a price for continuation of Moscow-Washington negotiations. Moscow's policy is, that if the Democratic Party and Western news-media fail to destroy LaRouche's influence, LaRouche must be killed.

How Moscow sees LaRouche

Moscow upgraded LaRouche's status as a "principled adversary" on March 23, 1983, when President Reagan televised announcement of an SDI policy which Moscow saw as identical to the version of SDI earlier proposed by LaRouche. Moscow feared LaRouche's potential influence as an economist, LaRouche's strategic outlook, and LaRouche's analysis as reflected in EIR's Special Report, "Global Showdown." LaRouche was classified among Soviet agents as "very dangerous," as "too inflexible" to be corrupted by combinations of threats and friendly offers, or by the pressure to submit to a perceived "consensus."

Moscow fears that a breakdown of the Western economies might make LaRouche a very credible political figure, and that in these circumstances he might emerge as a powerful influence in the United States and Western Europe, as well as among developing nations of Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Since Moscow projects a banking collapse in the West during either 1986 or early 1987, Moscow's view is that the time to be rid of LaRouche is now. He is the only existing or potential leading figure of the West which Moscow genuinely fears.