

Moscow demands that Sweden purge all Western influences

by Göran Haglund

The merciless light thrown on Soviet pre-war deployments against Europe's northern flank in the Swedish press recently, punctuated by calls for Sweden to join the Western alliance, has left Moscow visibly distressed over the stubborn resistance forming against its current efforts to "Finlandize" all of Scandinavia.

It's not that the Swedish Social-Democratic regime of Ingvar Carlsson isn't trying to please its growling neighbor to the east. But the pace of events is producing an accumulation of provocative incidents between Sweden and the neighboring superpower—a circumstance in which a catalytic role can be played by the LaRouche co-thinker organization, the European Labor Party, whose demands that Sweden join NATO, a taboo subject only a short time ago, now sound ever more credible.

The Soviets are reacting in the usual, brutish fashion, trying to make the Carlsson regime deliver the European Labor Party's head on a silver platter.

On the public side, the Kremlin's approach to the Finlandization of Sweden is to repeatedly demand more "realism" and a more "active neutrality" from the regime. This means stopping all talk of the "imaginary" Soviet threat, and otherwise never to mention, nor permit the press to mention, Moscow in an unfavorable light. The idea is to compel Sweden to maintain its "neutrality," as that "neutrality" is successively reinterpreted in favor of accommodation with the Soviet empire.

In an interview for the Social-Democratic journal *Aktuellt i Politiken*, Boris Pankin, the Soviet ambassador to Sweden, put the matter thus:

"In the future, our relations have to proceed from realities and not from artificial and invented arguments. That is also one of the results of Premier Ingvar Carlsson's visit to Moscow. In and of itself, this is an idea which is difficult to include in a document, but which possibly has entered the mind of all politically interested persons."

Three Soviet complaints

According to *Svenska Dagbladet's* May 25 account of Soviet goals as they emerged during Carlsson's April 14-17 visit to Moscow, the European Labor Party is Moscow's paramount concern. The article never mentions the European

Labor Party by name. The reference, however, is unmistakable. For example: "The prevailing Foreign Ministry perspective today is that Soviet political criticism aims at pointing to tendencies which, unless they are criticized and thereby stopped, could lead to a negative development."

The Soviets have issued three distinct points of political criticism against Sweden.

1) *Swedish military capabilities*. These have been under permanent Soviet attack, including Sweden's allegedly high defense expenditures, which contradict Sweden's official disarmament policy and, Moscow claims, increase the tension in northern Europe.

2) *Technology transfer policy*. A new target of strong Soviet attacks, issued personally to Carlsson by Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov in Moscow, is the law passed by the Swedish parliament shortly before the Palme murder to prevent American high technology from being smuggled through Sweden into the Soviet Union, in accordance with the so-called Cocom agreement among Western nations.

3) *The European Labor Party*. The third point of attack is certain unnamed "circles," which exercise influence on other "responsible circles," and which are accused of anti-Sovietism and of forging evil plots aimed at bringing Sweden closer to NATO.

"Consequently, Soviet diplomacy, employing a mixture of criticism and siren calls, aims at making the Swedish government deal with the 'anti-Sovietism' in Sweden," as *Svenska Dagbladet* puts it.

As the West was still reeling from the shock of Olof Palme's Feb. 28 assassination, Moscow exposed its hand trying to deal with such "anti-Sovietism" itself. Beginning one day after the Palme murder, Moscow started running a massive disinformation campaign, using the services of KGB-tainted Western media, attempting to implicate the European Labor Party in Palme's murder.

It was later learned that this KGB disinformation campaign not only employed KGB-asset journalists, but was coordinated with certain police leadership, and involved political tampering in the Palme murder investigation itself by Social-Democratic elements, including elements inside the police (see *EIR*, May 30, 1986). According to sources, this was the subject of talks during Carlsson's Moscow visit, with

the participation of Soviet ambassador Pankin, a disinformation specialist.

The Swedish Social Democrats' desire to accommodate was severely compromised by the public revelation of a Soviet plan to kidnap the Swedish royal family. Revealed in a new secret Pentagon report cited by columnist Jack Anderson on May 23, the Soviet plan has been given big publicity in Sweden.

Largely repeating *EIR* charges about the training and capabilities of Soviet special forces—so-called *spetsnaz*—and Russian designs on Sweden, the Anderson column reports that the purpose of kidnapping the royal family, on the eve of a war between East and West, is to create chaos and confusion in Sweden and thwart any alignment of Sweden with NATO.

Anderson reports that Soviet mini-submarines have already been detected in the Stockholm harbor, a mere kilometer away from the Royal Palace, and also claims that Soviet intimidation attempts against Sweden seem to have had the opposite effect, as Sweden, its neutrality notwithstanding, has requested NATO assistance to track Soviet mini-submarines.

Sources close to the Swedish royal family privately state that it is obvious that the Soviets would be planning to kidnap the king in a pre-war situation, but that Sweden nevertheless must remain neutral.

After Soviet mini-submarines were first detected in Stockholm harbor in 1982-83, the royal family moved from the Stockholm Palace to take up residence in nearby Drottningholm—"to escape the noise and air pollution of central Stockholm."

Immediately upon publication of Anderson's column on the Soviet threat, the Swedish government had to scramble to prevent the wave of anti-Sovietism it was bound to prompt from leading to a breach of Swedish "neutrality." A sop was thrown to Moscow: A May 27 classical music concert at the Royal Armory inside the Stockholm Palace was abruptly canceled, because the sponsoring Academy of Humanistic Studies, a non-partisan cultural organization, according to the Swedish police, "has connections to the European Labor Party."

Conservative purges

The determination of the regime to purge conservative and military layers in Sweden of "harmful, pro-Western" influences has become evident. Aside from the European Labor Party, which is routinely subject to libelous attack by the media, the regime has directly targeted the military intelligence sources of *Svenska Dagbladet*, the newspaper most widely read by Swedish conservatives.

On May 22-23, *Svenska Dagbladet* was placed on trial by the Social Democratic regime, represented by Chancellor of Justice Bengt Hamdahl, allegedly over two articles published in the summer of 1985 as part of a series on subversive

activity against Sweden. The articles allegedly revealed state secrets of Sweden. However, the two articles actually gave details of Soviet *spetsnaz* operations against Sweden.

The cause of the trial is clearly not a serious breach of Swedish secrecy. Drawing almost exclusively on publicly available sources, only a few details in the articles indicate access to classified reports, compiled by Swedish military intelligence on behalf of the Supreme Commander.

The articles' naming of the Soviets as culprits, including quotes from military intelligence reports, is a diplomatic embarrassment to the regime, which prefers speaking of "a certain foreign power."

The targeting of patriotic sources in military intelligence is the real aim of the law suit, which was initiated through a complaint by Sweden's Defense Staff chief, Vice-Admiral Bror Stefenson, who is the regime's political commissar inside the military command.

In a preliminary ruling on May 23, the jury found *Svenska Dagbladet* guilty in connection with one of the two articles in question, but guilty only of the milder of two possible offenses: that of careless handling of secret information. However, the chancellor of justice announced that now, his intention is to go after the sources.

Suvorov's scenario

As the trial opened, *Svenska Dagbladet* ran a new article on the *spetsnaz* threat to Sweden, based on an interview conducted in London with Soviet defector "Viktor Suvorov," formerly of the Soviet General Staff and an intelligence officer of the GRU, military intelligence, based at a large Soviet embassy in Western Europe.

According to Suvorov, who still says "we" when speaking of the Kremlin, the basic Soviet concept is dividing Europe from the United States, which makes seizing Norway militarily crucial.

"Sweden is blocking the pathway. Therefore, you have to be neutralized. That is of utmost importance; not only for the need to control the Atlantic, but also for us to take West Germany. For such an operation, control of south Norway is required. The road there also passes through Sweden.

"The Soviet Union is striving to expand its power. All actions go to the same effect. While we speak of peace, we deploy submarine operations and other activity against Sweden. We try to give you the impression that if you behave well, everything will be alright. When you have made a small concession, we escalate our demands. That is the way it is," explains Suvorov.

There is little doubt that *spetsnaz* activity against Sweden has already escalated from the training and reconnaissance phase to live operations. The May issue of *Conservative Digest* magazine, in an article on Soviet *spetsnaz* operations, notes that "heavy speculation has also arisen about *spetsnaz* involvement in the recent murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme."