

Northern Flank by William Jones

Stockholm police chief under fire

Swedish parliamentarians have started to demand answers from Hans Holmér on the Palme murder investigation.

The heat is starting to build up around the no-results investigation of the murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme conducted for six months by an investigative team led by Stockholm Police Chief Hans Holmér. The contradictory stories being leaked by the police to the mass media, the now-famous Holmér double-talk at his ever more infrequent press conferences, and the blithe assurances, repeated regularly for months, that the police were on the track of the killer, have created growing skepticism among the general public and political leaders in Sweden. Voices are being raised demanding a full report from Holmér on what he actually has accomplished.

The turning point for Holmér came in October when *EIR* circulated to top political and security personnel in Sweden and abroad, the English-language *Special Report*, "A Classical KGB Disinformation Operation." The report exhaustively documents the motives and means of possible KGB involvement in the Palme murder of last Feb. 28. One month after *EIR*'s report came out, Holmér broke his self-imposed silence by attacking the "happy amateurs" who were trying to get involved in police work, "where only professionals count." Holmér criticized those "bureaucrats and thinkers" who were commenting on how the investigation should be handled.

Holmér's irritation at the "happy amateurs" caused quite a stir among politicians in Sweden concerned with getting to the bottom of the Palme case. Former Moderate Party leader Gösta

Bohman, still a member of the Swedish parliament and holding a post on the National Police Board, in an interview on Nov. 13 in the Swedish evening paper *Expressen*, complained that even he was totally in the dark about the workings of the Holmér investigation. Expressing his amazement that the police had allowed a known criminal to escape from internment, when the criminal said that he would, if released, help the police find the murder weapon that killed Palme, Bohman laid responsibility for this blunder at the doorstep of Mr. Holmér.

Bohman also expressed bewilderment over the divergent and contradictory stories which had been given by the police at regular intervals about their findings. Bohman commented that it seems as if "the police have a need to leak out a lot of ambiguous statements in order to soothe their consciences. Or to humor the press."

Karin Ahrlund, the head of the Judiciary Subcommittee of the Swedish Parliament, voiced surprise that Holmér had given a long interview to *Newsweek*, although he had refused to give any interviews to the Swedish press during recent weeks. Ahrlund added that Holmér was becoming "hypersensitive" to criticism, and that he seemed "a tired and disappointed person who is lashing out at an enemy which he doesn't have." Another Liberal Party member on the Judiciary Subcommittee, Hans Petersson, demanded that Holmér inform the public concerning the investigation.

Holmér's reactions are undoubtedly motivated by more than frustra-

tion over not having cracked the case. *EIR* documented in the cited *Special Report* that the police investigation under Holmér, a political appointee of the Social Democratic government, was, at certain points, being used for harassment against the European Labor Party, the political organization in Sweden associated with U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. Moscow has targeted LaRouche for elimination, as the intellectual author of the SDI. Leaks from the Holmér group were being fed into the Soviet-sponsored lying charges that the European Labor Party was behind the Palme murder.

The direct collaboration of the Holmér group with media figures pushing this Soviet line raises the question as to whether or not there are more sinister reasons than mere incompetence for the absolute fiasco of the Holmér inquiry.

Several months ago, a special judicial commission was established to determine what the police had done to solve the murder, including possible blunders made by the police. The commission was set up at a time when demands were being made that Holmér step down from the investigation. Holmér did not resign, and the new commission under Per-Olof Nilsson does not seem to have shed any light on anything.

Setting up a parliamentary commission to investigate the whole spectrum of events surrounding the murder of Olof Palme is the next logical step—which will probably not be long in coming. Such a commission, however, will only be successful if it takes up the question presented in the *EIR Special Report*, and mooted in Parliament some weeks ago by Moderate Nic Grönwall: What was the role of the Soviet KGB in the Palme assassination?