

## Police furious at Holmér's cover-up

*The following documentation of discontent among the Stockholm police at Police Chief Hans Holmér's conduct of the Palme investigation, is excerpted from an article published in Expressen on May 9.*

"The investigation into the Palme murder is not run the way a murder investigation ought to be run. Holmér has organized the investigative task force into cells where everything converges upon him and the leadership group," one police source said.

Several of the most seasoned police officials accuse Holmér of directing the work like a dictator, saying that he is paralyzing initiatives because of his manner of leading the work and that he is more of a liability than an asset to the investigation. "With some officials in the Security Police (SÄPO), there is a complete communications breakdown. They think that it is no longer possible to have a reasonable conversation with Holmér," one source said.

One SÄPO official stated: "I cannot cooperate with an amateur. Therefore, there is no longer any reason for me to talk to the police chief." Some of the silent criticism concerns

the previously arrested 33-year-old man [suspect Viktor Gunnarsson, released on March 19 for lack of evidence—ed.]

Among the police officers participating in that part of the investigation dealing with the 33-year-old, an increasing number have abandoned their previous view of the man's involvement in the murder and now regard him as a sidetrack in the investigation.

"The more we dig into the case of the 33-year-old, the more our suspicions seem unfounded," one investigator said.

"But Holmér clings to the 33-year-old like a shipwrecked man to a life raft," another police source said. . . .

In the evening of March 12, when Chief Prosecutor K.G. Svensson took charge of the investigation regarding the 33-year-old, he detained him for complicity in the Palme murder. Later the prosecutor went to court and pressed charges against him for murder. But one day before the court hearing, Chief Prosecutor K.G. Svensson surprisingly withdrew his charges.

Hans Holmér was furious with the Chief Prosecutor.

"K.G. Svensson is one of Sweden's most experienced prosecutors. But Holmér has refused to accept his view," one source said.

*What was it that made K.G. Svensson take the drastic measure of opposing the police leadership and the prevalent notion that the arrested man was the murderer?*

"Svensson had simply examined the evidence which Holmér claimed tied the 33-year-old to the crime," one well-informed source said.

Chief Prosecutor K.G. Svensson found the evidence concerning the 33-year-old's involvement to be . . . weak. . . .

## The track Holmér refused to take

Among several possible instruments for carrying out the murder of Olof Palme, the international terrorist organization of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) represents a main track in any serious investigation. The PKK had a stated motive for killing Palme and had already carried out political assassinations in Sweden and elsewhere; it operates out of secret headquarters in Damascus, Syria, a center of Soviet-run irregular warfare against the West.

Although Swedish Security Police (SÄPO) pointed to the PKK right away as possible suspects for the murder, Police Chief Hans Holmér took no interest in the lead. When a group was finally formed to investigate the PKK,

it was drawn from police forces other than SÄPO, disregarding the experience accumulated during years of SÄPO surveillance of the PKK.

One day after the Palme murder, the Swedish daily *Expressen* received a phone call from a man who said, "Long Live PKK! Long Live Kurdistan! We have murdered Palme! Long Live Kurdistan!" Among the material seized during police raids of PKK homes and offices after the murder, a note was found mentioning a "wedding" and Palme's name. "Wedding" is considered a code word for "murder."

The PKK has been subject to SÄPO surveillance since at least the early 1980s, when the group was planning to set up its headquarters in Sweden. In a secret memorandum to the government in September 1984, the SÄPO warned of planned "reprisals against Sweden and first of all against Prime Minister Olof Palme. In PKK circles, Sweden is considered to be on a fascist leash, and therefore is an enemy of the organization."