

Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

Has 'glasnost' come to Sweden?

Svenska Dagbladet, the conservative mouthpiece, complains the cover-up of the Palme murder wasn't good enough.

The reception in Sweden of the March 1 *New York Times Magazine* reportage on the Palme murder says a lot about the assassination of the Swedish prime minister one year ago. Most revealing is perhaps the response of *Svenska Dagbladet*, self-professedly the main conservative opponent of the Social Democratic regime.

In a lengthy story, titled "The Palme Obsession," on the failure of the murder investigation, researched in Sweden by U.S. journalist Richard Reeves, the *New York Times Magazine* opened the door slightly to the thinking of those who walk the corridors of power in Stockholm, allowing a peek into the thinking of the Swedish *nomenklatura*, the small elite preoccupied with perpetuating its own existence—and with covering up the Palme murder.

Acquiring "exclusive rights for Sweden," *Svenska Dagbladet* on March 1 reprinted Reeves's article—or, whatever was left of it after deleting sensitive points deemed inappropriate for Swedish readers to learn about: about one-half of the original English version!

The censored Swedish version kept the main thesis of Reeves's article, that Palme's murder was related to Swedish meddling in the Iran-Iraq war, including illegal arms shipments to Iran. It also cited "evidence that police and prosecutors may have been restrained and perhaps misled by their own government, particularly the foreign ministry."

Reeves wrote, and *Svenska Dagbladet* repeated: "'The truth about the murder?' said a Swedish official familiar with cabinet discussions, who also insisted on anonymity. 'Most of the people in the government don't want it. It would be disastrous for the foreign ministry if people knew how stupid we have been in the [Persian] Gulf.'"

But with clinical precision, *Svenska Dagbladet* deleted certain other points of Reeves's article: those acknowledging the lack of evidence supporting the trumped-up charges against *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and the references to Palme's "romantic" relationship with peacenik professor Emma Rothschild, the daughter of Britain's Lord Victor Rothschild, himself a member of a circle of Soviet intelligence assets known as the Cambridge "Apostles." Emma Rothschild worked with Palme on his Kremlin-initiated, so-called Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues.

Wrote Reeves, but not *Svenska Dagbladet*: "I was told it was 'a Nordic ethic' to stay away from a man's 'private zone,' meant as a euphemism for other women. The press, sensationalistic as it was on other subjects, followed that ethic as well, refusing to print the name of Emma Rothschild, a British scholar and writer whose close friendship with Palme has been the subject of speculation in British and American newspapers."

In its editorial that day, *Svenska Dagbladet*, without explicit reference

to their censoring of the *New York Times Magazine*, published an apology for suppressing unwanted news, angrily denouncing those who insist on publishing news that the Swedish *nomenklatura* has decided should go unnoticed by the Swedish public.

"The gravest offense so far," *Svenska Dagbladet* intoned, "occurred this week on TV. Complaints were made that Swedish mass media have not reported rumors in the British press regarding an internationally known personality who cooperated with Olof Palme in the context of disarmament." This refers to an interview in which two foreign correspondents based in Stockholm had dared to indicate the significance of the Rothschild story.

"Investigative journalism indeed is not the same thing as spreading unfounded, loosely connected speculation," *Svenska Dagbladet* raved. One cannot but note the hypocrisy of this concern for protecting the name of a powerful family, in sharp contrast to the Soviet-orchestrated, wild slanders against LaRouche and his associates, in which *Svenska Dagbladet* itself played an initiating role, precisely by inventing "unfounded, loosely connected speculation" saying, for example, that associates of LaRouche were involved in the Palme murder.

While the *New York Times Magazine* admitted that "there was no real evidence against Gunnarsson," the first suspect arrested by Swedish police, who was falsely alleged to be an associate of LaRouche, *Svenska Dagbladet* carefully deleted that part of Reeves's article.

The common denominator of the sensitive points deleted by *Svenska Dagbladet* is the Soviet connection: the Soviet intelligence-tainted Rothschilds and the lack of evidence for Moscow's attempts to implicate LaRouche.