

## Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

### Riots greet Weinberger in Oslo

*Police dispersed the rioters this time, but Norway is ill-prepared to deal with Soviet irregular warfare.*

**H**undreds of demonstrators engaged in violent street battles with police on May 12 in Oslo, as U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger arrived for a private visit prior to the May 14-15 meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group in Stavanger, Norway. The riots form part of the current pattern of Soviet-engineered tests of the American commitment to Europe.

The rioters carried signs with slogans like, "Norway out of NATO," "Weinberger Go Home," "Stop the 'Solid Shield' Maneuver," and "No to Norway as a Nuclear Base."

Professionally directed by Stein Lillevolden, who gave orders through a bullhorn, the mob of street fighters, armed with stones, bottles, and iron rods, moved in on the U.S. embassy at 7 p.m. A 45-minute battle ensued, with riot police using dogs, horses, and tear gas to disperse successively the attacking mob. A female police officer was torn down from her horse, surrounded by five or six of the "peace-lovers," and brutally kicked and beaten while lying on the ground, before being rescued by other police.

Next the rioters moved to the residence of U.S. Ambassador Robert D. Stuart, one mile away from the embassy. The ambassador that night was going to host Weinberger, who arrived at the military section of Oslo's Fornebu Airport at 8 p.m. Sealing off the residence, police stood face-to-face with the gathering rioters until 8:30. After refusing orders to leave, the rioters were dispersed by police

charges, and tried, unsuccessfully, to regroup near the embassy.

Before flying to Stavanger, Weinberger had several meetings in Oslo. In addition to an audience with King Olav, he had a working breakfast at the ambassador's residence, and a lunch with Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jørgen Holst.

At the breakfast, attended by press, scientists, and politicians, Weinberger restated the U.S. commitment to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), to contribute to "a far more safe world." The lunch with Holst was almost exclusively devoted to the violation of the CoCom agreement by the Norwegian state-owned weapons manufacturer, Kongsberg Våpenfabrikk, which last year was discovered to have exported sensitive computer technologies to the Soviets. The CoCom organization, based in Paris, was founded by Western allies in 1951 to restrict sale of sensitive technologies to communist countries.

The United States confronted Norway over the leaking of high-technology items at a Jan. 26 CoCom meeting in Paris, after a tip-off about Norwegian and Japanese violations of the CoCom agreement by a disgruntled employee of the Japanese Toshiba company. After American irritation over initial Norwegian attempts to downplay the violations, the Norwegian Social Democratic regime launched one of the greatest political damage-control maneuvers ever conducted.

This included a secret, mid-April

visit to Washington by Holst, meeting Weinberger to try to convince him that the Norwegians were neither downplaying the affair, nor attempting any cover-up. Two weeks later, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, visiting the United States, argued to the same effect in a meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz. The urgency of averting any U.S. reprisals against Kongsberg Våpenfabrikk was felt even more strongly by the Norwegian government, as a result of the near-bankruptcy of the company, the financial reconstruction of which is now being negotiated with its management.

During Weinberger's visit in Norway, the Social Democratic regime, usually careful to note its differences with the United States, emphasized its support for the American position in the deliberations of the Nuclear Planning Group. Holst said that Weinberger had expressed his gratitude over the way in which the Norwegians have now dealt with the technology leakage, and also stressed the importance of the NATO countries' abiding by the export rules.

While the Oslo government's cooperation in the alliance is to be welcomed, if continued, the riots demonstrated the inadequacy of conventional approaches to Soviet-inspired irregular warfare, although police this time successfully thwarted Moscow's street fighters—an improvement over last year's debacle during British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Oslo visit, when 500 demonstrators were able to invade the old Akershus fortress, unconquered since 1502!

Now the Soviet-backed fighters are free to fight another day. Only 11 rioters were arrested May 12, and 10 were released the same night, after being fined a paltry \$300 each. Riot commander Lillevolden is still at large.