

## Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

### Sweden's secret gov't under attack

*Public parliamentary hearings poke at the tip of the iceberg of the Ebbe Carlsson Social Democratic spy scandal.*

**H**ad a foreign secret service wanted to hurt the Swedish security police badly, it could not have succeeded better than Ebbe Carlsson did." Thus the "private" Palme murder investigation conducted by Social Democrat Ebbe Carlsson was summarized by P.G. Näss, former chief of operations of the Swedish Security Police (SÄPO), at the July 28 hearings of the parliamentary Constitutional Committee.

Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was assassinated in 1986, and the murder remains unsolved.

Beginning July 27, and continuing through the first week of August, the live-broadcast hearings had been forced upon unwilling committee chairman Olle Svensson (Social Democrat). Svensson had tried his best to have the investigation of the government's role in sponsoring illegal intelligence operations postponed until after the Sept. 18 national elections, hoping that the June 7 resignation of Justice Minister Anna-Greta Leijon would suffice to contain the scandal.

Leijon had issued a letter of introduction to Ebbe Carlsson, for use with the British intelligence service in his attempt to collect information discrediting to SÄPO. Although merely a private publisher, Carlsson has been functioning as the arm of his buddy, former Stockholm Police Chief Hans Holmér, after the latter was forced to resign in the spring of 1987, over his handling of the Palme investigation.

Backed by Leijon, the arrogant, power-crazy Carlsson, an avowed homosexual, proceeded to push around

and dictate policies to several top law enforcement officials—particularly newly appointed National Police Chief Nils Erik Åhmansson, now targeted as the most likely victim of the next voluntary resignation. As part of their activities, it was revealed that illegal bugging equipment and firearms, including those mounted, à la James Bond, for firing from inside an innocent-looking briefcase, had been smuggled into Sweden by Holmér and Carlsson's personal bodyguards!

Nominally a case of over-ambitious Social Democratic efforts to "help" the police in their unsuccessful two-and-a-half-year hunt for Palme's killer, the Ebbe Carlsson affair is turning into a head-on attack by the illegal Social Democratic intelligence organization, known as SAPO, against the country's official secret service, SÄPO. (See *EIR*, June 17, 1988.)

Under the pretext of pursuing a version of the "PKK track"—that Palme was killed by the terrorist Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK)—Carlsson in reality was investigating leading SÄPO officials, blaming them for either the Palme murder directly, or for a lack of interest in tracking the killer. Carlsson went so far as to imply that the SÄPO's P.G. Näss might be a KGB agent.

At the July 28 hearing, Näss added that Carlsson's activity "has destroyed something of great importance, that is, our relations to the security services of other countries. . . . It has hurt us to the marrow, and I strongly feel that in certain quarters of the world, they are extraordinarily pleased

with these developments."

Näss explained that when he came to SÄPO in the late 1970s—after Holmér's tenure as SÄPO chief—the organization was paralyzed by over a decade of internal strife, and Swedish counterespionage had ground to a halt. But since 1982, after the house was put back in order, 21 intelligence officers have been expelled from Sweden: 11 Russians and 10 other East bloc agents. During the same years, 30 Russian intelligence officers were denied entry visas to Sweden—all thanks to SÄPO's recommendations to the government.

Although Näss didn't say so, this regular "interference" by SÄPO into the Swedish government's official appeasement diplomacy toward the Soviets has long been a thorn in the flesh to the Social Democratic regime. Foreign Minister Sten Andersson has only been the most prominent official to publicly pronounce his distrust for SÄPO and call for repeated "investigations" (read: political purges) of its organization. One such investigation is now chaired by Sweden's ambassador to France, Carl Lidbom, a former cabinet minister, and another of Ebbe Carlsson's SAPO intimates.

Carlsson's personal role as a nodal point in this SAPO ring of intimate "friends," and no other qualifications, has catapulted him into the center of attention in Swedish politics. A fair estimate of Carlsson's qualities was given by another Swedish ambassador, Leif Leifland in London, upset over being uninformed of Carlsson's private mission to the British secret intelligence services. In a recently published interview, Ambassador Leifland said, "Now, I of course happen to know Ebbe Carlsson personally—and to have him take care of sensitive or secret missions, I think, is like appointing Nero the chief of the fire-brigade!"