

Swedish Socialists prepare model for 'fascism with an ecological face'

by Mike Ericson

Recall the old "Swedish model" in the days of Prime Minister Olof Palme? The model for the world of solidarity, neutrality, and social security, which was said to be the golden way to reach both peaceful cooperation on the labor markets as well as a consensus on the political scene.

That Swedish model brutally collapsed with the revelations made in the aftermath of the still unsolved assassination of the Swedish prime minister in February 1986. Behind the talk of solidarity with starving people, the dirtiest arms trade was uncovered; the neutrality policy turned out to be a foreign policy of proxy to Moscow; and behind the social security facade, a full fledged social-fascist state in the making was uncovered, which turned a once prosperous country with the highest wages in Europe, into a country where a decent wage was not available. Today, you have to go to countries like Portugal, Spain, and Greece to find wages lower than in Sweden.

A second Swedish model is rapidly taking form now, and will be launched through the 100th anniversary congress in Stockholm of the Socialist International on June 19-23.

In a remarkable competition between the new Swedish prime minister, Ingvar Carlsson, and the Norwegian prime minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Scandinavian peninsula is being built up as the launching pad for an ecological economic model that will be the new ideological dress for a superpower police state rule of the whole Earth. Paralleling Mikhail Gorbachov's December 1988 U.N. speech, Brundtland, with the U.N. Commission named after her, now runs a worldwide campaign to establish a World Court for settling "international environmental conflicts."

At that congress, a new declaration of principles will be made, devoted to the ecology agenda. Ingvar Carlsson is preparing to put forward Sweden as the model of a country already going green. He is already bragging about the Social Democratic Party of Sweden being the only party which has put the dismantling of an advanced nuclear industry on their agenda, and that already, according to a poll done by the party, over 90% of Swedes give a "Yes" answer to the question if they are prepared to reduce their living standard "to save the environment."

An interesting article revealing the thinking behind this

green agenda was written by the agricultural minister of Sweden, Mats Hellstroem, in *Tiden*, the monthly theoretical publication of the Swedish Social Democratic party, this past February. A major problem for designing a new political platform for the Socialist International is, according to Hellstroem, how to overcome the present split in the organization between the parties from "northern and middle Europe," which have abandoned belief in the benefits of economic growth, and their southern colleagues, who haven't. It's clear from the article that the northern branches are going to try to ram through their line against the representative opposition from the southern parties, with the arguments of "global ecological crisis."

A draft of the declaration, worked out under the chairmanship of Willy Brandt, is in circulation among the member parties. In the article, Hellstroem gives a summary of the thoughts in that draft and starts off under the subtitle *Global Challenges* with the "contemporary present changes." Interestingly enough, he here mainly brings up conditions developed out of the 1970s oil crisis. That crisis led, according to the draft, to a situation where everyone in the world was dependent on everybody else. He then talks about the second oil crisis of 1979, when "the nervous speculations on the developments in Iran done by a single oil company quickly radiated through the economies in a way that set off a break on a just-started upswing."

'The globalization'

This trend of the economic shocks since the 1970s is dubbed by Hellstroem, *The globalization*, obviously one of the main code words of the document: "Through nuclear technology the whole of *mankind* is exposed to a threat of mass extinction that can extinguish all life. Correspondingly, parts of the destruction of the environment are a threat of global character through the ozone depletion and the changes in the world climate. . . . On the other hand, there are political structures that by no means have followed this globalization. It is obvious to everybody that this process contains a series of threats—militarily, environmentally, and socially."

After talking about the forests dying from industrial emissions in the North and devastation in the South, Hellstroem

uses a bizarre argument, indicative of the present mental state of leading Socialist International circles: "There are estimates that a fifth of all species on Earth is threatened to disappear in the next 20 years. . . . Therefore one of the great challenges for the 1990s must be to recreate (sic) a rich and living flora and fauna; a new (sic) richness of species in both north and south." With such a world there can, of course, be no higher priorities than following Hellstroem's global ecological agenda.

Everything else, such as eliminating starvation and hunger from the world or giving every family a home of their own, has to be far down the list of priorities. In reality, of course, the opposite is the case; only with a high living standard can you afford to take good care of nature. But then you have to first dissolve the International Monetary Fund and World Bank financial dictatorship over the developing sector, something which is not on the Socialist International agenda.

Four paradigm shifts

To stress the need of putting this green fascist agenda foremost, Mats Hellstroem refers to an argument by Thomas Meyer of the West German socialist SPD party. He praises Meyer, who works "with the West German new party program and the very interesting dialogue that the SPD now has with a number of communist parties in Eastern Europe," around a new paradigm shift for the SI. Meyer has identified four "paradigm shifts" that the SI has gone through during its existence. The first was in the 1860s and 1870s when the fight between the anarchists, who said that no social change was possible without totally new alternative institutions being established, and the Marxists, who believed you could change society working through the old institutions. The second paradigm shift came during 1880s and 1890s, when the revisionists came on the scene explaining that socialism is "a process" which can start long before the breakdown of the old society, which the other Marxists, thinking of socialism as "a structure," didn't believe. The third paradigm shift was when the SI decided that it was necessary to develop socialism through democratic means.

The fourth shift, however, didn't come until the 1970s, when the threats against our survival led "to a breakdown of the consensus about the benefits of economic growth" among the Northern and Middle European parties. "Environmental questions, the danger of mass extinction through nuclear weapons, the disturbance of the ecological equilibrium caused by unrestrained growth and irresponsible energy consumption" are named as the causes for the shift. But as Hellstroem notes, "In Southern Europe and in the countries bordering on the developing countries, the earlier optimism around the general economic modernization projects is still alive."

With a farmer's revolt, fueled by recent "environmental protection" legislation, boiling under his own feet, and a popular uprising against the last austerity package proposed

Amazon nations reject foreign interference

On March 7, the eight member nations of the Amazon Pact met to offer their backing to Brazil in its fight to defend national sovereignty against efforts to "internationalize the Amazon" in the name of environmentalism. In this first summit, held in the Amazon city of Manaus, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, and Surinam issued a document proclaiming, "Pressure exerted on any one member forces all of us to act jointly and in sympathy. . . . The nations reject any foreign interference over member countries' actions or policies in Amazonia."

The document urged the industrialized nations to provide money for the preservation of the rain forest and for the economic development of the region, but *with no strings attached*. International attention to the Amazon problem, said the document, should be converted into "measures of cooperation on the financial and technical levels," but "attempts to impose conditionalities on the granting of resources" were denounced as unacceptable. In particular, Brazil condemned "debt-for-nature" swaps, whereby part of the foreign debt is forgiven in exchange for a pledge to protect a specified area of ecological interest. The declaration stressed that "the debt cannot be paid under current conditions and circumstances."

Also noteworthy was the accusation, from the Presidents of Colombia and Peru, that much of the destruction of the rain forest was due to the cultivation of illegal drugs, which they blamed on the demand coming from the advanced sector. Millions of hectares of virgin Amazon forest have been burned to cultivate coca and marijuana plants, with devastating effects on the ecology. Said Colombian President Virgilio Barco, "The drug trade is a silent threat against Amazonia, which comes from the First World."

by the government in which he is agriculture minister, Hellstroem could soon have to realize that such an "optimism" concerning economic growth is still alive, even in his own population. Ironically, the new prophet of global "ecological peace and serenity," Hellstroem, as minister of foreign trade under Palme's government, was implicated in the vast illegal arms trade from Swedish companies to Iran and other countries forbidden under Swedish law. Some Swedish observers report Hellstroem was quietly shifted to the agriculture post in the furor over the post-1986 Iran arms revelations.