

# Palme murder case back to square one

by Göran Haglund

Ordering the release on Oct. 12 of Christer Pettersson, the convicted “lone assassin” of Sweden’s Prime Minister Olof Palme, the Stockholm Court of Appeals summarily terminated the desperate efforts of the Swedish political establishment to once and for all close the Palme murder case by having a defenseless scapegoat—admittedly one with an impressive criminal record—rot forever in jail. Pettersson had been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on July 27, based primarily on the testimony of Palme’s widow, Lisbet Palme, in a trial where two professional judges, ruling for acquittal, were out-voted by six lay jurors, selected among the ranks of loyal members of Sweden’s parliamentary parties.

The swiftness with which the appeals court acted to release Pettersson strongly underscores the degree to which the evidence, i.e., Mrs. Palme’s self-assured testimony, lacked credibility. Rather than merely releasing Pettersson on Nov. 2, the seven judges of the Court of Appeals, before even beginning to draft the official text of their ruling, unanimously concluded that the evidence presented by the prosecution was inadequate for a conviction, and that Pettersson must be released immediately.

Thus, Pettersson, a drunkard previously convicted of manslaughter, who without blinking told the court that he has committed some 600 robberies, emerged from custody as a folk hero, the popular disbelief in his guilt having been confirmed, and the credibility of those in charge of the Palme case dropping toward a bottomless low.

## A question of method

The release of Pettersson shows not only the absolute failure of Swedish law enforcement to catch Palme’s murderer, but the inability of a discredited political establishment to impose an effective coverup upon a legal system which already has gone a long way toward totalitarianism. The prosecution’s burning of Lisbet Palme as a credible eyewitness, more than anything else, shows that solving the murder case will not depend upon Sherlock Holmes-style deduction from little hard pieces of evidence found at the site of the murder; any solution will depend instead upon the method of hypothesis outlined by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in his memorandum of March 4, 1986 on the murder, titled “Operation Edgar Allan Poe.”

Outlining the global strategic context in which the killing of Palme occurred, LaRouche noted that “the most important

clues to be considered, come from the area of news media coverage of the killing and investigations. Two characteristics of such news media coverage must receive special emphasis in the inquiry: efforts to divert suspicion to or away from certain classes of suspects [and] efforts to exploit the killing to generate a politically or strategically significant reaction. It need only be mentioned, that the Soviet disinformation channels are, so far, most active in attempting to generate variously politically or even strategically significant reactions to the killing.”

Indeed, the very morning after Palme was shot, Soviet Central Committee member Georgi Arbatov launched an international campaign of disinformation diverting suspicion away from Moscow’s own role and pointing his finger at Moscow’s political enemy No. 1: LaRouche.

The consequent campaign of vilification of LaRouche, in which Western media and organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League, took part with great effort, played a significant role in setting up the political circumstances in which LaRouche was later framed up and railroaded into jail on “conspiracy” charges.

Relaunching a serious investigation into the Palme murder would have to include taking a close look at such deliberately neglected tracks as the mysterious role of Emma Rothschild, Palme’s last mistress. The daughter of Lord Victor Rothschild, a figure suspected of being the “fifth man” in the group of Soviet intelligence moles associated with “Kim” Philby, Emma Rothschild has enjoyed complete protection from police scrutiny on the pretext of not wanting to meddle with Palme’s “private life”—as though any murder investigation could stop short of investigating precisely the private life of the victim!

According to a U.S. friend of hers, Harvard’s Allen Der-showitz, Emma Rothschild fled from the United States so fast, after her name was linked to the Palme investigation, that she left her sports car behind, which is still parked outside her apartment in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Emma Rothschild lead had appeared in media reports in December 1986, precisely as the U.S. Department of Justice escalated its political persecution of LaRouche, claiming that notebooks seized in a raid against associates of LaRouche on Oct. 6, 1986 were of interest to the Swedish police, because they contained notes made by reporters in the course of investigating the murder.

Another lead which has never been fully pursued, involves a reported meeting at the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria, shortly before Palme was killed. Members of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, associated with Iranian then-Speaker of the Parliament Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, according to a European journalist, ordered the Kurdish PKK terrorists to kill Palme, as a result of his changing policy on arms sales to Iran. News of the Damascus meeting was originally picked up by the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, and then passed on to the British, who then passed it on to the Swedes.