

EIR Investigation

The Palme murder coverup: the case of Pat Lynch

by Herbert Quinde

Italian investigators charged with responsibility for probing possible U.S. CIA involvement in the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme would do well to focus their investigation on the National Security Council-housed "Get LaRouche" strike force. It was that group of intelligence community operators—including career CIA man Walter Raymond, President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board member Henry Kissinger, Propaganda 2-linked NSC consultant Michael Ledeen, NSC staffer Roy Godson, Wall Street "spook" John Train, NBC producer Pat Lynch, and "former" CIA employee and Anti-Defamation League hatchet Mira Lansky Boland—which out of the Reagan-Bush White House coordinated an elaborate coverup of the Palme assassination.

The key to the coverup program was the knowingly fraudulent claim that the American statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. was behind the Palme murder, a lie that was encouraged from the moment of the assassination by such leading Soviet government figures as Georgi Arbatov, then Moscow's chief "America expert."

Within hours of the shooting, Arbatov gave an interview to Radio Moscow in which he "signaled" that Moscow would cooperate with a coverup so long as the crime was pinned on "extreme right-wing elements." Within days, Arbatov and other Soviet spokesmen were speaking much more precisely about Lyndon LaRouche and his associates in the Swedish "European Workers Party" (actually named the Swedish Labor Party).

The "Get LaRouche" strike force was formally constituted in April 1983 as the result of a years-long campaign by Henry Kissinger to erase LaRouche's influence on Reagan administration policy by having the political economist framed up and jailed. The fact that the black propaganda

effort was launched within weeks after LaRouche's Strategic Defense Initiative proposal was publicly adopted by President Ronald Reagan is suggestive of Soviet coordination from the very outset.

According to court testimony and other eyewitness accounts, Wall Street investment counselor John Train hosted a planning meeting at his New York City townhouse to launch a broad-based propaganda offensive against LaRouche to create the proper political climate for the eventual frameup. Strong circumstantial evidence suggests that Train was assigned the coordinating role in the effort as part of a secret NSC propaganda program euphemistically called "Public Diplomacy" which targeted opponents of the Reagan-Bush administration's Iran-Contra fiasco. Walter Raymond headed the "Public Diplomacy" program as part of his responsibilities as the NSC liaison to the U.S. intelligence community.

Raymond NSC associate Roy Godson, a longtime LaRouche-hater, formally attended the Train session on behalf of the government. NBC producer Pat Lynch, the ADL's Mira Lansky Boland, Dennis King, and a dozen or so other "journalists" also participated.

It was NBC's Pat Lynch and Mira Lansky Boland's boss at the ADL, Irwin Suall, who later linked up with the Soviet government to poison the Palme assassination probe with the confetti attacks on LaRouche.

In all high-level political assassinations, the coverup is an integral part of the killing, usually planned in advance. The trail of the assassins is always illuminated by studying the forces that converged on covering up the act. In the case of the Palme murder, the fact that the coverup was conducted by a task force of the Project Democracy apparatus which was then scrambling to conceal a foul East-West trail of arms smuggling and dope trading is relevant. Even more to the

point is the fact that “Get LaRouche” strike force coordinator John Train was multiply linked to the Swedish Bofors interests who were at that very moment being probed by Palme for their role in the arming of Iran.

Pat Lynch, ‘vigilante journalist’

To aid the Italian and other investigators probing the possible CIA ties to the Palme murder, *EIR* offers the following account of the strike force operation—focusing for dossier purposes on one of the leading players in that secret government operation—Patricia Lynch, a television producer nominally employed by NBC News.

Lynch faces charges, in a \$30 million lawsuit filed July 6 in Illinois by Lyndon LaRouche and two associates, of conspiring to extort money from an elderly political supporter of LaRouche’s, Mrs. Harriet Driver. The suit says that Lynch attempted to coerce Driver into giving false testimony against two friends of LaRouche. A malicious “robbery” prosecution was immediately dropped against these friends, as soon as they subpoenaed portions of Lynch’s videotaped interviews with Mrs. Driver as part of their defense (see *EIR*, July 20, 1990, p. 59).

On March 18, 1986, less than three weeks after Palme was gunned down in Stockholm, Pat Lynch weighed in by helping to throw investigators off the trail of the real assassins, who to this day have yet to be brought to justice. NBC Nightly News broadcast an item by Lynch’s colleague Brian Ross reporting that a Swede allegedly linked to LaRouche was the leading suspect in the assassination. Irwin Suall, the head of the Fact Finding Division of the Anti-Defamation League, was interviewed, avowing that it was conceivable that a person affiliated with LaRouche could commit such a crime.

Earlier in the day, Lynch had telephoned the CIA in Washington and wanted “to tell PAO [Public Affairs Officer] that a member of Lyndon LaRouche’s organization is being accused of involvement in the murder of Sweden’s Prime Minister Palme,” according to an entry in a CIA log obtained by *EIR*.

The same day, an *EIR* journalist contacted the CIA. The log entry reads, “The *Executive Intelligence Review* and the CIA are victims of a Soviet disinformation campaign. Victor Gunnesson [sic], who has been arrested in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Palme, is portrayed as a member of the European Workers Party—allegedly connected with LaRouche outfit.” The CIA response to *EIR*’s call, according to the log entry, was “Cannot find anyone here interested in talking to *EIR*. We of course would vehemently deny that the CIA had any connection with Palme’s assassination.”

Strike force gears up

By later that very same day, American political pundits were apoplectic, as two LaRouche-affiliated candidates for statewide office in Illinois won the Democratic primary for

lieutenant governor and secretary of state, establishing that the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party was potentially unstoppable as a factor in national politics—something already known to Democratic Party pollsters, as well to U.S. intelligence operatives politically associated with then-Vice President and former CIA director George Bush.

The “Get LaRouche” strike force went into high gear to undermine the political as well as the financial base of LaRouche’s movement. For the next several weeks, tens of thousands of news articles labeling presidential candidate LaRouche a “political extremist” littered the American political landscape. In May, a key piece in the disinformation campaign was printed in the *Wall Street Journal*. Its theme was the canard that LaRouche and associates were exploiting the elderly by soliciting political contributions from them—the subsequent pretext for the judicial persecution of LaRouche. Co-authored by Lynch and professional LaRouche-hater Dennis King, the *Journal* article was published through the intervention of John Train, the Anglo-American “spook” investment banker who was playing a coordinating role in the witchhunt.

Although the U.S. media temporarily forgot the “Palme affair” as they attempted to contain the growing perception that LaRouche might indeed be a viable presidential candidate in 1988, the Soviets did not. Article after article appeared in the Soviet and Soviet-influenced press naming LaRouche and associates as likely authors of the Palme killing. *Vremya*, a Soviet TV news program, on March 21, 1986, denounced the Swedish police for releasing Viktor Gunnarsson when it was clear that he was not the assassin. On the *Vremya* program, the announcer characterized LaRouche’s Swedish friends as an “international pro-fascist organization.” The mill continued to grind for months in multiple articles in *Izvestia*, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, the Polish weekly *Polityka*, and the French Communist Party daily *L’Humanité*, among others, where on occasion LaRouche would be named as somehow behind the killing, in cahoots with or on behalf of the CIA. The Soviet weekly *New Times* of Sept. 15, 1986 highlighted the Palme affair in an anti-LaRouche pastiche titled “Nazism without the swastika.”

The Soviet press campaign went so far as to present a crude one-hour “docu-drama” about Palme’s killers on Jan. 27, 1987, in which a Russian actor portrayed LaRouche as a jackbooted neo-Nazi.

Seemingly inspired by the Soviet media’s example, Pat Lynch produced another “scoop” on LaRouche and the Palme affair. On Dec. 4, 1986, nine months after the murder, with still no suspect in Swedish custody, NBC Nightly News broadcast a report that the notebooks of an *EIR* editor, seized by federal authorities in the 400-man assault on Oct. 6-7, 1986 on the offices of companies which published LaRouche’s writings, had been turned over to Swedish police authorities in connection with the Palme inquiry. The sensationalist account reported that entries in the notebooks, which

were to be part of the evidence in the now-famous Boston trial of LaRouche and associates, referred to Viktor Gunnarsson, the suspect who had been released by Swedish authorities. In fact, such entries did exist, as reporter's notes preparatory to a special report *EIR* published in October 1986 entitled "A classical KGB disinformation campaign: Who killed Olof Palme?"

Former LaRouche prosecutor John Markham made the astounding revelation in a court hearing in Roanoke, Virginia, that Pat Lynch, who apparently is not a U.S. government official, called him to say that Swedish police officials were en route to the U.S. and that he, Markham, and his employer, the U.S. Department of Justice, had better have the notebooks ready for inspection. The FBI and the DoJ complied.

The malicious intent of Lynch's ploy, as well as the bad faith displayed by the DoJ/FBI complicity, is evident in the sequence of dates. The Swedish police were given the notebooks in December 1986. *EIR*'s 100 page-plus *Special Report*, which was a full exposure of the JFK-assassination-style coverup of Palme's murder, had already been published and widely distributed throughout major Western capitals, including Washington, D.C.

Almost ten months after Palme's murder, it was clear there was no "LaRouche angle" to the investigation. Only Pat Lynch, the Soviet KGB, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the ADL thought so. The day after the December 1986 NBC "news" broadcast, a UPI wire from Stockholm reported that the police denied the existence of a link to LaRouche, and further complained about the pressure being put upon them by NBC to target LaRouche and his friends.

The wire read in part: "There is a disproportionately great interest among journalists in the United States in one of the leads we have followed up during the investigation. Every time NBC or some other agency from the United States calls us about this we look at each other at police headquarters and say, 'Oh no, not again.' "

The ADL's input

Lynch had zealous backup from the tax-exempt Anti-Defamation League in her "active measures" campaign. Irwin Suall, a right-wing social democratic operative linked to the U.S. State Department-funded National Endowment for Democracy, the "legal" arm of North's Project Democracy apparat, as well as the head of the ADL's "counteraction" team, worked to pin the Palme murder on LaRouche.

Three days after the NBC broadcast, the Dec. 7, 1986 edition of the *New Orleans Times Picayune* reported that Suall described Gunnarsson as "not a hard-core member" but a "sympathizer" of LaRouche's Swedish group. Gunnarsson's only affiliation with LaRouche had been his signature, one among thousands, on a political petition circulated by a pro-NATO party influenced by LaRouche's ideas—something Suall had to know: "Suall said he visited Stockholm last summer," reported the *Times Picayune*, "to look into

LaRouche's operations there and was questioned by Swedish investigators. He said he was later questioned by a Swedish consul official.

"Suall said he gave the FBI a written report on his findings but that nothing in that report shed any light on the assassination." The Louisiana daily also reported that Suall had helped Swedish authorities in locating an American member of the European Labor Party in the U.S. who allegedly "disappeared" after the Palme killing.

It is of historical note that NBC News played a pivotal role in ensuring that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was never resolved, according to researchers who have spent years reviewing the case. It was an NBC hatchet-job news segment on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison that served to undermine the most productive investigative leads that could have gotten to the bottom of the complex plot that altered the course of American history.

National security fantasies and the LaRouche prosecutions

Hiding behind "freedom of the press," producer Lynch has done her best over the years to perpetuate the bogus and spiteful theme that LaRouche and associates were in the habit of assassinating people and kept secret Swiss bank accounts for such activity. Throughout the investigation, grand jury, and multiple trials of LaRouche and his associates, prosecutors such as Assistant U.S. Attorney Kent Robinson were substantially driven by such wild "national security" fantasies to convict him, according to sources close to the case and internal documents declassified by the CIA.

As early as March 4, 1984, the "First Camera" show on NBC aired an "exposé" by Pat Lynch, aimed at undermining LaRouche's policy influence at the White House. Lynch produced a segment for "First Camera" which included an interview with a professional FBI snitch who had previously cooperated with NBC in sabotaging the JFK assassination investigation. Gordon Novel appeared on camera with his face and voice electronically masked and made the ludicrous statement that he had information that LaRouche had ordered the assassination of President Carter, members of his cabinet, David Rockefeller, and Joseph Luns, then NATO secretary general, among others via radio-controlled bombs installed in the world leaders' private phones!

On May 1, 1986, Lynch again produced a "news" segment in an attempt to revive the "LaRouche angle" in the Palme affair. Forrest Lee Fick, a stringer for the CIA and the FBI, appeared on the segment charging that a LaRouche associate had ordered him to set up the assassination of Henry Kissinger. After both broadcasts, government officials were contacted by LaRouche spokesmen, who were assured that the charges were considered spurious.

Although Lynch appeared to be retailing Soviet disinformation, it is curious that she bragged on numerous occasions in candid conversation that much of her information on

LaRouche was obtained from the CIA. According to one report, she averred that James Jesus Angleton, the former head of the CIA's counterintelligence division and a darling of both British and Israeli intelligence, was one of her best sources.

Only more than three years after the fact, in late summer 1989, with LaRouche imprisoned, did the truth start to surface in the Palme case. On Aug. 24, the Swedish daily *Expressen* was headlined, "Soviets knew that Palme was going to be murdered." The *New York Tribune* of Aug. 28 picked up the story under the title, "Soviets knew of Palme murder plot early, may be involved too, Swedes say." The *Washington Times* carried a small item on the story on Sept. 1. The *Washington Inquirer*, a weekly in the nation's capital, on Sept. 8 ran a bold headline: "Palme murder coverup—Soviet role revealed."

The gist of the stories was that the Swedish government had been suppressing audio-surveillance tapes made by Swedish counterintelligence officers of a senior Soviet diplomat stationed in Stockholm who was known to be a Soviet spy by Western intelligence agencies. The bugged conversation was made the night Palme was killed. The Swedish translator of the audio-tape had written a report, also suppressed, saying that "the intonations and other peculiarities in the conversation showed the Soviets had both initiated and carried out the murder," according to *Expressen*.

Former Polish Ambassador Zdzislaw Rurarz, who had worked for Soviet intelligence and defected in Tokyo in 1981, told the *Washington Inquirer* that he "always suspected the Soviets of being behind the Palme assassination. He pointed out that they had produced a slick film that was shown throughout Europe that put the blame on the CIA and the Lyndon LaRouche organization to divert attention from their own culpability."

But Swedish officials made another startling revelation. They admitted that the audio-tape had been made available to U.S. intelligence as well as the intelligence agencies of other NATO countries, within hours of being recorded the night Palme was killed.

Although this was a political bombshell suggesting that under the "peace-loving" leadership of Mikhail Gorbachov, a Western head of state could have been assassinated under Soviet auspices, not a peep was heard from the White House, the Department of Justice, the State Department, or the CIA. Pat Lynch and NBC did not cover the story even after it broke in 1989. Irwin Suall's "anti-communist" posturing ADL, which almost daily issues a press release, never addressed the story.

The Project Democracy operatives at the United States Information Agency (USIA), who are paid by taxpayers to diagnose and counter Soviet disinformation, did nothing, although informed of the story by *EIR*. Walter Raymond, number-two man at USIA and a former specialist in political propaganda at the National Security Council, didn't lift a

finger. Herbert Romerstein, another Project Democracy agent and ADL asset whose official duty was to counter Soviet disinformation, told *EIR* it was not his job to clear LaRouche of the malicious slander even though he possessed all the information to do so.

Raymond, as indicated above, was in charge of the "public diplomacy" dirty-tricks program to protect the Iran-Contra arms- and drug-peddling apparatus identified with Oliver North from public scrutiny and criticism. Raymond has been named in court testimony by former Reagan-era NSC executive staffer Richard Morris (see *EIR*, May 25, 1990, p. 58) as one of the senior operatives from the CIA, who, while assigned to the NSC, led a campaign of defamation accusing LaRouche of being a communist—in order to protect Project Democracy's Contra operations.

Who really wanted Palme dead?

On Aug. 30, 1989, the *New York Tribune* was the only publication after *EIR* to ask the question headlined in its front-page story: "Did West hide Soviet role in Palme slay plot to aid détente?" In many ways, despite ignorant popular perceptions of Oliver North's "freedom-loving" activities, the Iran-Contra affair was part of the international political foreplay which has put Bush and communist leader Gorbachov politically in the same bed.

In mid-1985, as the Iran-Iraq war raged, agents of Khomeini fanned out across the globe to purchase weaponry. Prime Minister Palme, under United Nations auspices had assumed the task of trying to negotiate a settlement between the two Persian Gulf states. In June 1985, a scandal pulled the rug out from under Palme when it was discovered that a Swedish ordnance manufacturer, Bofors Industries, had been secretly selling tons of weapons and explosives to Iran. Palme ordered a crackdown on Bofors exports to Iran. About the same time, Oliver North and his NSC compatriots discovered Iranian "moderates" who were suddenly happy to trade American hostages in Lebanon for weapons.

Of interest to serious investigators might be the bizarre fact that Pat Lynch's cohort in attacks on LaRouche, John Train, is financially linked to Bofors and the extended international gun-running network that was raking in profits through its illegal sales to Iran.

Bofors is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nobel Industries, whose majority shareholder, Erik Penser, is also a major stockholder of the recently reorganized Swedish financial institution PKBanken. During the late 1980s, the Wall Street investment firm, Train, Smith Counsels, of which Train was 75% owner, was sold to the English Trust Co. of London. The British firm got 50% of Train's business, and English Trust was in turn acquired as a wholly-owned subsidiary of PKBanken.

It was Penser who facilitated the financing for Karl Erik Schmitz, the Swedish arms merchant who coordinated Bofors shipments to Khomeini.