

'Who killed Olof Palme?' Italian weekly hits enemies of LaRouche

The article below, "Who Killed Olof Palme?" by influential investigative journalist Maurizio Blondet, was printed in the Milan-based newsweekly L'Italia of April 28, 1993. Licio Gelli, mentioned in the first paragraph, is notorious in Italy as the Grand Master of the outlawed "P-2" masonic lodge, accused of masterminding numerous "left-wing" and "right-wing" terrorist atrocities during the 1970s-80s strategy of tension. Although he was long a fugitive from justice and served prison time, Gelli is currently at large.

In our verbatim translation, minor typographical errors have been corrected and subheads added. Ellipses are from the original and do not indicate omitted text. One factual detail is worth clarifying: Victor Gunnarson was never an "activist" in the EAP of LaRouche's associates in Sweden, but had simply signed a list indicating support of certain campaigns.

Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was killed on Feb. 28, 1986 by revolver shots. The assassin shot and slipped away: He was surely a specialist in his work, and he was never found. At seven years' distance, even the principals are faceless, and their motives inextricable. The investigations only clarified one thing: that they would have had to be conducted over such an international range and be directed toward such high and "classified" levels as to be unattainable by the police of a small nation like Sweden. Olof Palme had as his mistress Emma Rothschild, heiress of the legendary family of financiers: The lady evaded the investigation, it was never possible to question her. A telegram was sought which Licio Gelli allegedly sent two or three days before the crime to Philip Guarino, the right-hand man at the White House of then Vice President George Bush. "The tree is about to fall," the telegram appears to have said. "The tree," the palm. Palme. In probing this crucial detail, the Swedish police got lost in a labyrinth of revelations, counterinformation, disinformation.

The one who spoke of the telegram was Ibrahim Razin alias Oscar Le Winter, a so-called CIA agent who boasted of being in contact with an "important Italo-American agent with mafia relations." Razin made his revelation in a radio broadcast in Los Angeles on Sept. 17, 1988. Swedish investigators asked the FBI for a report on the telegram only in November 1989; on May 1, 1990, as far as we know, the FBI replied to "almost all" the queries posed by Sweden. From then on some Swedish newspapers, among them the

authoritative *Aftonbladet*, dedicated numerous articles, the latest in 1992, to zealously discrediting the presumed agent. Razin maintained that the mysterious telegram must have been "intercepted" by the National Security Agency (NSA), the American "secret" government which, comprised of technicians in the shadow of the President, must assume command in the case of catastrophes or wars which might menace the security of the entire United States (Col. Oliver North, the main defendant in the complicated Iran-Contra affair, reported to the NSA). Razin also said that Palme was killed by NATO circles (or rather, by networks analogous to the Italian "Gladio"), because the Swedish prime minister, in a meeting with Gorbachov scheduled for the spring of 1986, was preparing to encourage Denmark and Norway's separation from NATO. But, or so it seems, Razin circulated false documents to prove this thesis. . . .

"Olof Palme was killed because he knew about, and wanted to investigate, the weapons and explosives trafficking of Sweden with Iran," observed in November 1987 Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the President of Iran in the only democratic government which Iran had between the fall of the Shah and the rise to power of Ayatollah Khomeini, today in exile in Paris. Bani-Sadr added: "I know this from two different and credible sources. Both say that Palme was killed as the direct consequence of what he knew about Sweden-Iran arms trafficking." It is the hypothesis that seems to us to be the least distant from the unattainable truth. From 1981 and up to the day of his assassination, Olof Palme, a pacifist and social democrat, was a special U.N. mediator in the Iraq-Iran war; in Sweden there is a gigantic arms multinational, Bofors-Nobel; in September 1985 Swedish customs officers raided the office of an exporter, Karl-Erik Schmitz of Malmö, who was smuggling explosives via an East Berlin company, Imes Import-Export, which was notoriously linked to the Stasi, the East German secret services.

Bani-Sadr's hypothesis, moreover, does not contradict the "revelations" of the presumed agent Razin. The Palme murder may very well fit into the picture of the Iran-Contra scandal, the clandestine and unilateral arms-for-hostages traffic guided by Oliver North, for which George Bush is still being investigated in America. But it would take entire books to tell this story, and to insert into it the death of Palme: It is not possible for us to even scratch that formidable wall.

The LaRouche diversion

Not even the Swedish police, anyway, have done better. In 1986 they arrested as the suspected Palme killer one Victor Gunnarson, 33 years old. The Swedish youth turned out to be an ex-activist of the European Labor Party (EAP), the organization headed by Lyndon LaRouche. An unusual American political agitator, LaRouche has been annoying the political-financial establishment for years with his pointed investigations and revelations: This writer knows by direct experience that the CIA (the major U.S. newspapers) has defamed him, sometimes passing on reports against him to journalists all over the world. LaRouche was thrown into prison under the Bush administration for "tax evasion." He is serving a 15-year prison sentence.

In 1980, the arrest of Gunnarson was the trigger for a colossal international press campaign, which described the EAP as the criminal organization responsible for the Palme assassination. Time passed; Gunnarson has long since been released for lack of evidence, and yet, every once in a while, some newspaper in the world repeats the old charge, as if it had been proven.

But at least in this fact, in the great mystery of the Palme homicide, we now have a small part of truth. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, a crumb also became unstuck from the invisible wall which is also hiding from us the causes of the Swedish prime minister's death. Only a crumb, but it suffices to glimpse, under the smooth facade, unsuspectable complications between eastern and western secret services, between American "anti-communists" and eastern "communists."

The crumb of truth was offered by an ex-Stasi officer (Department X, "Disinformation"), Col. Herbert Bremer, who worked in Sweden. Now unemployed, Bremer made his confession to *Journalisten*, the authoritative review of the Journalists' Association, which reported it in its Aug. 20-26, 1992 issue: It was he, a secret agent of the East, who set into motion the Swedish police investigations into the EAP.

"The backroom decision was made to cause anonymous telephone calls to be made to Swedish papers, and finally directly to the police," Bremer recounted, "and it happened in the week following the Palme crime. Our 'telephoners' said they 'knew the EAP had committed murder' and even that they had seen 'an unusual agitation in the EAP offices in Stockholm the night before the crime.' There was no truth in it, but it sounded credible and well informed."

But what was the Stasi's purpose in spreading the false accusation? Bremer replies: "The false information was supposed to contribute to distracting the attention of the police from the *surely innocent extreme left-wing groups*." And then he adds an even more amazing excuse: "The lack of evidence against the EAP would have been made up for by the journalists, who would not have hesitated to find the proofs." As we have seen, half the press in the world is already prejudiced against LaRouche and his collaborators, thanks to the feverish work of certain U.S. organizations.

In fact on March 3, 1986, the popular newspaper *Ekstra Bladet* first launched the news that the Swedish police were investigating "extreme-right groups . . . among them the EAP." The same day, the Berlin paper *Tageszeitung* and the left-wing *Berliner Extradienst* loudly repeated the charge (the EAP has its main headquarters in Wiesbaden, in Germany), immediately picked up by numerous newspapers, among them, obviously, *L'Unità* [the Italian Communist Party newspaper] in Italy. Only after the fall of the Wall did it become clear that the two Berlin journals were "facades" for the Stasi itself. *Extradienst* was directly financed by East Germany, and at *Tageszeitung* worked Brigitte Heinrich, close to the Baader-Meinhof, who was also a Stasi agent. As to infiltrations of this kind at *L'Unità*, we will not even dare to think them possible. . . .

But these very details prompt us to not take too seriously the words of Colonel Bremer, when he gives credence to the idea that the Stasi attack on the EAP was dictated by fortuitous motives. The operation mounted by the Stasi was too high-profile. Moreover, from secret Stasi documents (Department XII, Registration) which fell into western hands after the collapse of East Germany, it turns out that the East German secret services had at least 89 IM ("informal collaborators") on which they could count in Sweden, among them persons "at the highest level of the Social Democratic Party" and "in the Swedish Embassy in East Germany." What is more, at the time, the Soviet ambassador in Sweden was Boris Pankin, former director of the Soviet copyright agency SVAAP, an essential vehicle for "disinformation" (Pankin, an intimate of Gorbachov, will later be elevated to the pinnacle of the KGB): an expert in informational poisoning, who had distinguished himself already, since 1975, among other things, for spreading slanderous accusations and rumors against LaRouche.

Why such a deployment of Stasi and KGB forces at just *that time*? The eastern services certainly knew a lot about the murder of Palme and its principals; for sure they knew a good deal about the labyrinthine Iran-Contra traffic. Whom were they covering for, by diverting the Swedish police toward the EAP? In those same days, March 3, Georgi Arbatov—mysterious Soviet plenipotentiary, ever-present in Soviet-U.S. circles and economic conferences, crony of several American billionaires—said from Moscow that the culprits of the Palme assassination should be looked for in "reactionary circles," a definition under which American and Russian disinformation agree to catalogue the EAP: To which of his American friends was he doing a favor? And why did the American Irwin Suall, fact-finding director of the Anti-Defamation League, the organization which in the United States supposedly combats anti-Semitism and emanates from the B'nai B'rith (the Masonry reserved to Israelites) go to Sweden in summer 1986 and promote (also in NBC broadcasts) the anti-EAP campaign in connection with Palme's death? Too many questions. And too many walls still standing.