

Swedish monarchy caught in bed with Earth First! eco-terrorists

by Torbjørn Jerlerup

In a statement released on June 12, Michael Ericson, the chairman of the European Labor Party in Sweden and an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, called for Sweden's King Charles XVI Bernadotte to "wash his dirty laundry, before it is too late." The king, according to the Swedish Constitution, is supposed to stay aloof from politics, yet he is the honorary chairman of the highly political World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Sweden, and has recently been found with some most unsavory bedfellows: the Earth First! eco-terrorists. The WWF, as *EIR* has reported, is the radical ecology movement founded by Britain's Prince Philip and the Netherlands' Prince Bernhard, which provides a cover for intelligence operations and dirty tricks against the nation-state (see *EIR*, Oct. 28, 1994, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor").

As Ericson's statement points out, King Harald of Norway resigned as chairman of the WWF in 1991, saying that the post "is incompatible with my position as king." At the time, the Sea Shepherd and Greenpeace groups had created a furor in Norway by their militant actions to stop whaling. King Charles should wise up and draw the same conclusion, says Ericson.

Earth First! (EF!) is now operating in Sweden for the first time. The April issue of the Swedish anarchist magazine *Brand! (Fire!)* reported that a radical environmentalist and anarchist group called Social-Ecological Action had founded a branch of EF! in January, in Umea, a town in the northern part of Sweden. Close links exist between this group and the Ecopark Project, an organization founded in 1990 by King Charles, in cooperation with the WWF, in order to create what in 1995 became the first national park ever in a city, the "Ecopark" in Stockholm. It was the royal family that triggered the current campaign against all sorts of infrastructure projects, from railroad development and the bridge between Denmark and Sweden, to the so-called "Dennis projects" to build a network of highways around Stockholm.

The political power of the royal family

Environmental issues are often used by the European royal families and the nobility for political reasons. They

want to spread hatred against the idea of man as a "creator," to destroy the tenet of Judeo-Christian civilization that holds that man's purpose is to transform nature in a positive way, to improve conditions of life for all mankind. Expressing the opposed oligarchical worldview most succinctly, Britain's Prince Philip said in 1988, "In the event that I am reincarnated, I would like to return as a deadly virus, in order to contribute something to solve overpopulation."

Using the naive common belief that everything that has to do with nature is "above politics," the oligarchs are able to play a crucial, and very nasty, role on the political scene.

In Sweden, the king's involvement in the "green" cause is potentially very controversial, because, unlike in Britain, for example, political involvement by the Swedish monarch is explicitly unconstitutional. This was decided by Parliament in the 1920s, although that has not stopped kings from intervening into politics. The best-known case is when Gustavus V, the great-grandfather of the current king, forced the Swedish government to accept the transport by railroad of German troops through Swedish territory to Finland, in 1941, by threatening to abdicate.

The king is allowed to work to "save nature," because it suits the interests of sections of the political elite around the royal court, those who had shaped environmental issues as the main mechanism to control political life in the nation.

The king started the campaign to create the Stockholm Ecopark, in order to block the "Dennis projects," which have been the main subject of political contention in the Swedish capital for the last six years. Even official publications of the WWF about the campaign, such as the 1995 WWF yearbook, *The Ecopark*, say that the park was created to make it more difficult "for politicians to exploit" the area in the future. Hardly "unpolitical."

The Ecopark campaign was launched in 1990, at a time when the political parties had founded the Dennis Commission, headed by the former director of the Swedish Central Bank, Bengt Dennis, to come up with proposals for infrastructure development in the Stockholm area. The commission recommended investing 40 billion crowns in what they called "one of the largest and most advanced infrastructure projects ever in Sweden." In order to coordinate a cam-

paigned against this initiative, an environmentalist umbrella organization was formed in 1992, called "Ur tid aer leden." The anarchists of Social-Ecological Action, as well as the royally supported Ecopark Project, are both official members of it.

The royal Ecopark

The Dennis Commission decided that the new highway ring around Stockholm was to be built close to or under (by tunnel) some public parks to the north and east of Stockholm. These parks were owned by the Swedish state "at the disposition by the king," i.e., they were royal parks. The oligarchy and WWF could not tolerate the highway project—not because it was a threat to the environment, but because of their hatred of anything that smacks of economic development. "Far too much development is always negative, especially in the vicinity of these beautiful city parks," the WWF said. The general secretary of the WWF in Sweden at that time, Jens Wahlstedt, and one of his campaign managers, ornithol-

ogist Henrik Waldenstrom, came up with the idea of merging these royal parks to create one huge national park from the center of town, 500 meters from the main royal castle, to Ulriksdal, nine kilometers north of the center of Stockholm.

The role of the monarchy in the creation of the parks is not a secret. Even the WWF yearbook, *The Ecopark*, acknowledges that the project was initiated on Oct. 18, 1990, when, as they write, Henrik Waldenstrom and Christer Lignell, the royal governor of Kungliga Djurgarden (the Royal Animal Park) "met with the governor of the royal palaces, Harald Smith, and Jens Wahlstedt from the WWF. The meeting had the result that the governor of the royal palaces paid Henrik Waldenstrom to investigate the possibility of creating the KGB, the Royal Green Belt," as the Ecopark was called at the time. So, with the approval of the king and with money from his royal Treasury, a report on this plan was completed in January 1991. It was immediately sent out to all political parties, government offices, and environmental organizations, paid for by the royal Treasury.

The eco-terrorist record of Earth First!

On July 28, 1995, less than 24 hours after President Clinton signed a bill that contained forest salvage clauses (allowing fallen trees to be sold), 150 environmentalist demonstrators gathered outside the White House and gave the President a "21-chainsaw salute." As one observer reported to *EIR*, under the banners of the Sierra Club and World Wildlife Fund, "You had 21 people gunning their chainsaws in the air toward the White House, as if to say: We're coming to get you."

This was meant to be a protest of the "respectable" environmentalists (albeit against an eminently sound environmental law!), but the WWF's spawn at Earth First! were more direct: As *EIR* reported in our Sept. 8, 1995 *Feature*, the Aug. 1 issue of the *Earth First! Journal* attacked President Clinton over the law, making a not-too-veiled call for his assassination. The *EF! Journal* promoted the druid practice of sacrificing a leader to celebrate the festival of Lughnasadah.

The *EF! Journal's* lead story said that Clinton's signing the bill set off an "apocalypse," and stated that "we have no choice but to revolt." An accompanying picture showed a man firing a gun at a tree, captioned, "That pioneering spirit lives on!"

A description of the pagan festival of Lughnasadah, on Aug. 1 (the *EF! Journal* is published eight times a year on

the major pagan holidays), read: "Lughnasadah is a harvest festival that marks the beginning of the autumnal season. Lugh, the Celtic sun god, reached the pinnacle of his power at summer solstice. He now falls to his death, bleeding crimson light in the western sky.

"A harvest festival, Lughnasadah ('cutting of first wheat') is also the time of sacrifice and the time for a leveling of power. Celtic historian Margaret Murry postulates that ancient Celts ritually killed their tribal leaders every seven years. . . .

"In our own culture, power is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few megacorporations. The mass communications industry controlled by these megacorporations continually bombards us. Communications theorist Howard Rheingold explains: 'Why torture people when you can get them to pay for access to electronic mind control? Lughnasadah is a day for ritual sacrifice.' "

Private investigator and author Barry Clausen, who infiltrated Earth First! in the early 1990s, told *EIR* that he takes this "very seriously" as a death threat. He explained that in many cases, companies and individuals targeted by *Earth First! Journal* became the victims of bombings, arson, or sabotage. In 1990, he said, a "hit list" appeared in an issue of the newspaper *Live Wild or Die*, an underground newspaper distributed by EF! leaders. Two of the three top targets were later sent bombs by the Unabomber.

In a report, Clausen has documented more than 150 acts of terrorism in the United States and Canada since 1983, concluding that "two groups, the Animal Liberation Front and Earth First!, are responsible for the majority of crimes and damages."

The WWF report was made public the same month that the political parties approved the report of the Dennis Commission, January 1991 (though the question of financing of the Dennis projects remained to be solved). The WWF called together various environmental organizations for a conference in May, at which The Ecopark Project was officially founded, "as a response to the increasing demand for action, from the citizens of Stockholm, to save the parks," as they claimed. Many prominent members of the Swedish oligarchy participated in this campaign, such as Baron Stig Ramel, the former chairman of the Nobel Foundation (the trustees of the money for Nobel prizes). In the autumn of 1991 and spring of 1992, the government, led by Baron Carl Bildt, started working for the Ecopark initiative.

Minister for Natural Resources Goerel Thurdin was in charge of the national parks. The WWF used clever psychological manipulation to "persuade" her to accept the idea of the park. In 1993, the WWF "discovered" a rare owl in one of the royal parks, and named it after her! (For several months, the media covered every move of this owl, the Goerel, and its "love affair" with another owl, Charles, named after the king.)

In 1992, the campaign escalated when "Ur tid aer leden" was launched. The major political parties had finally agreed on how to finance the infrastructure projects, and everything was ready to go. However, the eco-lobbyists further delayed the Dennis projects, through 1993 and 1994, by forcing the politicians into an endless discussion on supposed environmental "problems" connected with the projects. The king issued a statement in favor of the Ecopark, and another which criticized a railroad line that was part of the Dennis projects. (The railroad plan was soon dropped.)

On March 10, 1994, the final act of persuasion occurred: The Royal Ecopark Club—consisting of the WWF and the Royal Court—held a dinner to "honor," or rather bribe, Minister Goerel Thurdin. After this dinner, no further resistance occurred, and Parliament agreed to create the park in December 1994.

The National Ecopark was inaugurated by the king on May 19, 1995, at Ulriksdal Castle, the headquarters of the WWF.

Royal anarchism

The visible result of the campaign to this date was that some minor parts of the Dennis projects were cancelled; however, most of the projects were only revised, because a majority of the population of Stockholm, as well as large commercial interests, supported them. In 1995, Parliament approved the Dennis projects, in an "environmentally safe" form.

But the campaign for the Ecopark, and against the Dennis projects, is still ongoing. The environmentalists are still trying to stop them, especially the tunnel which is planned to be constructed under the park. The "Ur tid aer leden" network

has changed its tactics from mostly political lobbying to civil disobedience. This is why the eco-terrorist Earth First! has entered the political scene. The WWF and its cohorts are now warning about the "disorder" which would result, if their more "moderate" proposals on how to stop the highway ring, and other "unnecessary" projects in and around Sweden, are not followed.

During 1995 and 1996, the "Ur tid aer leden" network escalated its operations to prepare the offensive against the infrastructural projects, this offensive was initiated in April and May of this year, when the first construction on the Dennis project began, and will escalate later this summer, when construction on the bridge between Denmark and Sweden will begin, if the network behind these royal eco-terrorists is not exposed.

In April and May 1996, an offensive was carried out by the eco-terrorists against gas stations and, at the end of May, the first terrorist attack against the Dennis projects occurred. On May 20, a firebomb exploded at a construction site south of Stockholm, where the new highway ring is being built; a considerable amount of equipment was destroyed. The police suspect that the anarchist network to which Social-Ecological Action belongs, was behind the attack.

A republican manifesto

Wilhelm Moberg, a Social Democrat and the most influential anti-royalist in Sweden in the 20th century, wrote a pamphlet in 1955, titled "Why I Am a Republican." Here is an excerpt:

The spendor of the royal throne, which still today dazzles its followers, originates from the magic and mysticism of primitive tribal rites. The monarchy was created by this kind of belief in the supernatural.

The proponents of monarchy believe that it is consistent with our modern democratic ideals to keep the king, if only the Constitution states that the king is not allowed to have any personal political power.

However, historical facts contradict this popular belief. The truth is that the king on several occasions has used his personal power. . . . We should therefore consider how to remove this irrational and supernatural type of control that the king still holds over the minds of our people—a control which, in times of great political upheaval and crisis, can easily be used for an ulterior political purpose. Recent historical events have shown that the monarchy could be a potential hidden danger for Swedish democracy.