

# Swedish prosecutor opens new chapter in cover-up of Palme assassination

by Torbjoern Jerlerup and Lotta-Stina Thronell

In the first week of December 1997, Sweden's national prosecutor, Klas Bergenstrand, in collaboration with the chief prosecutor in the Olof Palme murder case, Jan Danielsson, delivered a formal application to the Supreme Court, asking to reopen the case against supposed "lone assassin" Christer Pettersson. This is nothing but a new, desperate attempt to suppress any serious investigation of the actual conspiracy by the international weapons cartel to kill Prime Minister Palme.

The cover-up started on the evening of Feb. 28, 1986, when the prime minister was shot and killed as he walked home from the cinema with his wife. Instead of a competent murder investigation, a huge disinformation campaign was started by the Communist East German secret service, the Stasi; the main target was *EIR* Contributing Editor Lyndon LaRouche, along with his co-thinkers in the European Labor Party of Sweden.

The cover-up has threatened to crack several times during the 12 years since the murder took place, involving the unmasking of various lies concerning the Swedish arms producer Bofors and its dirty business with the East German weapon smugglers of IMES Import-Export GmbH. When the secret Stasi files were scrutinized after the reunification of Germany, some of the lying was exposed. A new trial against Bofors, on the basis of the Stasi files, will be opened this Spring.

In 1985, it was Palme who gave a green light to the Swedish Customs, which had been tipped off by West German sources, to raid the offices of Bofors. In 1997, another clue was given to the Swedish police: An anonymous letter writer claimed that Swedish journalist Cats Falck, who had mysteriously died in 1984, was killed by the Stasi, because she had started to track down the dirty business deals between Bofors and IMES. In June 1997, Manfred Kittlaus, the head of the German police unit investigating the crimes of the Stasi, confirmed that the Falck case is one of 12 cases he is investigating, involving murders carried out by the Stasi outside of East Germany.

Before that, in September 1996, massive evidence of a broader international conspiracy behind the assassination surfaced with the so-called "South Africa track." Former South African intelligence officers were accused of being responsible for the murder. In October 1996, an *EIR* Special Report, *George Bush and the 12333 Serial Murder Ring*, summarized

the links between the former U.S. President, the Iran-Contra affair, and a series of unsolved murders.

Seen in this light, the move by the national prosecutor to open a new trial against Pettersson takes on a tragic-comical character: Bergenstrand has chosen a dead end, in claiming that "new witnesses" have provided strong proof that it was indeed Pettersson who killed Palme. Some of the "new witnesses" have changed their testimony several times, and are therefore not trustworthy. Reliable witnesses, whose evidence goes against the official cover-up, are still not being called to testify. An example is Goesta Soederstroem, the first policeman on the scene after the assassination, who insists that someone must have falsified the reports of the timing of the murder, to judge by his own notes taken on the crime scene. Another witness, policeman Aake Rimborn, affirms that Palme's wife, Lisbeth Palme, did indeed say that she had seen at least two men, as the bullets were fired against her husband—a statement that she later changed. The prosecution is even going so far as to "call in" two dead people as witnesses—an unheard-of occurrence, and, according to the European Union Court, illegal: If the defense cannot hear the witnesses, they must be invalidated.

## What 'new evidence'?

Christer Pettersson was tried for the murder of Prime Minister Palme at the district court of Stockholm, and found guilty on July 27, 1989. On Nov. 2 of the same year, he was released on the order of the court of appeals, for lack of evidence. The case against Pettersson was entirely based on circumstantial evidence. The prosecutor could not, according to the appeals court ruling, prove that Pettersson had a weapon on the evening of the murder, nor that he had *ever* possessed a weapon. Nor was the prosecutor able to show a plausible motive for the murder. Concerning Pettersson's criminal character, the appeals court decided that he was too labile to have been able to plan and execute such a sophisticated murder. (He is drunk or drugged most of the time.) The prosecutor did not attempt to appeal the case to the Supreme Court at that time.

But now, the national prosecutor delivers almost 3,000 pages to the Supreme Court, in the application to reopen the case against Pettersson. The prosecution must claim to have "new evidence," compared to the two trials in 1989, otherwise it would be impossible to reopen the case. What is known so



Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1982. His assassination in 1986 was subjected to an enormous cover-up, and officials are still desperately scrambling to keep the lid on the case.

far about the witnesses who are providing this “new evidence,” stinks. Two of them have been dead for years, and they are the ones who supposedly testified that Pettersson possessed a weapon—which, even if it were true, does not prove that he shot Olof Palme. One of these witnesses, the “bomb man” Tingstroem, a chronic liar and criminal, died in 1993. In December 1996, after the South Africa track again came under discussion, his lawyer, Pelle Svensson, had such a “bad conscience,” that he went to the police with what he said was Tingstroem’s “last will and testament.” According to Svensson, Tingstroem had “confessed” to him before he died, a “confession” which included a story about how Pettersson possessed a weapon similar to the one that killed Palme. Now, after about 1,000 pages of the application for retrial have been made public, it is apparent that the “last will” consists of some ten mostly blank pages, provided only with headlines and some notes from the lawyer—not written by his client. One wonders why the lawyer went to the police only in December 1996, after the revelations began to appear about the South Africa track.

Another question which is overdue concerning the events of Autumn 1996, is how it was possible for a former chief of the criminal police, Tommy Lindstroem, to travel to South Africa, at the expense of the social democratic rag *Aftonbladet*, and to be the first person to interrogate a former South African colo-

nel, Eugene De Kock, who had claimed to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission that he knew who assassinated Palme. Lindstroem was the chief of the criminal police between 1981 and 1994, and part of the time he headed the investigation of the Palme case. In 1992, he was removed from active duty because of his gangster methods: For example, when criminals were caught stealing works of art, Lindstroem simply offered to buy back the stolen goods!

### Critics speak out

Two critics of the “lone assassin” theory are the brothers Kari and Pertti Poutiainen, who in 1994 published a book, *Inside the Labyrinth*, which systematically shows the flaws in the police investigation, and implies that some highly placed police officials must have been involved in the cover-up. On Dec. 28, 1997, the Poutiainens got an article published in the daily *Dagens Nyheter*, “Prosecutor Hides Proof in the Palme Court Case,” in which they harshly criticize the unfair and untruthful methods of the prosecutor.

More than 11 years after Palme was murdered, the first policeman to arrive on the scene, Goesta Soederstroem, stated in an interview published in *EIR* of Aug. 15, 1997: “I do not believe that the Swedish authorities could have acted as insanely as they did in this investigation, if they had not been influenced, or rather ordered, to impede the investigation, from abroad. Look at the international drug- and weapons-dealers around former U.S. President George Bush and Oliver North, that is what I mean. Look at the South African revelations, and—why not?—the Swedish part of the international illegal arms trade around Bofors. The people organized in these operations were nothing else than murderers. Do you think they want ordinary people to know the truth about what they have been doing?”

Another voice of domestic opposition has been raised by a film team, which in March 1998 will release the movie “The Contract,” produced by one of the most popular directors in Sweden, Kjell Sundvall. The screenplay and the book on which the movie is based were written by a person with the pseudonym John W. Grow. The book is already on sale.

The plot centers around a mercenary with experience in Africa, who has the alias Gales. He travels to Sweden with the aim of assassinating Prime Minister Palme. Gales hires another mercenary, who lives in Norway, and together they plan the operation. The two men make two unsuccessful attempts to kill Palme, but on the third occasion, Palme is shot by the Norwegian. Gales tricks various criminals to come to the scene, the same evening as the murder took place, in order to get the police investigators going on a completely wrong track.

The “hero” is the policeman Roger Nyman, who works for the Swedish secret police. He finds out about Gales’s plans, and tries to stop the assassination, but in vain. The leadership of the Security Police does not want to save the life of the hated prime minister, and the only result of Nyman’s effort to save Palme, is that he himself is shot at the

end of the book.

In the story, Gales is hired by a Swedish businessman by the name of Lennart Holmstroem, a multibillionaire in the banking business belonging to “the most influential business family in Sweden,” as Grow describes it. (When the book appeared, Swedish media pointed out that this was a clear reference to Peter Wallenberg.) Holmstroem is angry at Olof Palme, because Palme is a socialist and wants to “nationalize the Swedish banks,” something which he sees as a threat to his interests. However, Holmstroem does not act alone, he is encouraged by two influential Americans: the first, Jack Pallon, a billionaire and childhood friend of Holmstroem; and the second, Bertrand Norris, is involved in secret intelligence operations, and gives Holmstroem the address of a “bureau” where Holmstroem can hire a mercenary.

The American billionaire is portrayed as belonging to an influential family, dealing with food production worldwide. He himself is a “born again” Christian, who wants to kill Palme because he threatens the secret political and business operations of the Pallon family in Latin America, by “supporting” regimes led by “communists.” The author also describes his religious fundamentalism as one of the motives: Jack Pallon thinks it is his “almost holy” responsibility to oppose “friends of the communists,” such as Palme.

The other American, Norris, is a tall, conservative, “born again” Christian, who works for the government in secret intelligence operations, and who also works with Pallon in Panama. Rather like Oliver North, perhaps.

### **The 12333 serial murder ring**

The only ones who so far have linked Oliver North’s “Iran-Contra” intelligence operations to the assassination of Palme, are the co-thinkers of Lyndon LaRouche. *EIR*’s Special Report, *George Bush and the 12333 Serial Murder Ring*, delved into the secret political operations of this network, involving, among other things, the secret arms trade to Ibero-America and the Middle East. This report circulated extensively in Sweden.

Grow’s book points to the same network, even if it wrongly implies that Palme was the “good socialist” who fought against the evil Americans. Reality was more complex: The communists in East Germany helped Palme’s “socialist” regime to smuggle explosives to Iran and Iraq, in cooperation with the “capitalists” of the Bush-North Iran/Contra apparatus. The move in 1985 to stop the Swedish involvement in this secret trade, by allowing the Swedish Customs to raid Bofors, clearly threatened the cooperation between East and West that the European arms cartel and the Iran/Contra group had established.

The book and the film can help to crack the cover-up around these operations. In fact, sources close to the film team claim that one of the motives of those calling for a new trial against Christer Pettersson, is a desperate attempt to suppress the expected effects of the book and the film.

# Terrorist dangers intensify in Pakistan

by Ramtanu Maitra and Susan Maitra

The sudden outburst of “sectarian violence” in the second week of January in Lahore should serve as a signal to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, that his recent victory over the Presidential-judiciary combine was a small one, compared to the dangers he continues to ignore. The nature of the violence, although it contains all the necessary ingredients of continuing Shia-Sunni conflicts within Pakistan, nonetheless was clearly a terrorist act. The Islamabad government must look in the right places to find the cause of this burst of terrorism.

The graveyard massacre of 23 Shias who were attending the funeral of one of their slain leaders was claimed by a little-known Sunni group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which has gone underground since. Several Shia leaders, including those who belong to the militant Tehrik-e-Jafriya, blamed Anjuman-e-Sipah-e-Sahaba—a better-known militant Sunni group that has been linked to assaults on Shias in Pakistan. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, meanwhile, from underground, has blamed Teheran for backing Shia militants in Pakistan.

The Shia-Sunni conflict in Pakistan is well established by now. It is quite easy to provoke shadowy militant factions within either sect to commit insane acts of violence. This has been the modus operandi in Karachi where violence between Shia and Sunni, or MQM and PPP, or Pathan and Sindhi, can be triggered in no time. Islamabad has spent years trying to impose law and order in Karachi and Sindh. In the process, the entire law and order machinery, including the Army, has been discredited, and Karachi, the commercial hub and the only major port-city in Pakistan, remains vulnerable to total disruption.

Despite the Karachi experience, Islamabad continues to deal with the Shia-Sunni conflict, centered mostly in the province of Punjab, as an independent sore which needs law and order medicine to cure. This shortsighted approach has made Karachi extremely vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

In Karachi, the MQM, a non-political, ethnic-based grouping, has been involved in terrorist acts and has emerged as the powerhouse among the terrorists in the city. MQM’s supreme leader, Altaf Hussain, resides in London, under the protection of the British government. Britain has so far refused the Pakistan government’s requests for his extradition.

Anjuman-e-Sipah-e-Sahaba, the group blamed by the Shia militants for the graveyard massacre, is active all over Punjab and the Pakistan-held part of Kashmir. Its leader, Zia Rehman Farooqi, went on a month-long tour of Britain in