

Palme murder cover-up comes under attack

by Ulf Sandmark

The controversy over who murdered Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme on Feb. 28, 1986 in Stockholm, is mounting, as attacks on the cover-up are increasing in Sweden. The police investigation, which is now targetting a patsy named Christer Pettersson, is an ongoing scandal. The narrow debate, focusing on domestic forces and terrorists who could have killed Palme, was broken up in 1996 by former South African secret agent Eugene de Kock, when, during questioning by the South African Truth Commission, he revealed the involvement of South Africans in the Palme murder. Since then, openness to considering the possible involvement of international forces has increased.

'The Independent Palme Investigation'

In a public forum in Stockholm on Feb. 26, 2000, a group of private investigators ripped apart the network of lies that has been put out as part of the official murder investigations. The group, which has met regularly since 1987, pulls together and analyzes everything that can be found about the murder. From rather isolated beginnings, they have now gained more prominence, even though they continue to be totally blacked out by the media, except for the occasional slander. The heroic initiator of the group, Fritz Petterson, has had to cut back on his activity, after being hospitalized with a severe illness. Also, a founder and one of the most active members of the group, Ingvar Heimer, was found dead just a little over a month ago, at a subway station, of causes which remain unclear.

At this year's meeting, the group, who now call themselves "The Independent Palme Investigation," identified, flat out, the following individuals and organizations as involved in the murder: George Bush and his Operations Sub-Group (OSG), the Iran-Contra weapons traders, the money-laundering company GMR, and South African intelligence, in collusion with Swedish policemen.

In his introduction, the new chairman of the group, Goeran Lundén, said that the investigation of Palme's murder is not a case of just one track, but of many tracks which converge. In this way, he cut through the infighting among Sweden's leftists, who blame the police for Palme's murder, and others, who work their own favorite angles. "The discussion has to be open, but also follow up active disinformation," he said. "Outside of our efforts, there is no investigation. The police

investigation has only one job, and that is to find a Magnum revolver that we know did not kill Palme. What is interesting, is who spreads the disinformation about the accused Christer Pettersson, because he is Sweden's Lee Harvey Oswald."

Journalist Sven Anér attacked the authorities: "You can start anywhere and you will find cover-up," he said, using just a few examples. He summed up: "There is shit behind the murder of Olof Palme."

The police officer who first arrived at the murder scene, Goesta Soederstroem, showed the heavily censored autopsy protocol. He reported that the coroner who wrote it, has said in an interview that Palme was shot with a small-caliber weapon. "Therefore, this protocol is covered up. The only reason for the orientation toward a Magnum revolver was the hope that such a weapon, circulating in the Stockholm criminal underworld, might possibly be connected to the fall guy, Christer Pettersson," Soederstroem explained.

Palme's life

For the first time in Sweden, the meeting opened up a discussion about the life and background of the victim. A former leading conservative journalist, Ulf Nilsson, was invited to make a presentation about Palme. The chairman, Lundén, followed up Nilsson's remarks by quoting from a publication by Lyndon LaRouche's associates in the European Labor Party (EAP), and laid out the Nazi past of Palme and his mother's family, the von Knierems. He presented new information about Palme's uncle, August von Knierem, who was the head of the law department of IG Farben, and personally inspected the Nazi concentration camps providing labor for the company. Also, Palme's policies on nuclear weapons were outlined, and the possibility was raised of his having crossed the West in his advocacy of a Nordic nuclear-free zone, or in his activities with respect to the weapons traders.

Presented next were some examples of the 10 to 20 prior warnings of the murder. This background was the basis for a talk by Henry Soederstroem, the son of police officer Goesta Soederstroem, entitled "Pointing to a Solution." He started to bring together many different tracks, beginning with George Bush and his OSG, the Italian Propaganda-2 organization, GMR, Iran-Contra weapons traders, and the South African intelligence connections to the Swedish police, weaving a picture of a possible murder operation. For example, Soederstroem noted that the South African agent Craig Williamson was in Stockholm at the time of the murder, staying in an apartment along the murderer's most probable escape route. A group of policemen with neo-Nazi sympathies had extensive contacts with South Africa, and precisely these officers were on duty in crucial positions on the night of the murder.

Sven Anér also presented new information about the existence of another witness, who saw the first head of the official police investigation, Hans Holmér, in Stockholm on the day of the murder, despite the fact that Holmér has claimed that

he was 230 kilometers away. There are many pieces missing from the puzzle, but the interesting thing, is that the possibility that a supranational conspiracy was responsible for the murder of Prime Minister Palme, is now being openly pursued by the group. That possibility brings to mind what Holmér once said: that the truth about Palme's murder "would shake Sweden to its foundations"—something that would definitely not happen if the murderer were Christer Pettersson, or the Kurdish Workers Party.

Thus, the line of investigation that was outlined in the *EIR Special Report* "George Bush and the 12333 Serial Murder Ring," is being followed up by this group, together with a very aggressive attack against the stonewalling of the Swedish authorities and media.

The 1999 trial in Memphis, Tennessee concerning the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, was also taken up at the meeting, as an inspiration to the group. The chairman quoted from the only newspaper in Sweden to report, so far, on the trial—the monthly newspaper *Ny Solidaritet*, published by LaRouche's associates. In the wrongful-death civil suit, the King family convinced the jury that James Earl Ray, who was imprisoned without a trial 30 years ago for allegedly killing Dr. King, was in fact innocent. The argument by William Pepper, the lawyer for the King family, and the former lawyer of the late James Earl Ray, was read aloud from the podium: "The murder of Martin Luther King was the result of a multi-layered conspiracy, involving police and organized crime on the local level in Memphis, as well as military intelligence, the FBI, and the CIA on the Federal level."

"This is what we also see here in the Palme case," commented the chairman.

A trial for slander

The question of the role of foreign agencies in Palme's murder was also raised in a four-day trial in Sweden that began on Jan. 27. In the trial, "former" British Special Air Services (SAS) agent Anthony White sued the two main Swedish tabloids, *Aftonbladet* and *Expressen*, for a half-million dollars for slander, because they had written about him as Palme's murderer, giving his name and publishing his picture. In their defense, the newspapers called in a former agent from South Africa, Col. Dirk Coetzee, to testify. Coetzee reiterated his statements about the involvement of South Africa in the murder. White denied his involvement in Palme's murder, of course, but, strangely enough, admitted to *Expressen* that he had led a group which was tasked to murder former opposition leader Joshua Nkomo of Zimbabwe, and that he had received a medal for the operation. The verdict in the trial was that the newspapers were not guilty on 65 of 66 counts.

Political direction of the police investigation

On June 30, 1999, a special government commission had presented a 900-page report on its five-year investigation

of Palme's murder. The report continued the cover-up, but on a higher level, and in so doing, revealed a lot of very interesting information—including identifying who had given orders to the police to limit their investigation of Palme's murder.

A memo was made public, in which Social Democratic diplomat and Deputy Foreign Minister Sverker Aastroem, only four days after Palme's murder, gave directions to the chief police investigator, Hans Holmér, about where *not* to look for the murderer. The investigation should limit itself to "Western European and Middle East terrorist organizations," Aastroem's memo read. Neither the KGB, the CIA, nor their surrogates should be looked into. Aastroem, the "foreign policy adviser" to the police investigation, kept the lid on.

There are many hints in the report that every time a piece of information drew the police investigation close to the "red areas" in international politics, the censorship came down in two ways: a diversionary witch-hunt started against some political enemy of Palme, or the tip was just "disappeared," or filed without any further investigation. "Red areas," for example, included the arms producer Bofors, the weapons trade generally, and Palme's role as UN negotiator in the Iran-Iraq War.

The massive witch-hunt against Lyndon LaRouche and his collaborators in Sweden, based on allegations that they were somehow involved in Palme's murder, was one of the major diversions. As early as March 5, 1986, LaRouche had issued a memorandum, entitled "Operation Edgar Allan Poe," outlining an approach for a competent investigation of the murder. What should be investigated especially, he wrote, was the "Trust," the unholy cooperation across the Iron Curtain by factions within the secret service organizations, and their oligarchical controllers, in both the East and the West.

The disinformation against LaRouche was spread by Aastroem, East German secret service (Stasi) officer Herbert Brehmer, and major U.S. media. The U.S. media used the allegations to crush the March 1986 victory of LaRouche's associates in the Democratic primary races for Illinois Lt. Governor and Secretary of State, and later, in 1988-89, to help railroad LaRouche and several of his associates into prison.

The media continued the attacks, but four years after the murder, a memo by the official police investigation, dated June 20, 1990, dropped LaRouche and his associates in the EAP as suspects. The police memo summed it up in the following way:

"There is nothing concrete in the substance, which would indicate that the EAP, as a party, or that a group inside the EAP, were involved in the murder." Further, "according to what is known, neither the EAP, nor its sister parties around the world, have ever used violence directed against politicians or other public persons."

This memo became public only in 1999.