

Northern Flank by A. Borealis

Decisive elections for NATO's future

On the eve of Norway's and Sweden's elections, the Swedish air force head has broken the silence on the Soviet military threat.

Until the last week of August, campaigns leading into mid-September elections in both Norway and Sweden were characterized by a glaring lack of debate on vital strategic issues, in spite of their strategically critical positions. As was the case with the election of Andreas Papandreu in Greece, a victory of the Social Democrats in Norway and a firm re-election of Olof Palme in Sweden might deal a devastating blow to the Atlantic Alliance.

But in late August the tacit and mutual agreements of silence showed signs of breaking down in both countries, as Soviet provocations increased, and as the effect of press conferences held by *EIR* in both Stockholm and Oslo on its recently issued *Global Showdown* special report began to be felt.

In Norway, where national elections will take place on Sept. 9, conservative Prime Minister Kaare Willoch accused a leader of the Labor Party of showing "a lack of national responsibility." The rebuke came after Labor Party Vice-Chairman Einar Foerda had declared to the Danish pro-terrorist newspaper *Information* that, regardless of the outcome of the elections, the main campaigns of the Labor Party will center on the "NATO question," i.e., on pulling Norway de facto out of the Atlantic Alliance, much as Papandreu has done in Greece. Indeed, Foerda maintains close ties to the Greek Prime Minister, as well as to Arne Treholt, the Norwegian Socialist International leader convicted last June of being a Soviet spy and currently serving a maximum sentence in prison.

Until the week of Aug. 26, opinion polls had consistently given the ruling Conservative Party one or two percentage points over the Social Democrats, whose platform is one of outright appeasement of Moscow, but the latest polls show the Labor Party leading.

In Sweden, Soviet aggressive designs were brought more openly into the national debate. General Olson, the head of the Swedish Air Force, declared on Aug. 26 to the daily *Expressen* that "the Soviet Union has recently made a dramatic shift from a defensive to an offensive posture," in the Military Districts of the Baltic and Leningrad, aimed against Sweden and NATO's Northern Flank. "My duty to the nation requires me to reveal this information," he stated.

Swedish military sources cited by *Expressen* claim that the Russians have created 8 new regiments (approximately 800 aircraft) on the northern flank. These regiments are being equipped with the SU-24 "Fencer" fighter-bomber, which can fly from the Soviet Baltic states to England or northern Scandinavia, and back, without refueling.

Gen. Sven-Olof Olson has demanded that the Swedish Air Force be equipped and strengthened to meet this threat. Over the past three years, Socialist Prime Minister Olof Palme has repeatedly denied Air Force requests to purchase more Viggen jets for the Air Force, whose combat-ready 400-plane capability is the substance of Swedish defense.

It is therefore not surprising that Soviet secret operations are targeting

precisely those forces, and that Air Force pilots have been the object of profiling and mapping by Soviet Special Forces or "Spetsnaz" operations. As has been reported in the past, East bloc citizens, posing as door-to-door salesman, visit the homes of Air Force pilots to collect information. Just what kind of information and for what reasons were reported in the Aug. 27 edition of the Swedish daily, *Svenska Dagbladet*, based on the theories of "Swedish security forces as to why the salesmen are being deployed by a foreign power in peace time."

According to previously known information, at least 113 Swedish pilots were visited between 1980 and 1984 by "Polish citizens pretending to sell paintings." A special study found that a full 60% of the pilots at one air base had received such a visit. Further studies indicate that not only pilots, but others, such as submarine crews and top executives of key defense industries, have also been profiled.

Possible reasons given for the "visits" include: updating information as to officers' addresses and habits; initial steps toward trying to recruit the officers as agents; placing various forms of sensors and bugging devices in the officers homes; even more seriously, of placing remote-controlled or time bombs in the homes; checking on readiness levels or redeployments of military personnel; photographing the areas where the officer lives, especially since the "salesmen" have been seen with cameras. There can be no doubt of the importance, for the Soviets, of eliminating these pilots in a prewar ground deployment.

Previous to these warnings, the European Labor Party, associated with Lyndon LaRouche, was the only voice to be heard denouncing Soviet war plans, and remains the only force calling for Sweden to join NATO.