

and Navy are ready for action at all times, but they have been halved in strength in the recent period.

"A surprise opening gambit by the Warsaw Pact on the Scandinavian peninsula would, for that reason, be likely to succeed. . . . There are strong grounds to assume that a major war would begin here [in the Northern Flank]. Neutrality, weakness, and general peaceability would be as little help to us as they were to Finland in 1939 and Denmark and Norway in 1940.

"The Soviet Union has close to 4,000 elite troops specially trained for sabotage and assassination in Sweden. . . . An attacker knows 'to the T' how many submarines and missile ships Sweden has, what their names are, and where they are stationed and whether they are armed. He knows exactly how many Air Force units we have of various kinds and where they are located. He knows the name of every officer on every ship and every Air Force base. . . .

"Our Air Force would be totally paralyzed without pilots. For professionally trained and equipped sabotage units, clad in Swedish uniforms, it would not be difficult to murder most of our few hundred pilots.

"If the aggressor would like to increase the certainty that the Swedish Navy's ships will be unusable, he only has to extend his hit list by a few key individuals in their crews. . . .

"Some might say that this is alarmist. But all the Soviet submarine violations are reality."

*On Jan. 21, Commander von Hofsten wrote:*

. . . Sweden is threatened by the power struggle that "goes on in peacetime" [as described in Sweden's Defense Committee report] between the power blocs. The word "peace" has been put in quotation marks to underline what the Committee . . . states: "The dividing line between peace and war in our immediate area can be fluid". . . . This dividing line

## The 'nuclear-free zone' and the Palme Commission

Beginning with mid-1983, Sweden's Socialist Prime Minister Olof Palme became the principal international spokesman for the transformation of northern Europe into a nuclear-free zone. The Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues, better known as the Palme Commission, acting together with the Socialist International, has since become an aggressive organizer on behalf of the proposal.

The origin of a Nordic Nuclear-Free Zone idea, however, lay in Moscow and not the West.

The Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden are already, de facto, free of nuclear weapons. Two of them, the Soviet puppet state of Finland and neutral Sweden, are committed not to manufacture or deploy nuclear weapons on their soil. The two members of NATO, Norway and Denmark, each decided in the 1950s to exclude foreign troops and nuclear weapons from their territory (land areas) in peacetime. A similar situation exists in the other northerly member of NATO, Iceland.

Denmark's and Norway's policy, however, provides for the transportation of nuclear weapons into the two countries in the event of a crisis or war. A U.S. and British shield was central to the strategy.

Hence, traditionalist politicians in the area made no attempt, in 1963, to leap on the Soviet bandwagon when then-president of Finland, Urho Kekkonen, first proposed "elevating" the region's non-nuclear status to that of a de

jure nuclear-free zone, with Denmark and Norway reneging on their commitment to allow NATO nuclear weapons to be brought into their territories in case of Soviet aggression. Since a Nordic Nuclear-Free Zone would not affect the status of the heavily-armed and nuclearized Soviet forces on the Kola peninsula, Kekkonen's proposal was meant to limit the defense of NATO's Northern Flank to the extraordinarily outmanned and outgunned conventional forces of the West in the area.

Not surprisingly, the U.S.S.R. quickly espoused Kekkonen's proposal, which had in any case echoed earlier calls for the creation of European nuclear-free zones aired by Soviet party leader Nikita Khrushchev five years earlier. It was only through the activities of the Socialist International, and particularly the Palme Commission, that the Soviet proposal for leaving the Northern Flank defenseless began to gain currency.

According to his own testimony, convicted Soviet spy Arne Treholt was the channel used to re-program the Nordic Nuclear-Free Zone proposal, via the "Western" channel of the Palme Commission. A former top official in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, Treholt was convicted of a 20-year sentence in 1985 for his activities as a Soviet agent. He is one of the highest-ranking Western politicians ever tried and convicted of such a crime. In the course of questioning following his arrest, Treholt admitted that his Soviet controller had instructed him to re-introduce into Nordic political channels the suggestion for a Nordic Nuclear-Free Zone. Treholt, using his highly-placed Socialist International channels, duly did so, and reported himself pleased when Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme finally adopted the idea as his own.

is already fluid.

. . . All countries which so far in the power struggle have been deemed to be "accessible," without direct confrontation with the other power bloc, have been taken or made "allies." As soon as this has happened, bases and "advisers" have followed automatically.

In my view, the only thing a country can do to avoid becoming the victim of this constant advance of forward positions is to be judged "inaccessible." This can be achieved either through your own strength or in alliance with others. Sweden has chosen the path of its own strength. . . .

The Defense Committee has not even considered any positional advance in Sweden, apart from the case of an all-out war between the blocs. As a result, it does not draw any conclusions from the fact that it knows that the defense forces' effectiveness has been halved in the last 15 years, at the same time as the rest of the world's striking power—and mobili-

ty—has increased drastically. Should we not be discussing where the line might be drawn in the superpowers' assessment of Sweden's "accessibility". . . .

Last fall a number of colleagues and I expressed concern that people here in Sweden were not paying sufficiently serious attention to the obvious preparations for a surprise attack—preparations that have been going on and are still going on with great intensity. . . .

All my efforts are directed towards bringing the nation to an understanding that our security policy situation, in my own view and that of many other people, is much more serious than people are generally aware.

. . . The Army has not had enough money for a single new tank for the past 15 years. . . . The Air Force's new HAS series aircraft has been trimmed down to the breaking point. . . . The most acute need is to give the Navy a real chance of being able to keep coastal waters clear.

Palme and other advocates of a nuclear-free zone in the Northern Flank frequently dismiss fears about Soviet missile dispositions in the nearby Kola Peninsula, on the Baltic seaboard and in submarines in the Baltic Sea, by describing them as "a second-strike capability" to be used only if NATO started an attack on the Soviet Union. At the same time, these Soviet nuclear armaments are said to be of a range-capability too great to be used against the Nordic countries. However, a look at the facts shows this to be spurious propaganda.

By highly conservative estimates, Soviet short-range missiles—i.e., with a reach of 70 to 900 kilometers, and therefore targeted on Scandinavia—are deployed as follows on the Soviet side: on the Kola Peninsula, 17 to 20; in the Leningrad Military District, 40; in the Baltic Military District, 86; and in the Baltic Sea (Soviet part), 325, with 18 submarines that are designed to carry short-range nuclear missiles. Such missiles are also found in Poland (8), and East Germany (46). In addition, within the belt fringing the Nordic area from Kola down to the East-West German border, there are a total of over 600 artillery batteries with a nuclear capacity.

On the conventional side, estimates put the discrepancy between the Warsaw Pact and NATO at a highly conservative ten-to-one.

Soviet propaganda claims that, were a Nordic Nuclear-Free Zone established, Moscow would undertake to guarantee that none of these missiles would be used against Scandinavia. Given the overwhelming strategic importance of NATO's Northern Flank for the U.S.S.R., such Soviet claims lack credibility even for the very gullible.

The Palme Commission, on which *EIR* has reported

extensively in the past, is one of a number of existing "back channels" for the laundering of Soviet policies into the West. From its founding in September of 1980, the Commission has formed part of the "New Yalta" institutions, committed to a recarving of the globe in which Western republican nation-states would be abolished. Hence its promotion of a Nordic Nuclear-Free Zone, of international disarmament, and—as Palme once told a gathering of the International Metalworkers Federation in Washington, shortly after the Commission's founding—of the argument that "the primary threat to peace springs from scientific research and development."

From the outset, the Palme Commission has been made up of a combination of top Soviet and Western intelligence personnel, and the New Yalta crowd in the West. Apart from Olof Palme, founding members included former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who had already played a leading role in the creation of an international "disarmament movement" through his work as an executive board member of the American Ditchley Foundation. Also included were Egon Bahr of the West German Social Democratic Party. Bahr is author of the so-called "Bahr Plan" that calls for the eventual withdrawal of Germany from NATO.

On the Soviet side, there is Georgii Arbatov, director of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute. Most notoriously, one of the Commission's founding members was GRU General Mikhail Milshtein, the GRU's specialist on U.S. military capabilities. Milshtein's inclusion in the Commission's roster generated such international outrage, that Palme was forced to drop him from the secretariat and give him the less exposed title of "technical adviser."