

Hans Holmér: first rate cover-up artist

by Ulf Sandmark

Hans Holmér, the deposed head of the Olof Palme murder investigation, has been appointed an “expert” for a United Nations project in Vienna, Austria, “to develop control systems in drug-producing countries.” Holmér, as an independent expert paid by the Swedish government, will work with the U.N. Division on Drugs, the U.N. General Secretary, the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB), and the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). The Swedish government’s involvement in the various crop substitution programs in countries such as Thailand, will be his main focus.

The government of Malaysia and the signers of the Quito document of 1986 denouncing drug trafficking as a “crime against humanity,” have launched excellent anti-drug initiatives in the U.N. framework. Now they will have the most experienced cover-up artist in Sweden deployed against them. It is not widely known, but Holmér was responsible for Sweden’s catastrophic drug policies, before he used his leadership of the Palme murder investigation to run harassment campaigns against the political foes of the murdered Olof Palme, and especially the Soviet-inspired campaign to blame U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche for the murder.

In 1981, Holmér’s book, *The Drug Problem—A Different Kind of Police Report*, was published by Tiden, the Swedish Social Democracy’s publishing house. This book was a response to the intense debate on drugs set off in Sweden by the book *Dope Inc.*, written by associates of LaRouche, which named the names of the top networks controlling the international drug trade.

In a chapter called “Instead of Prejudices,” Holmér’s book made the following revealing statement: “Nowhere is there evidence of any mystical executives hiding in the bush nor of any unknown mafia leaders”—denying the existence of any mafia control of the drug trade!

Holmér was appointed to lead the Government Commission on Drugs, created by the reinstated Palme government after the 1982 election. During the election campaign, the Social Democratic Party had been heavily attacked for its liberal drug policies. Holmér’s job was to defuse this volatile issue.

During the one-and-a-half years his commission was active, the government, making the same kinds of statements about Holmér’s “efficiency,” “informal reporting,” “orientation to results,” that became famous during his Inspector

Clouseau-like handling of the Palme case, succeeded in giving the impression that something was being done. The pressure of public opinion lessened, and the government was able to water down the proposals prepared by the previous non-socialist government, which had not yet become law. Holmér’s final report contained only trivial administrative reforms.

End of drug enforcement

It was Holmér who buried the famous police task force against drugs, the so-called Huddinge Group (named after the suburb of Stockholm where it was headquartered), known in Europe from the TV documentary, “Mission Shoemaker Gang,” and called by the press, “The best drug investigators of Northern Europe.”

Since the Huddinge Group was created in 1971, with the exclusive task of conducting drug investigations in the Stockholm region (outside Stockholm City), it broke up the Greek Gang in 1978, the Turkish Gangs in 1979, Riganakos in 1980, and the Shoemaker Gang linked to the ASALA Armenian terrorists in 1981. Holmér, then head of the Stockholm City Police, offered the group better resources—in personnel and equipment—if they moved to his district. He promised that they would continue to work together (on TV he said, “You don’t change a winning team”).

But when the new, big drug division was created under Holmér in January 1983, for both Stockholm City and the Stockholm region, the Huddinge Group policemen were split up into three different departments; and none of them was appointed to any of the leading positions. Since then, the Stockholm drug investigations have been mired in bureaucracy and inefficiency.

Holmér became a national public figure in 1970, when he was named head of the Swedish Security Police, SÄPO. The old leadership of SÄPO had been forced to resign over the “IB Affair,” when a previously unknown intelligence operation, the Information Bureau, of military personnel and anti-communist trade unionists, involved in secret domestic investigations and registration, was exposed and closed down.

In a climate of leftist pressure from the press, and in tandem with the first Palme government, Holmér implemented the new law for the Swedish intelligence services, banning all registration of individuals based solely on their political opinion. (The law has since been revised to allow registration of members of terrorist groups.) Holmér personally went down to the telephone exchange, to check that phone tapping of the Maoist grouplet called the Swedish Communist Party had ceased.

Subsequently, under the guise of the Palme murder probe, Holmér violated all limitations of registration activity by the police. Without any legal pretext, the “extraordinary situation” of the murder has been cited to create a police register of 28,000 Swedish citizens, said to have been political opponents of Olof Palme.