

Northern Flank by Tore Fredin

Bildt aids the British in the Balkans

The Swedish nobility is always eager to do London's bidding, no matter the cost.

Anyone who had any illusions that the new European Union mediator in the Balkan war, the former Swedish prime minister, conservative Carl Bildt, would mean an end to the British pro-Serbian policy, should consider Bildt's reaction to the United Nations' mediator, the former Norwegian Social Democratic Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg's pro-Serbian remarks about so-called ethnic cleansing, i.e., genocide carried out by the Serbs in their war of aggression against Bosnia.

Stoltenberg said the following to a group of Norwegian journalists: "Ethnic conflict—I do not believe that—they are all Serbs, or are they not? The Muslims are Serbs converted to Islam, and many of them who are clothed as and call themselves Croats, they are also Serbs."

This stupid remark shows once again the cynical outlook of the Socialist International, which should surprise no one.

Izet Serdarvic, the Bosnian ambassador to the Nordic countries, responded that "Stoltenberg, by this remark, had become a liability to the mediation process, and therefore Stoltenberg should resign." Serdarvic told the Oslo newspaper *Arbeiderbladet* on June 24, "It would be better that Carl Bildt continued on his own."

What did the "neutral" Swede Bildt do? Bildt's response was that Ambassador Serdarvic had become a liability to his country, and that he, Bildt, intended to bring this up with the Bosnian government, through its foreign minister.

As if this insult were not enough,

Bildt arrogantly claimed that the group of journalists who heard Stoltenberg, had all signed a statement saying that Stoltenberg had been wrongly quoted in the first place. That created an uproar among the journalists, who denied ever having signed such a statement. That forced Bildt to back down, saying that there had been some misunderstanding concerning the signed statement. But Bildt has shown no intention of making a public apology to Bosnian Ambassador Serdarvic.

This incident is rather telling, concerning who Carl Bildt is, and also helps explain why he, as a "neutral" Swede, has been sent in to clean up the mess that the two British lords, David Owen and Peter Carrington, had left behind. In his function as a "neutral" Swede covering up for the British, Bildt is not the first one doing so in the 50-year history of the United Nations.

In key U.N. policy areas, such as family planning, Sweden has supplied the United Nations with an endless supply of bureaucrats. Sweden has also supplied an impressive number of international mediators since the end of World War II. The three most important and best known ended up being killed. First, Count Folke Bernadotte, mediated in 1948 in the Middle East; second, U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, in 1961 in the conflict in the Congo; and, third, Prime Minister Olaf Palme, in 1986 in the Iran-Iraq War. History viewed in that light tells a grim picture and also tells us that the Swedish political establishment, left or

right, is prepared to pay any price for being one of the chosen, as a junior partner in the game of British geopolitics.

Bildt's personal background is a textbook example of how one works oneself up in the Swedish nomenklatura as an apparatchik. As a young politician in the conservative student movement, Bildt became the personal secretary of conservative leader Goesta Bohman in the early 1970s. Bohman was the party leader for the moderates. Bildt ended up marrying Bohman's daughter, and became the party leader in 1985.

During the early 1980s, he was groomed as the conservative answer to the ever-dominant Olaf Palme, particularly in areas of international and security policy, and that is still reflected in his mentality. Bildt is in a certain way just a copy of Palme. Bildt was launched as the speed-reading political whiz-kid, who already in his thirties, had an international reputation as someone who spoke regularly with the big European politicians. He is said to be one of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's favorite discussion partners. He talks to Kohl at least once a week. In that respect, he may be even more important to the British.

Two questions remain to be answered. First, who burned Bildt and exposed the British scenario by tricking him into believing that there existed a signed statement by these journalists, and why didn't he check it out before he made his arrogant statement to the media?

The second question is, will Bildt and "neutral" Swedes once more become the stupid pawns to be sacrificed by the British in their geopolitical chess game, disregarding that Carl Bildt, Olaf Palme, Dag Hammarskjöld, and Folke Bernadotte all are part of the Swedish nobility?