

Palme Becomes a Maoist

NEW YORK, Sept. 4 (IPS) — Over the last few weeks Sweden's social democratic Premier Olaf Palme has stepped forward as a leading anti-Soviet spokesman, with an occasional assist from his friends in Sweden's gaggle of deranged Maoist countergangs.

Palme's Maoist turn coincides with the similar swing to the "left" made recently by West German arch-reactionary Franz Josef Strauss. Both social democrat Palme and right-winger Strauss cynically are using Maoism as the left garnish on their Rockefeller-scripted plans to institute fascist economic policy, as well as to provide a palatable anti-imperialist tone to stepped-up



attacks on the USSR.

Palme used an address to a workers' group in Finland August 3 to launch a brutal attack on the Soviets — for not accepting the necessity of zero growth! Counterposing himself as a social democrat, he accused both "private capitalism and state capitalism" [Chinese for the Soviet Union] of being "marked by a one-sided concentration on economic growth....Social democracy's task is to organize people around an alternative to

capitalism and communism ... We are against the one-sided growth philosophy."

Palme clarified the content of his alternative program the following day when he spoke before the Swedish Christian Democratic Party in Pitea. Right to the point, he declared, "The question is: is the world's rich minority ready to sacrifice, to give up some of its privileges and power?" Palme revealed the transparent phoniness of his anti-Americanism when he remarked that "the choice is between the dominance of the two superstates" and a "broad cooperation of peoples" around precisely the zero-growth recipe pushed by the U.S. at the United Nations World Population Conference in Bucharest.

The significance of these attacks by friend-of-detente Palme was not lost on the Soviets, whose trade union magazine *Novoe Vremya* promptly published an article accusing Palme of having become a "Maoist." The Soviet bloc most immediately is concerned about a long-pending agreement between Sweden, Poland, and the USSR involving potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in coal and iron ore exchanges — a deal which the Swedish government has recently threatened to break off for various reasons.

Left-wing Lackey

Since his political emergence in the 1960s as an anti-Vietnam War advocate, Palme has served a twofold purpose from the standpoint of the U.S. State Department (or, more accurately, the CIA).

Coming in as Premier in 1969, Palme considerably increased political and economic penetration of various underdeveloped areas, particularly North Vietnam, China, Cuba, and select African countries. Palme in effect used his carefully cultivated anti-imperialist image in order to act as a middleman acceptable to those countries which would not deal openly with the U.S.:

The second purpose Palme served was to convert the Swedish social democratic state into a model for the new forms of fascist social organization experimentally being designed at that time in Sweden and Norway under the euphemism Industrial Democracy. [See *New Solidarity*, June 29, 1974]. Left-posing Palme was a suitable salesman for the Rockefeller model which has come to be known as the "Swedish Way." In fact, Palme's first words when he took power in October 1969 were in praise of Tavistockian co-determination.

The problem Palme and his Tavistock collaborators faced in converting the highly organized Swedish working class into fragmented and politically powerless victims of a developing corporatist state were solved initially by introducing counterinsurgent local control work schemes under the cover of words traditionally associated in workers' minds with positive change. Thus "Wage Solidarity" became the slogan used to rationalize textile and major sectors of agriculture and the lumber industry out of existence. "Industrial Democracy" introduced self-policing production "teams." And, most recently, Palme has announced the new Social Democratic Party program calling for "Economic Democracy," which is nothing less than a blueprint for a fascist corporatist state with workers democratically sharing the bankruptcy of corporations [see *New Solidarity*, August 17, 1974].

There were other problems in getting the Swedish Way in working order. The Swedish worker has a history of strong political sympathy and rudimentary class identification with workers in the Soviet Union and throughout Europe. When the unravelling world economic collapse demanded the introduction of tremendous speedup and the lowering of workers' real standard of living, there was a serious danger that workers would begin moving once more to the moribund Swedish Communist Party (VPK), revitalizing it in opposition to the new programs being peddled by Palme. The solution was to encourage one of the most hideous spectacles in the nominally socialist movement — Swedish Maoism.

In the late 1960s, the essence of Maoist ideology was initially the notion of building a grandstand bleacher cheering-section for the struggle of the heroic Vietnamese people against the U.S. imperialists as a diversion from the increasingly pressing problems in the West. Virtually the entire student ferment of the late 1960s was channelled into mindless, sloganeering anti-war groups organized by the industrious and well-disciplined members of the Swedish Maoist movement around a group known as KFMI (Communist Union Marxist-Leninist).

Into the Factories

By the fall of 1970, this apparently had been successful in containing the radicalized intellectual layers who historically form the crucial initiating cadres for any political mass strike upsurge. However, something was lacking. Many workers, particularly in districts with a strong communist history during the 1920s and the 1930s, were beginning to form spontaneous strike committees with growing student support. What was needed to ensure containment was a "worker" Maoist gang that could pose as the left worker alternative. In the fall of 1970, KFML-R [for revolutionary] was formed as

a faction of the KFML, with the pretense that KFML was dominated by "petit bourgeois individuals."

While the KFML had its members "stand close behind the struggle of the people of Indo-China," their sister organizers in KFML-R began moving their members into select factories (mainly those where major Tavistock local control was being introduced) around such profundities as, "Expect nothing from the reformist leaders, they will betray you!" and "Long Live the Wild Cat Strikes!" (This last was in reference to the series of carefully provoked wildcat strikes occurring in the 1969-71 period which were used by Palme and the Social Democratic trade union leadership to push the Tavistock speedup reorganization of the workplace). Swedish trade unionists have told the Labor Committees that Maoist agitation for these hopeless Apache-style wildcats served only to embitter political workers towards both the complicit unions **and** the left.

With the traditional Communist leadership of VPK trying to forget they ever knew what a trade unionist was, in a pathetic attempt to propitiate Palme, political workers who smelled a rotten herring in Palme's new fascist reforms had no left to turn to for leadership short of the hysterical Maoists during the critical 1969-72 strike period. And the Maoists organized around pro-Tavistock local control lines. The left cover was completed for Palme's corporativism.

The essence of Palme's "Maoism," fundamentally the position of the Swedish Maoist gangs, is a hideous xenophobia directed particularly at the Soviet Union and other European workers. Palme's gameplan in the present period, complete with vicious attacks last fall on foreign workers who are "taking jobs away from Swedish workers," is to foster the illusion that the fundamental identity of the Swedish worker is as a Good Swede rather than as a necessary member of the international working class. To the extent that he can get the Swedish worker to swallow this nonsense, ignoring the overwhelming dependence of the Swedish economy on export trade with Europe, and increasingly with Soviet bloc countries, Palme will have trapped the political worker in a deadly dilemma from which there is no "Swedish Way" out as the depression deepens. Suicidal nationalism, corporativism, heroic sacrifices from the working class — this is the programmatic agreement on which the Maoist axis of Palme and his German comrade Strauss is based.

Maoism: Preparing for a New Period

As Palme steps up his anti-imperialist attacks on the Soviets, it is hardly surprising that a new turn in the Swedish Maoist conglomerate is occurring. In honor of the sixth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia last month, hundreds of members of all the Maoist fractions came together (in separate lines of course) for an historical first. According to the con-

servative paper *Svenska Dagbladet*, this "was the first time that a Swedish revolutionary organization demonstrated outside the Soviet Embassy." The rallying cry was opposition to the "new Czarism and Soviet Imperialism." There was talk among the grouplets present of possible future cooperation around opposition to the Soviet Union.

And some days later their fellow traveller Premier Palme addressed a gathering of Social Democratic Party members where, instead of launching a much publicized "full and open debate" on the energy question, he spent most of his time making pathetic anti-Soviet jokes. The audience, however, was more interested in reading numerous pamphlets making the case for crash development of thermonuclear fusion energy, sold there by European Labour Committee (ELC) organizers. The frightened Mr. Palme was more than a little hysterical at the occasion. This apologist for the pro-cannibalism Club of Rome group shouted at Labor Committee organizers, "You know fusion is impossible!"

A new element has been added to the world of Palme and his co-thinkers. The Swedish-language edition of *New Solidarity* already is approaching the distribution of the VPK party paper in the space of less than four months. The effect of a communist organization with an international working class orientation and a united front approach around principled questions toward the Soviet bloc as well as the social democratic trade union layers has not gone unnoticed. When a European Labour Committee organizer offered to sell Palme the latest *Ny Solidaritet* he nervously retorted, "I've read it already."

And the most recent issue of *Gnistan* [Spark], paper of the KFML-SKP, carried an article on their editorial page titled, "What is ELC?" which acknowledged that in recent weeks many of their members have written them to ask precisely that question. Unable to muster the courage to print the usual anti-ELC slanders, the pathetic Maoists could only lump the ELC with the northern pro-Moscow trade union faction in the Communist Party.

New Danish Elections to Propose Starvation...The Democratic Way

Sept. 10 (IPS) — The shaky coalition Danish government has just announced it will hold new elections Oct. 8. The calculated decision comes as the Danish economy is choking in international debt, aggravated by the ravages of the Rockefeller oil blackmail and the international collapse of agriculture. The heavily export-oriented Danish economy is being ripped apart by a double-edged sword. It is 99 per cent dependent on import of oil from Rockefeller-controlled oil companies. The phenomenal rise in the international price of oil over recent months has exacerbated the Danish balance-of-payments crisis.

To make matters worse, Danish agriculture, which is the core of the highly industrialized economy, is targeted for destruction in the wake of collapse of European Common Market Agriculture subsidies. This has already begun. Trade officials estimate a 50 per cent decline in exports to Britain alone — Denmark's main export market. This comes as British workers, suffering from massive inflation and unemployment, are forced to go without vital meat and dairy products.

The elections have been the subject of frenzied speculation since last May, when a wave of strikes protesting the Government's economic solution of more taxes for

the working class threatened to topple the already shaky coalition government of Paol Hartling. The October elections are well timed. In the fall, European farm debt falls due. This year farmers will be forced to drown their poultry and slaughter their herds, since they can no longer afford feed grain and fertilizer. The elections will soften up Danish workers and farmers for massive layoffs and bankruptcy by discrediting their traditional political parties.

The Social Democracy's solution has been entirely to extract money out of the hides of hard-working Danes. Taxes have driven the price of a Volkswagen "beetle" to \$6000! Rents take an enormous chunk out of wages and taxes are the highest in the industrialized world.

The traditional parties, which accept Rockefeller's economic environment, will meet with a new force. The European Labor Committees is circulating among Social Democratic, Communist, and Socialist parties in Denmark, Germany, and Sweden an Emergency Program to Halt Food Destruction. The proposal, built around credit guarantees to farmers at the expense of debt payments to Rockefeller-controlled financial institutions, is creating turmoil on the Danish political scene.