

Northern Flank by A. Borealis

Why some U.S. hawks hardline Sweden

Some recent attacks on Sweden by hawkish Americans are helping Palme push the country into the hands of the Russians.

Two recent interviews with representatives of the U.S. political establishment conform to a pattern of apparently hostile American policy toward Sweden and the other Northern European countries. Published on Nov. 12 in the liberal tabloid *Expressen*, Sweden's largest-circulation daily newspaper, the interviews are very helpful in assisting those, like socialist Prime Minister Olof Palme, who want to sow distrust in the United States and push the Scandinavian countries into the hands of the Soviet Union.

The two U.S. political spokesmen interviewed at Harvard University are both of the species labelled "Soviet experts": Richard Pipes, an ostensible Reagan Republican formerly associated with the National Security Council, and Marshall Goldman, a Mondale Democrat and former advisor of Jimmy Carter. Their message to Sweden is simple.

"Do not count on any sympathy from the U.S.," Richard Pipes tells the Swedes. "Finland is very popular in the U.S., whereas Sweden is considered a spoiled kid. It is a socialist country creeping for its big socialist neighbor." To Pipes, there's no difference between the Soviet-leaning Palme, who indeed crawls in the mud to please the Kremlin, and the largely pro-American population, of which four-fifths regard the Soviet Union as hostile.

"The Soviets are planning to use the Swedish archipelago as a shelter in the event of war," Pipes gloats, referring to the swarms of Soviet submarines penetrating Swedish coastal

waters. "If you fail in guarding your waters, Moscow will come to conclusions that will be uncomfortable for you. Your neutrality is in big danger." It sure is, but where does Pipes think Sweden should go, if there's no constructive U.S. friendship?

"Sweden has to do something about the submarines," Marshall Goldman echoes Pipes. "It is obvious that the Soviets want to turn the Baltic Sea into a Soviet lake." Goldman admits that this would not be in U.S. interests: "The sea north of northern Norway belongs to the most critical waters in the world. It is of considerable importance to the Soviet navy, and thus, to the United States. The Baltic entrance to the Atlantic is also of strategic importance. This means that the strategic position of Sweden becomes increasingly important."

"Sweden has to sink a submarine!" Goldman gallantly exclaims. Fine, but that doesn't replace a credible security policy.

Interviewer Per Ahlmark, a former chairman of Sweden's liberal party, depicts the U.S. political establishment as "considerably united in its view on Sweden." Although there is "great worry that darker days are to come for Sweden," there is also "secret satisfaction" in the United States over repeated Soviet threats against Sweden, because of Stockholm's criticism of the Vietnam War, but "discreet silence" on the Afghanistan invasion.

Pipes and Goldman's statements continue a policy of abandonment of Northern Europe, the most provocative proponent of which has been U.S.

Undersecretary of Defense Richard Perle. During his frequent travels to Scandinavia, Perle has distinguished himself by destructive statements designed to alienate potential U.S. allies and friends.

At a Copenhagen press conference June 8, Perle referred to domestic resistance to Denmark's contribution to the NATO budget, saying that this is comparable to people who refuse to pay their taxes. "Such people are put in jail in the U.S.," Perle asserted.

The same approach was taken by Edward Luttwak of Henry Kissinger's Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies, who caused an uproar Sept. 25 by calling for Denmark's expulsion from NATO. Luttwak argued that NATO ought to "prefer a neutral but strong Denmark—like Sweden—to a weak Denmark as a member of NATO."

Aided by such efforts to undermine any confidence in U.S. policy, neutralists and Soviet agents of influence have an easy time "improving" Soviet-Scandinavian relations. Despite official talk of a cooling off after the many submarine incidents, Soviet Food Industry Minister Lein visited Sweden at the end of October on the invitation of Alfa Laval, the large Swedish agricultural machinery producer.

At the same time, the Scandinavian airline SAS invited Soviet Aviation Minister Boris Bugaev to visit Sweden, including an on-site inspection of Arlanda, the large Stockholm international airport. Unbeknownst to most Westerners, Bugaev is also an active duty marshal of aviation in the Soviet air force, and, as head of the Soviet "civilian" airline, Aeroflot, was in direct command of two-thirds of the Soviet military air transport capacity deployed in the massive Russian invasion of Afghanistan.