

Northern Flank by A. Borealis

Palme's dirty Iran connection

In a nervous overreaction against the ELP, Palme exposed a deal with KissAss's Pehr Gyllenhammar of Volvo.

In a March 1 letter to the editor of Sweden's largest-circulation newspaper, *Expressen*, Premier Olof Palme went ape, accusing the chairman of the Center Party, former Prime Minister Thorbjörn Fälldin, of having joined LaRouche's co-thinker organization, the European Labor Party (ELP).

The background to this astonishing conclusion is that in criticizing Palme's foreign policy, the Center Party leader in mid-February had brought up an old, incriminating Palme quote from 1980. Palme had praised the Iranian revolution carried out by the butchers' regime of Khomeini and his crazed mullahs, asserting that "with almost pedantic thoroughness, they have tried to build up democratic institutions, viz. a new constitution, elections of a president and parliament."

For reasons which will become clear, the usually reptile-quick Palme waited for two weeks, and only then launched a counter-attack against Fälldin. Responding in fact to more current events, Palme began his letter to the editor of *Expressen* as follows:

"Now, even Thorbjörn Fälldin has joined ranks with those who want to criticize the government's foreign policy with the aid of an incomplete and out-of-context and nearly five-year old quote about what I allegedly [sic!] said regarding conditions in Iran.

"In the beginning, it was the crazies in the so-called European Labor Party who took up this question in or-

der to try and link me to all sorts of subsequent phenomena in Iran. Then the Moderate Party picked it up and continued the campaign. So now, even the Center Party leader has grasped this straw. . . ."

The real background to this outburst by Palme, lies in the fact that between Fälldin's attack on Palme (Feb. 14) and Palme's reply (March 1), something very interesting had happened. A weighty Iranian delegation came to visit Stockholm, holding secret meetings with Palme and with Volvo boss Pehr Gyllenhammar, an executive board member of both Kissinger Associates and the Aspen Institute. When news of a major deal with the Iranians leaked out, Palme got nervous about opposition from certain members of parliament. But above all, Palme got nervous about the ELP.

According to available accounts, the Iranian delegation, led by the Iranian vice foreign minister, arrived in Stockholm late on Feb. 21, for two days of secret meetings with government and industry representatives.

After the visit, Swedish Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Carl-Johan Åberg announced that Sweden has signed a contract for oil purchases from Iran of \$400 million in 1985. Most of this will directly go to Volvo, while the state-owned Swedish Petroleum will also buy.

Meanwhile, exports to Iran are being expanded, including a contract by Saab-Scania to build a truck factory there. The only other truck manufac-

turing facilities in Iran are Volvo and Mercedes, reflecting the massive involvement with the mullahs of both the Swedes and Germans.

Iran is today Sweden's biggest trade partner in the entire Third World. More than half of that trade is directly between Iran and the Volvo company of Kissinger Associates' Pehr Gyllenhammar. Now Palme wants to place even stronger emphasis on the horror regime of Khomeini. Stated Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Åberg, "After the visit of the Iranians, including their talks with Olof Palme, I am very optimistic about further expansion of trade with Iran."

This policy is not strictly speaking conducted as the foreign policy of Sweden as a sovereign nation, but rather reflects the corporate interests of Henry Kissinger's private business entity. In Kissinger's seventh syndicated article, published Feb. 4 by the *International Herald Tribune* and other newspapers, the line peddled is that more support must be given to the Iranian butchers, as one-sided support for Iraq in the ongoing Gulf war will drive Iran into the arms of the Soviet Union.

Rather than defeating the Iranian regime, Kissinger argues that according to United States and Western interest in the region, both the parties in the Iran-Iraq war must be prevented from gaining victory, as "the Soviet Union would greatly benefit if Iran emerged from the war fatally weakened and in irreparable disarray." Presumably, this call for an unending Gulf war of genocide and destruction is the spirit which has also guided Olof Palme in his efforts as U.N. mediator in the Iran-Iraq war.

It seems that whatever the Socialist International's Olof Palme is doing with regard to Iran can be traced to the drawing boards at Kissinger Associates and the Aspen Institute.