

Control Data Corp., the KGB, and 'The Trust': mandate for an inquiry

by Criton Zoakos

A team of *Executive Intelligence Review* investigators, engaged for over a month now in an in-depth inquiry into the role of Soviet secret services in the Feb. 28 Palme assassination and its subsequent coverup, is currently pursuing a trail involving Soviet Ambassador to Stockholm Boris Pankin and certain operations of Minnesota's Control Data Corporation.

Ambassador Pankin, together with Central Committee member Georgi Arbatov and TASS chief Sergei Losev, orchestrated a large-scale disinformation campaign, principally through Western news media which they influence, in an attempt to allege some type of involvement in the killing of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, of organizations associated with U.S. 1988 presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. The basic outline of this disinformation campaign and its key players has been published by *EIR* earlier (Vol. 13, Nos. 13 & 14, March 28 and April 14, 1986).

Further inquiries into Pankin's role have raised certain questions of paramount importance for Western security, and have answered certain others. One of these involves the role of Control Data Corporation in the transfer of sensitive technologies to the Soviet Union. A second, involves special features of Soviet assassination capabilities in the West.

Boris Pankin and Greece

The case of Ambassador Boris Pankin or, as some insist, KGB Lieutenant General Pankin, ought to be of paramount interest to U.S. intelligence officialdom, as his career overlaps three areas of vital importance to the United States: 1) large-scale technology theft on behalf of the Soviet military, 2) large-scale Russian penetration and corruption of Western news organizations and, 3) assassinations of senior United States personnel.

However, officials of Mr. William J. Casey's Central Intelligence Agency, presented, repeatedly, with the opportunity to review the matter, have declined "at this time," even though one of them reported to this writer that an inquiry in this area would be within the mandate of that agency. Be that as it may, the following matter still remains for consideration:

During 1982, in the course of events surrounding a celebrated trial, in Athens, Greece, involving Greek publisher George Bombolas and *New York Times* correspondent Paul

Anastasi, certain Western diplomats identified Ambassador Boris Pankin as the chief of the KGB's Disinformation Department. Later, this identification was accepted by investigators as a reasonable research hypothesis and never challenged. The hypothesis was further strengthened again later, during March 1986, when senior intelligence veterans from Sweden and the Federal Republic of Germany identified Ambassador Pankin as one of the "most powerful policy makers of the Soviet Union," one whom people consider more influential, in terms of setting long-term policy vistas, than Mikhail Gorbachov.

Official biographies of Pankin are not available. When he was appointed Soviet ambassador to Sweden in 1982, a terse TASS release identified him as a "high ranking official, who has served the Soviet Union in a number of important positions of the state," adding that he also served as President of VAAP, the All-Union Copyright Agency, which controls all Soviet publications abroad and all foreign publications in the Soviet Union.

Boris Pankin's first public surfacing occurred in 1975, in Greece, in the context of activities associated with the cover of President of VAAP. At that time, his immediate subordinate and deputy was Vassili Romanovits Sitnikov, vice President of VAAP, and, according to Soviet defectors, Deputy Chief of the KGB's Disinformation Department, since its founding by General Aganyats. During the 1960s, Vassili Sitnikov was the KGB case officer who handled the defection of Kim Philby, and was also the KGB's top expert on Austria, having served in Vienna earlier on. When he arrived in Athens in April of 1975, Sitnikov's official cover was to seek cooperation with Greek publishers for the purpose of publishing a Greek language edition of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia. During his stay, he not only laid the basis for a future Soviet-financed publishing empire, but also activated contacts with old Communist guerrilla leaders, in whose millieu Soviet services maintain dedicated, Spetsnaz-type assassination capabilities.

Seven months after Pankin's deputy, Vassili Sitnikov, visited Greece, a series of assassinations took place, which began with the murder, on Christmas Eve 1975, of the Athens Station Chief of the CIA, Richard Welch and ended with the assassination on Aug. 21, 1979, of Ambassador Henry Tas-

ca, who had served as U.S. Ambassador to Greece during the years of the "Colonels' Junta," which was toppled by Henry Kissinger in June 1974. In between the murders of Tasca and Welch, the assassinations of approximately ten other persons occurred, all of whom were of senior rank, and all of whom were involved in a special liaison relationship between the Greek military government and American secret services.

None of these murders has been solved to this day. With the demise of these persons, a tremendous amount of evidence has disappeared, most of it pertaining to Kissinger's November 1973-June 1974 operation to topple the Greek military government.

The disappearance of this evidence was indispensable in turning Greece, from a staunchly pro-U.S.A. country, to a Russian "Trojan Horse" inside the NATO alliance. An essential ingredient which helped significantly in bringing about this transformation of an entire country, was the publishing empire, centered around *To Ethnos*, a daily with circulation greater than that of all other Greek daily newspapers combined, which Boris Pankin and Vassili Sitnikov established in Greece, in cooperation with Greek millionaire businessman George Bombolas and a Greek-American confidant of the present Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, one Demetrios Philippopoulos from New York.

Together with Philippopoulos, another confidant of Andreas Papandreou is involved in the founding of the Pankin/Sitnikov Greek publishing empire, one John Kapsis, the one time Deputy Foreign Minister for Public Affairs (the same job designation as that of Norway's convicted Soviet spy Arne Treholt), who has served as Papandreou's personal courier to Clair George, now the CIA's Deputy Director for Clandestine Services. More peripherally involved in the affair is Kapsis' friend, Louis Danos, former press attaché of the Greek Embassy in Washington and a well known terrorist.

Control Data Worldtech

After the establishment of the Pankin-Bombolas Athenian publishing venture, the two moved rapidly into the field of technology espionage, by establishing a limited liability partnership with Control Data Corporation, in June 1978, named Worldtech Hellas, Ltd., in which George Bombolas controlled 70% of the stock, along with Control Data Worldtech of Delaware. Business correspondence presented in Greek courts between the Russians and Bombolas demonstrates beyond doubt that the purpose of Worldtech Hellas Ltd. was the theft of militarily relevant American technology for shipment to the Soviet Union. Control Data Corporation, eventually withdrew its participation in the Bombolas-Pankin venture, but only after the December 1982 Athens trial had created major public embarrassments for CDC.

The matter, however, helped in bringing into focus Control Data Corporation's broader cooperation with the Rus-

sians, and, in particular, the Pankin-Sitnikov and Gvishiani combination: The Minnesota company freely acknowledges its interest in promoting high-technology exports to the Soviet Union—in itself a not especially odious undertaking. However, the company's additional "under-the-counter" business dealings with Russia, and its further political affinities, have long made it suspect of being a major conduit of Russian espionage. It should be noted that CDC's business dealings with Moscow were opened up, according to company sources, by Armand Hammer and Cyrus Eaton, two of the oldest members of the original "Trust."

Further, Control Data has maintained a special Swedish conduit for siphoning off technology to Russia, which parallels the Swedish conduit of Gyllenhammer and Wallenberg of American defense technology into the Soviet Union. The Wallenberg family, like Hammer and Eaton, has been among the original members of the 1917 "Trust" which financed the Bolshevik coup d'état. Per Gyllenhammer, of course, is the well-known business partner of Henry Kissinger, the man who in 1974-76 opened up Greece for the Russian takeover of that period.

Given the sheer size of technology theft on behalf of Russia that is carried out in Sweden, it is perhaps not coincidental that the shadowy Boris Pankin was named ambassador there, after the successes of the Pankin-Sitnikov team in Greece. It may also not be a coincidence that it was in Vienna, Austria, Vassili Sitnikov's special KGB assignment, that Control Data Corporation had set up a subsidiary for the purpose of working with the Vienna International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis, whose chairman was Dzhermen Gvishiani, the head of the KGB's technological/scientific espionage division, since at least 1964, the time of Kim Philby's defection (with help from Sitnikov). It will be recalled that President Reagan cut off U.S. funding for IIASA after it was discovered that this Institute was dipping into high-security American computer banks with help of KGB spies in Sweden.

Another loose end, which, if ever explained, will give us a clue as to the reason why American authorities have allowed CDC "get away with murder": In our investigation about the Palme assassination, we came across the information supplied by a Greek member of parliament, once a close collaborator of Andreas Papandreou, according to which, the CIA's (subsequent) Deputy Director of Clandestine Services Clair George, in a plan involving Morton Abramowitz of the State Department, and others, worked together with Papandreou and the late Olof Palme (and John Kapsis, Pankin's promoter), to launch the notorious Papandreou-Palme "peace initiative of the Six" of 1984. Papandreou and Palme, coordinated by the CIA's Clair George, suckered into their scheme Argentina's Raúl Alfonsín, India's Indira Gandhi, Mexico's Miguel de la Madrid, and Spain's Felipe González. The policy reasons for this harebrained scheme were explained in a 1984 speech by then-Senator Charles Percy of Illinois.