

## Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

### Why not name the Russians?

*Whether it's spetsnaz penetration, Czech spies, or the Palme murder: Give credit where credit is due.*

Sweden is forming its own anti-spetsnaz units, it was announced on June 1, after weeks of public attention given to the threat of attack by Soviet special forces—spetsnaz—against Swedish targets. The Commander-in-Chief of the Swedish Armed Forces has assigned the Chief of the Army, Lt.-Gen. Erik G. Bengtsson, the task of conducting training of officers and conscripts, beginning June 9, for special “anti-sabotage units” to be formed within the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force.

An additional 1,500 specially trained military dogs will be stationed at key locations, to upgrade defense against sabotage of wartime airfields, and the base system of the airstation on the Baltic island of Gotland will be expanded, coupled with enlarged air force exercises at the island. Gotland was the scene of an August 1984 incident, in which a Soviet Su-15 jet-fighter simulated shooting down a Swedish civilian airliner, unchallenged by late-arriving Swedish interceptor jets, sent up from an airbase 200 miles away.

Naval defense improvements include measures taken by Commander Hans von Hofsten, known as the leader of the Swedish officers' revolt, who is now heading the Navy Staff's Nautical Department. Mounting special anti-submarine nets, coastal defense units are cordoning off the Hors Bay waters near the large Muskö naval base in the Stockholm archipelago, made world famous by the spectacular September 1982 mini-submarine hunt.

This building climate of emergen-

cy national defense measures was spurred by news published in *Expressen* on May 31: New tracks had been found of a Soviet mini-submarine near the Swedish king's Soliden summer residence on Öland, another Baltic island. Despite official denials, Swedish Navy divers were seen searching the island's coastal sea bed.

Strange footprints were also reported at the Oskarshamn nuclear power station, located on the Swedish mainland coast, directly facing Öland. The footprints may have come from frogmen, and guards at the nuclear power station reportedly had observed frogmen on an islet in the narrow waters separating Öland from the mainland.

These new indications of Soviet spetsnaz activity follow the late-May Jack Anderson columns on a spetsnaz plot to kidnap the Swedish Royal family. The West German *Welt am Sonntag* on June 1 carried a picture of the Swedish queen, the text below reading, “Whether the queen will spend the summer holidays as planned at Soliden Palace on Öland is uncertain, since divers have found tracks of a Soviet mini-submarine on the sea bed there.”

Although media reports universally cite the Soviet spetsnaz threat against Sweden as the obvious cause for the new anti-sabotage measures, no explicit mention of the Soviets—nor of the Soviet term “spetsnaz”—is ever made by official armed-forces spokesmen, in keeping with the Social Democratic regime's notion of “neutrality” as synonymous with appeasement.

Such self-imposed hysterical blindness is now crippling Swedish politics, in which all official mention of the Russian authorship of threats and ongoing operations—evident enough to the average Swede—is considered by the regime a dangerous provocation and potential divulging of state secrets.

One example of such hysterical behavior was the recent expulsion of five Czech spies, where, according to Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, there was no indication of involvement of any “third party”—i.e., Moscow—despite the fact that the spy targets were naval objects, of little interest to landlocked Czechoslovakia.

Another example was the regime's prosecution of *Svenska Dagbladet* for reporting Soviet spetsnaz profiling of Swedish Air Force pilots. Overruling the preliminary verdict passed by the jury in favor of the regime, the judges on May 30 acquitted the defendant, noting that the exposure of the Soviets had not been proven to damage Swedish national interest.

The strongest instance of hysterical blindness, however, is the fraudulent inquiry into the Palme murder. Used as a cover for political tampering against domestic opposition, the investigation conducted by regime loyalist, Stockholm Police Chief Hans Holmér, has refused to pursue leads pointing to the East.

A case in point is the recent murder of a Kurdish immigrant couple outside the city of Eskilstuna, 60 miles west of Stockholm. The Eskilstuna police have discovered a link to the Palme murder, and reports have it that the couple were killed to stop them from “singing” to the police. Palme had been threatened directly by the Kurdish Communist Party (PKK), known to represent a Soviet hit capability deployable as a “cut-out.”