

EIR Feature

Why did Moscow assassinate Premier Olof Palme?

by the Editors

NBC-TV's recent fabrication of a report of new developments in the investigation of the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, has placed the network under the strongest suspicion of collusion with the Soviet intelligence services. Also implicated are officials of the U.S. Justice Department and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL).

On Dec. 4, NBC alleged that Swedish police were investigating links between the Feb. 28 assassination of Palme and U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. The broadcast reported that U.S. government authorities had turned over to Swedish police notebooks belonging to associates of LaRouche, which had been seized during the Oct. 6 raid of LaRouche-associated companies. The notebooks allegedly contained references to the Palme assassination.

The National Democratic Policy Committee, a political action committee which supports LaRouche's programs, issued a statement on Dec. 5, denouncing the role of federal officials in fueling NBC's defamatory campaign. "It is obvious that federal authorities are deliberately leaking false and misleading information to the press," the statement said, "for the purpose of creating a prejudicial and inflammatory climate around their ongoing investigations of associates of Lyndon LaRouche. Yesterday's leaks in fact continue an 18-year pattern of Cointelpro-type dirty tricks by the FBI and Justice Department against LaRouche and his friends.

"NBC News has been a principal recipient of these illegal leaks. In return, NBC reporters are known to be feeding information to federal prosecutors. At this point, NBC and the FBI are virtually indistinguishable.

"The leaking of grand jury material—in violation of federal laws governing grand jury secrecy—has been ongoing and systematic. . . . The only conclusion that can be drawn is that the policy of leaking has the approval of, and is sanctioned by, high-level officials in the Department of Justice itself. . . ."

Working with NBC and the FBI on the case is Irwin Suall, director of the Fact-Finding Division of the ADL, who played a prominent role in the weeks immediately following the Palme assassination, in attempting to pin the murder on La-



Moscow's Georgii Arbatov (right) gave the signal for an international disinformation campaign, which sought to blame the Palme assassination on associates of Lyndon LaRouche. The Swedish daily Aftonbladet purported to show suspect Viktor Gunnarsson demonstrating against Palme; in fact, the man pictured at the lower right, his face covered with black square, was a Social Democrat attempting to tear down a poster critical of Palme—as the paper admitted in a tiny note the day after!

Rouche associates. Suall recently told reporters that he has attempted to help Swedish authorities locate two former members of the European Labor Party (ELP), LaRouche's co-thinkers in Sweden.

Swedish police emphasize that they are not pursuing any "LaRouche angle" in the Palme investigation.

The effort to link LaRouche to the Palme assassination, was originally launched as a concerted disinformation operation at the highest levels of Soviet intelligence, immediately after the assassination. The details of this extraordinary effort are the subject of a new 102-page *EIR Special Report*, "A Classical KGB Disinformation Campaign: Who Killed Olof Palme?" from which we have drawn much of this *Feature* presentation.

A key role in the disinformation operation is played by Georgii Arbatov, the Central Committee official who heads Moscow's U.S.A.-Canada Institute. Just hours after Palme's death, Arbatov had the line ready to throw investigators off the track: "I do not know who killed Palme, but I know all too well who hated him . . . fascist hooligans . . . reaction."

What was close Soviet friend Olof Palme doing, which would cause Moscow to order his murder? The complex issues are analyzed in depth in our *Special Report*. Here we can just point to a startling "signal" piece which appeared in January 1986 in the Soviet journal *International Affairs*. Author Yuri Denisov decried the uproar in Sweden over incursion by Soviet submarines in Sweden's territorial waters, adding the following clear message: "Troubles in Soviet-Swedish relations also made themselves felt after the Palme government came into office in 1982. . . . Although the gov-

ernment's program statement did refer to its intention to improve relations with the Soviet Union, it failed to take consistent and decisive practical steps in this direction." Denisov demanded that Sweden "reaffirm its policy of neutrality (despite the fact that in that country itself and across the Atlantic there are some forces that would push it off that track)."

The key to unraveling the mystery of the Palme assassination is Emma Rothschild, Palme's alleged mistress, the daughter of Britain's Lord Victor Rothschild. Just as NBC was seeking to re-open the "LaRouche angle" on the Palme murder, Europe was being rocked by press revelations of the Rothschild-Palme link—and by accusations that Lord Rothschild himself was the "fifth man" in the Soviet spy-ring of Kim Philby et al.

Emma Rothschild is a member of the governing board of a Soviet intelligence front, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). She is also an official of the Palme Commission on disarmament and security issues, rubbing elbows with Georgii Arbatov.

Arbatov's assistant Vitali Zhurkin, deputy director of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute and a member of the scientific council of SIPRI, has glowing praise for Emma Rothschild: "She is a wonderful woman. Her work is respected not only in the Soviet Union, but all over the world."

Swedish authorities do not suspect Emma of plotting Palme's assassination. But what she knows, especially confidences between her and Palme which might have been of great interest to Soviet eavesdroppers, is of the greatest importance for the investigation.