

A worldwide media 'big lie' campaign

The following are highlights of the Soviet-orchestrated dis-information campaign against the European Labor Party (ELP) and Lyndon LaRouche, which began immediately after the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Olof Palme.

March 1: Soviet Central Committee member **Georgii Arbatov** attributes the assassination to "fascist hooligans . . . reaction."

March 2: The Soviet newspaper *Pravda* blames "right-wing circles."

March 3: The Danish paper *Ekstra Bladet* claims that "sources in the police leadership reveal they are looking intensely at right-wing extremist groups, such as the Swedish neo-nazis and the so-called 'European Labor Party,' which also has a branch in Denmark." *Tageszeitung*, the West Berlin pro-terrorist paper, runs the same line.

March 6: *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, the Soviet KGB's "cultural" journal, runs an article by foreign ministry spokesman **Vladimir Lomeiko**, asserting that Palme's support for "a nuclear-free civilization," disarmament, etc., made him "a target of the ideological adherents of violence. . . . At this moment we do not know the names of his assassins, but we know the handwriting of political assassination."

March 14: The Danish paper *Berlingske Tidende* reports that a man was detained on March 12 by Swedish police, who "has been a sympathizer of the EUP [sic] and has worked on a freelance basis for the party, among other things by authoring articles for party journals." In fact, suspect Viktor Gunnarsson *never* worked for the ELP, *never* wrote for ELP publications, and *never* attended any ELP event. He signed up for membership in 1984, and was removed from membership in 1985.

March 16: *The Observer* of London runs an article by **Christopher Mosey**, saying that police are investigating "a possible link between the killing and an extreme right-wing political group known as the European Workers Party." The paper claims that Gunnarsson "is understood to have been a supporter of the party and to have held political meetings with up to 30 people crowded into his one-room flat in a suburb south of Stockholm."

March 18: The storm breaks loose: A wave of slanders appears throughout the Swedish and international press. *Aftonbladet*, newspaper of Sweden's Social Democratic trade unions, runs 10 pages on the ELP's alleged role in the Palme murder. Half of the front page is a picture of the Social Democrats' 1976 election rally, showing an anti-Palme plac-

ard held by two men, one of whom is alleged to be suspect Gunnarsson. In reality, the man in the picture is a Social Democrat attempting to tear down the ELP's poster (as the paper admitted in a small correction published six months later, on Sept. 6). The *Aftonbladet* story and picture are picked up widely around the world, including by the **Reuter** wire service. **NBC-TV** broadcasts a "Nightly News" item by **Brian Ross**, alleging a connection of suspect Gunnarsson to LaRouche, who is identified as the head of a neo-Nazi cult. The **Anti-Defamation League's Fact-Finding Division** head **Irwin Suall** is interviewed, saying it is conceivable that a person affiliated with LaRouche could commit an assassination.

March 19: *Radio Moscow* plays back Western media reports that the suspect was a member of "the fascist European Labor Party." *Krasnaya Zvezda*, the daily of the Soviet armed forces, runs a TASS release citing the Swedish paper *Svenska Dagbladet*, that the suspect is linked to the ELP, "a 'political sect' with strict discipline, which carries out persecutions of its political opponents. Some years ago the party started a 'Save Sweden' campaign. Such a 'rescue' would be carried out by Sweden's entry into NATO." *Aftonbladet* runs four pages on the ELP, including a two-page spread featuring pictures of West German neo-Nazi Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, with paramilitary uniformed troops, dogs, and skull-and-cross-bones symbols. The headline reads, "The Neo-Nazi Training Camp—Here Six Swedes Were Trained." The article claims that Swedish ELP members received weapons training at Hoffmann's training ground. The Norwegian daily *Dagbladet* runs a large picture of a hooded Ku Klux Klansman, claiming that it is Lyndon LaRouche. *L'Unità*, the newspaper of the Italian Communist Party, runs the headline, "Is Palme's Killer a Hard-Core Neo-Fascist? He Was an ELP Activist." The *Washington Post* runs a story in its first edition, "Suspect in Palme Case Had LaRouche Party Tie," which is pulled from later editions.

March 20: After suspect Gunnarsson's sudden release on the afternoon of March 19, for lack of evidence against him, much of the media campaign grinds to a halt.

March 21: The Soviet television program *Vremya* airs an attack on the ELP, regretting that Gunnarsson was being released for lack of evidence and insisting on his connection to the ELP, "an international pro-fascist organization . . . in favor of Sweden joining NATO and of arming the Swedish Army with neutron weapons. The party headquarters is in the United States. It is headed by a U.S. millionaire, LaRouche."

March 23: The Soviet government daily *Izvestia* laments the police "blunder" which led to the release of the suspect.

Sept. 9: *Radio Moscow* reports that the Swedish police are still looking into "the American reactionary organization, New Solidarity. Their hatred for him was characteristic of the organization's Swedish branch, the Swedish Workers' Party."