

Did Swedish regime stop arrest of Palme's killer?

by William Jones

New sensational leaks from security police sources, hitherto suppressed by Stockholm police chief Hans Holmér, indicate an attempt by the Swedish government to cover up key aspects of the investigation into the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme—a cover-up involving the Swedish Ministry of Justice. A network overlapping the same corrupt circles in the United States, which have for months been conducting Soviet-style violations of the rights of associates of presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, is being implicated, not only in the Soviet disinformation campaign which tried to blame the Palme murder on the LaRouche associates, but in the murder itself.

The network includes William Weld, the man in the Justice Department who gave the orders for the raid on the businesses and offices of LaRouche collaborators in Leesburg, Virginia last October.

This network includes a group of Trotskyists working within the Swedish Social Democratic youth group, SSU, one of whom is being pinpointed by security sources as the actual perpetrator of the murder itself. Their contacts with the British Trotskyist organization Institute for Workers' Control (IWC), provides a direct link to Emma Rothschild, rumored to have been Olof Palme's lover and a possible key figure for solving the murder.

The investigation of a possible Rothschild connection to the Palme murder was also prevented by the Swedish government. Emma Rothschild's connection to Noam Chomsky and to the Boston *Real Paper*, with which William Weld was associated during his "student leftist" days, carries the mur-

der investigation across the Atlantic.

We quote here the full text of an article written by Roy S. Carson, an Australian free-lance journalist. The article, dated from London, was originally scheduled to run in the British newspaper *Sunday Express* on Sunday, Jan. 4, but was not published following a high-level decision by the paper's management. It was then made available by its author to this publication.

The Carson article

"A group of Swedish secret service agents claim they have been ordered off a line of inquiry in the investigation into the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme, for political reasons, just as they were on the verge of arresting the man they say pulled the trigger.

"We were ordered to drop what we were doing and told to take time off. . . . The orders came from the absolute top. . . . The government is scared of what would happen if the truth got out. . . . That the assassination of Olof Palme was the settling of an "internal" account between two socialist factions, . . . with the backing of the KGB and at least one international terrorist organization.'

"Sweden's Justice Minister Sten Wickbom is already facing a constitutional inquiry into alleged interferences in the Palme murder inquiry, which is now into its 11th month, unsolved.

"Angered secret service sources claim they tracked the alleged killer back to the November 1976 purge of a covert Trotskyist faction within the Swedish Socialist Youth Orga-

nization, SSU.

"On the direct orders of the late prime minister, SSU chairman Lars Engqvist—now editor-in-chief of Sweden's largest-circulation Socialist morning newspaper—had 'hatched' seven members of the Swedish Militant Tendency group TISA, demanding their immediate resignations because of 'their declared revolutionary Trotskyist operations.'

"Engqvist had said, 'We have a responsibility to all our members and can not accept any revolutionary operations in our association.'

"A Swedish secret service source said, 'The purpose of the secret organization was to create a revolutionary Marxist party within the Swedish labor movement on ideas originated in Britain by the Labour Party's youth section—already then (1976) seen as being of a revolutionary Trotsky tendency.'

"The Militant Tendency group TISA, had been formed on direct orders from the revolutionary Committees for Workers International (CWI) in London, to infiltrate the SSU to become a militant communist fighting force.'

"Lars Engqvist, SSU chairman at the time (1976), said, 'It is quite clear that the British organization CWI has infiltrated the SSU with its secret agents. Their plan has been to turn the SSU revolutionary.'

"Swedish secret service sources say the Committee for Workers International in Britain has since 1976 changed its name and streamlined its leftier-than-left direction to please KGB and GRU administrators. 'It is now known as the Institute for Workers' Control and is based in Nottingham.'

"Among its members are said to be Ken Coates, expelled from the British Labour Party as a Trotskyist, Ernest Mandel, a Belgian author published in Britain, and Mr. Ernie Roberts, Member of Parliament, representing Hackney North in Westminster."

Links to Chomsky

"They are also linked to U.S.-based MIT activist Noam Chomsky—a close friend and colleague at Cambridge, Mass., of Olof Palme's millionairess lover, Emma Rothschild—and to Ted Grant of U.K. Militant Tendency, expelled from the Labour Party, too.

"The man Swedish secret service agents had charted to be the 'man who pulled the trigger,' is known to be one of the original seven Swedish Militant Tendency Trotskyists expelled from the Swedish Socialist Youth Organization in November 1976.

"He is said to have harbored intense hatred for Swedish Social Democratic Party leader and Prime Minister Olof Palme, constantly criticizing the PM for having come from a bourgeois background alien to the working-class concepts of Trotsky-type socialism.

"He had quoted the CWI slogan that 'violence is acceptable in the fight for the revolution,' and in a June 1980 issue of the revolutionary Marxist magazine *Offensive* said the

Swedish model of socialism under Olof Palme would come to an abrupt end.

"At Palme murder inquiry headquarters in Stockholm, official press spokesman Leif Hallberg last night refused to discuss details. Investigators are said to be 'shaken' that the details were leaked to the foreign media.

"At the largest-circulation socialist daily newspaper, *Arbetet*, former SSU chairman Lars Engqvist confirmed details of the exclusion of seven SSU members in 1976 for revolutionary Trotsky activities and said they had been influenced strongly by the Militant Tendency in the British Labour Party."

Bulgarian, Soviet connection

"The secret service revelations which implicate sacked SSU/Militant Tendency activist leader Anders Hjelm, are a further development on a line mentioned in the *Guardian*, of a Bulgarian connection to the investigation and claims that it was that which had led to the resignation of 12 top investigators last October in protest that their reports had 'been tampered with.'

"A Bulgarian-Swede organized-crime boss, Roman Goutev, currently serving time at Kalmar prison on Sweden's east coast, is claimed to be an aide to Alexander Balmages, a Russian-Swede said to be the 'godfather' of KGB-backed organized crime in the Swedish capital.

"The secret service claims Balmages and Goutev were the 'executives' who ordered the execution of Prime Minister Palme, using Trotsky-dissident Anders Hjelm for the kill."

Other Soviet leads

The other element recently exposed as a possible factor in the Palme murder is a Soviet-controlled drug and prostitution ring based in Stockholm and in Malmö. Two people integral to that network are the Russian "émigré," Balmagez, said to be the "godfather" of the Soviet crime network in Sweden, and Goutev, a Bulgarian, now in jail in Kalmar, Sweden, on a drug charge. Goutev was a kingpin in the Malmö-based drug ring. Goutev has been married to a former activist in the SSU.

Because of the sensitive nature of the material and the political arm-twisting being exerted on the Swedish government by the Soviets on this issue, only portions of the story are now circulating in the Swedish press. Earlier last year, the Malmö-based paper *Kvällsposten* revealed that 12 narcotics police assigned to the Holmér group, who were investigating a possible involvement of the Soviet-controlled drug and prostitution ring in the murder of Prime Minister Palme, were suddenly taken off the case by Holmér—ostensibly for having leaked sensitive information to the Stockholm-based paper *Aftonbladet*. *Aftonbladet* was the paper which in May of last year did an exposé on the Russian prostitution network in Stockholm under the control of Balmagez.

Shortly after this, the name of Emma Rothschild, widely rumored to have been Olof Palme's lover, began making the front pages in the British press, because of police suspicions that Miss Rothschild may have played a key role in the murder of Palme. Police suspected that a tap on Miss Rothschild's telephone by the murderers may have tipped them off as to Palme's whereabouts on that fatal evening. Police wanted to interrogate Miss Rothschild, but were stopped on orders from the government.

The role of Miss Rothschild became more interesting because of the allegations circulating in Great Britain that her father, Lord Victor Rothschild, may have been the fifth man in the Philby-Maclean-Burgess-Blunt Soviet espionage ring, which had infiltrated the British intelligence service MI5. At the same time, it was revealed that Hans Holmér had actually interrogated Mrs. Lisbeth Palme, Palme's widow, shortly after the murder, but had not made known the details of the interrogation to the prosecutors in the case.

Although the latest leaks concerning a possible Trotskyist-Soviet drug-linked connection to the murder have been too hot to handle directly for the highly controlled Swedish media, concerned individuals within the press and the intelligence community are slowly getting out key sections of the story. In an article in *Aftonbladet*, Jan Guillot attacked the political control of the Swedish press, referring to the suppressed Holmér interrogation of Lisbeth Palme and making a major item out of the Emma Rothschild story. Until then, the Rothschild story had been almost totally blacked out of the Swedish press.

'Reichstag fire'-style cover-up

In the German newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* of Jan. 4, Henning Sjostrom, the lawyer who defended Victor Gunnarsson, the 33-year-old whom some authorities tried unsuccessfully to link to political associates of Lyndon LaRouche in Sweden, attacked Holmér for having manipulated the interrogations with Gunnarsson, comparing the investigation with the Reichstag fire of 1933, which the Nazis manipulated to consolidate their own power. The Swedish newspapers, although playing down Sjostrom's accusations, were nevertheless forced to cover the *Welt am Sonntag* article.

The latest revelations concerning a possible British Trotskyist connection to the Palme murder bring together a number of otherwise loose strands of the investigation. First of all, the key role of Emma Rothschild, who was closely involved since the late 1960s in the Bertrand Russell peace networks in England, also served as an umbrella group for the Trotskyist operations in Great Britain. Rothschild's activities in the Boston area, when she was teaching at Harvard, put her into direct contact with certain individuals who for years have been involved in operations against presidential candidate LaRouche in the United States, and were associated with the Boston *Real Paper* of Bo Burlingham, Michael Vale, and associates. William Weld's previous connection

to the *Real Paper* provides an interesting link to this track of the Palme investigation.

The Burlingham-Vale connections to the East bloc, going back to their establishment of the American Deserters' Movement during the late 1960s, included contacts with Bulgarian networks which set up a public relations campaign for the deserters at the Soviet-controlled World Youth Festival held in 1969 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Hans Gøran Franck

The same group had been in close touch with Swedish-based Soviet networks, which include the left-wing Social Democratic lawyer Hans Gøran Franck. Franck, a leading defender of terrorists in Sweden had come into a head-on collision with Olof Palme during his student days, when both were involved, during the 1950s, in the formation of an international student movement, under the auspices of Moscow.

At a founding conference in Prague, Palme had led a break-out from the Soviet-controlled conference, while Franck, also a member of the Swedish delegation, attacked Palme on behalf of the Soviets as a provocateur.

Franck was later closely linked to Andreas Papandreou, during the days of the Greek Junta, and was in touch with the Norwegian group around Arne Treholt (later convicted as a Soviet spy), which was also organizing support for the Papandreou opposition. Franck's wife was formerly a member of the Norwegian Communist Party.

Although all the details of the story, including the pinpointing of the actual murderer, are still not fully clarified, a possible Soviet involvement in the murder is becoming a matter of public speculation in Sweden. An *Expressen* journalist recently penned a fictional story in a magazine called *Euro World*, in which the murder of Olof Palme is presented as an initial phase of a Soviet *spetsnaz* (special forces) offensive against Sweden, which included a pre-invasion maneuver of the Soviet Baltic Fleet, ready to move for an invasion of Sweden proper.

In spite of the fictional nature of this article, the intent of its publication was anything but fictional. Under the terms of sophisticated political censorship of the Swedish press, indicated by Guillot, the truth is often approached in somewhat roundabout ways.

The breaking of that controlled environment by the October publication of *EIR*'s Special Report on the Palme murder, *A Classical KGB Disinformation Operation*, is now leading the point where, in the coming weeks and months, the various pieces of the puzzle which comprise the Palme murder, will start falling into place. At that point, the same Boston crowd which has launched a no-holds-barred effort to shut down LaRouche's political influence in the United States, playing fast and hard the "Palme card" in its operations, will begin experiencing the boomerang effect of what it has set into motion.