

Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

Moscow to change Swedish CP leader?

As Moscow's policy turns rougher, its new favorite in the CP retails Palme murder disinformation.

Rumblings overheard inside the Swedish Communist Party betray the hardening of the Kremlin's stance toward the West. So does the recent launching of a new wave of Soviet disinformation about the year-old murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme, reviving the lying allegations of a connection to associates of U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Weeks before the May 23-27 national party congress in Stockholm of the Swedish CP (VPK), an open fight has erupted challenging the party chairmanship held for 12 years by bricklayer Lars Werner. The challenger, leftist academic Jörn Svensson, is being promoted by Moscow's prime party hack in the VPK; Svensson has been the party's loudest mouth on the Palme killing.

The objections raised against Werner include the charge that the VPK has become too uncritically supportive of the Social Democrats. Without support from the 19 VPK parliamentarians, the minority Social Democratic regime would be unable to pass laws against the combined votes of the non-socialist opposition. But such Communist support for the Social Democrats is always smoothly forthcoming on crucial issues, as the VPK has declared as its official policy never to oust a "workers' government" in favor of a non-socialist one.

Thus, the Communists' "critical support" for the Social Democrats, while indeed "critical" to the survival of Sweden's corporatist socialist

system, is viewed by CP members as rather unprincipled.

While Werner personally is not unpopular for a CP leader, enjoying about 20% of general voter confidence, according to polls, as against only 5% voter support for the VPK, the latent discontent inside the party, over his mediocrity and subservience to the Social Democrats, is being exploited in support of Svensson.

The VPK's two vice chairmen belong to the opposition against Werner. Both obtained their positions at the 1984 congress, as a result of discontent similar to, but weaker than today's.

One of them, Bertil Måbrink, is directly sponsoring Svensson's challenge of Werner. Moscow's extended arm inside the VPK, he is a graduate of every relevant party cadre school for Western CPers in the Soviet Union. The other vice chairman, Viola Claesson, has declared that she is resigning from the party leadership, because she thinks—hold your breath—there should be more women in the party leadership! A more credible explanation is that some among Werner's opposition would prefer her to Svensson, a relative outsider, but she has agreed to clear the way for Svensson.

Moscow's open promotion of an outsider's challenge to the current party chairman may be unprecedented, but not inexplicable, given the emerging Soviet policy of confronting the West, and exploiting the Palme murder for disinformation to this same effect. Adding to his own notoriety,

Svensson, a member of parliament, charged in October 1986 that Western interests, probably U.S. intelligence directly, were behind the murder of Palme. While rebuffed at the time by a conservative parliamentarian, who noted that it was at least as likely that the Soviets themselves killed Palme, Svensson has not abandoned his disinformation campaign.

A member of the parliamentary commission to investigate the Palme murder, which held its first meeting on April 14, Svensson is now charging that there is a police conspiracy to mislead the public, centered on the large-caliber bullets found on the scene of the murder. According to Svensson, a smaller-caliber gun was used to shoot Palme, and police have been retailing the story of the large-caliber bullets only to target the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

The large-caliber bullets have never been proven to come from the murder weapon; that story originated immediately after the murder, when Stockholm Police Chief Hans Holmér was avoiding any tracks leading to the PKK, a terrorist organization headquartered in Damascus, Syria, and instead was preparing fraudulent "evidence" to be used in trying to implicate LaRouche.

The PKK terrorists, now defended by Svensson, became important to Holmér only much later, when he orchestrated a raid on their Stockholm offices and homes. The clumsy raid served to discredit the PKK track, which had been used as a diversion from the role of Emma Rothschild, the Palme mistress tied into Soviet-run Western arms-control circles.

Soviet media, in the same breath as accusing LaRouche of the Palme murder, have also faithfully reported the wild charges of Svensson, their new anti-Western favorite in the Swedish CP.