

Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

Sweden's security police under fire

A parliamentary commission threatens to tear up what is left of actual intelligence capabilities.

After the escape of Soviet spy Stig Bergling on Oct. 5 had forced the sacrifice of five Social Democratic justice officials—among them the justice minister—the Swedish cabinet announced on Nov. 1 that a parliamentary commission will investigate the Secret Police (SÄPO). The issues involved were the murder of Primer Minister Olof Palme, Bergling's escape while on leave from prison (see *EIR*, Oct. 30, 1987), and the failure to cooperate with "other authorities," i.e., the Social Democratic regime.

Commission chairman will be Sweden's current ambassador to France, Carl Lidbom. A former cabinet minister, Social Democratic insider Lidbom is responsible for the creation of a new Swedish technical term, "Lidbomeri," referring to a monstrous way of messing up the legal system and the notion of law during his tenure in the justice department.

The SÄPO commission, and the sinister intent signaled by Lidbom's appointment, created a wave of worried statements. After all, relative to what you can expect in the virtual one-party state that the Social Democrats have made of Sweden after their 1932 ascent to power, the SÄPO has been a significant thorn in the side of Soviet attempts to take over the country within, at least since Hans Holmér quit his 1970-76 sojourn as SÄPO head to become Stockholm chief of police.

It was after Holmér quit that the hunt began for a Soviet mole known to exist within the SÄPO. In 1979, Bergling, the spy who just escaped, was arrested. A complete reorganization was required, and resulted, be-

ginning 1982, in repeated expulsions of Soviet spies operating as diplomats. Where previous Swedish counter-operations were blown by Bergling, the spies could now be caught red-handed.

A new Russian section of SÄPO's counter-espionage division was hand-picked, whose officers were trained in classical philosophy, and the history of music and literature, to break up bureaucratic inertia, and permit new, creative ideas. The studies included the methods of the Soviet intelligence services. Special pride was taken in expelling a new group of Soviet spies on about Dec. 20, the anniversary of the 1917 founding of the Cheka, the first secret service of the Bolshevik dynasty.

The success, to some minds, was too great. As five Czech spies were expelled on May 30, 1986, the government kept the incident under wraps. When the story was leaked in the press of April 2, Foreign Minister Sten Andersson was furious. Both he and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Pierre Schori denied the Czechs had spied for the Soviets, despite the fact that their targets were naval objects, of no interest to landlocked Czechoslovakia.

Svenska Dagbladet on Nov. 3 recalled that Foreign Minister Andersson "has openly declared that he doesn't fully trust the SÄPO. The cabinet has been irritated by leaks to the press, inadequate knowledge of right-wing extremist groups, and poor understanding of foreign policy." It is known that SÄPO has expended great resources on detecting a possible Swedish "Arne Treholt." Treholt is the

Norwegian Social Democrat caught as a Soviet spy employed in the Oslo foreign ministry.

Indeed, the Social Democrats have tried for years to "bring SÄPO back under control," and into conformity with the political intelligence networks of the Social Democratic Party (SAP). This unofficial SAP intelligence organization, believed to be run by Andersson and Schori, is nicknamed SAPO, as distinct from SÄPO. Lidbom, no doubt, holds a high rank within SAPO.

Asked whether the commission chairman ought not to be independent of party politics, Lidbom claimed he "cannot understand why it would be a disadvantage in this context to be a Social Democrat. . . . The cabinet, regardless of its political color, must know that it can trust SÄPO." Lidbom asserted that "one issue which one must think about, I imagine, is whether SÄPO will remain a department of the National Police Board, or whether it should get a more independent [sic] position, and its connection to the cabinet be made shorter and more direct." The most "independent" SÄPO, Lidbom seems to think, is one merged with SAPO!

Quoted in the Nov. 3 *Svenska Dagbladet*, a SÄPO official said, "We have long heard that the cabinet wants a stronger steering of SÄPO, and now this proves to be true." P.G. Vinge, SÄPO head until 1970, stressed that the idea 20 years ago of making SÄPO a department of the National Police Board, was making it politically independent. And Gösta Bohman, former Moderate Party chairman and a member of the National Police Board, stated that "SÄPO must keep a strong integrity and be independent of the cabinet." Lidbom "is an inappropriate chairman." Why? "That I'm not going to say in public."