

## New inquiry links drug kingpin Bush to Palme assassination

by Mark Burdman

Explosive new allegations have been made over the past days, by highest-level officials from the apartheid-era South African security services, former security chief Dirk Coetzee and Col. Eugene de Kock. They have charged that two South Africa-based mercenaries, James Anthony White and Craig Williamson, and one Swedish-origin intelligence operative linked to them, Bertil Wedin, were involved in masterminding and carrying out the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

All three individuals are closely linked to British intelligence activities of the type that were, during the 1980s, integral to the "Iran-Contra" nexus of international arms-for-drugs deals. Hence, the new South African revelations are forcing serious investigators to reopen the "Palme dossier," and to direct their inquiry toward the apparatus of the man who was the effective coordinator of these global arms-for-drugs operations of the 1980s, then-U.S. Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush.

The potential that the Bush apparatus will become the central focus, in inquiries following up the initial leads provided by Coetzee and De Kock, could not come at a worse time for the man whom *EIR* has identified, in a recently released *Special Report*, as the "drug super-kingpin." Prior to the new Palme murder revelations, Bush was already hurting, from the growing international attention being paid to his role in orchestrating the 1980s Nicaraguan Contra arms-drugs operations that introduced "crack" cocaine into African-American ghettos. With each passing day, the promise recently made by *EIR* Founding Editor Lyndon LaRouche, that George Bush would become the number-one issue in this year's Presidential election battle, comes closer to fruition.

### The disinformation operation

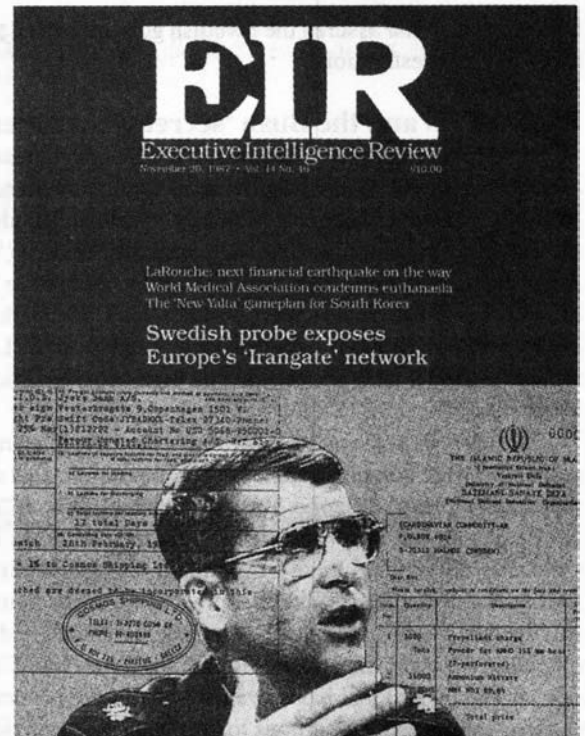
To focus on Bush's role in the circumstances surrounding the murder of the Swedish prime minister, is to do historic justice. In 1986, after Palme was killed, a vast disinformation operation was launched, to pin responsibility for the assassination on LaRouche and his associates. This line was spread by the Soviet KGB, the East German Stasi, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, NBC-TV, and others. Many of those retailing the slander were associated with the "Get LaRouche" salon of New York banker John Train, a man who, as we shall see below, was smack in the middle of those arms-trafficking and banking networks that would have wanted Palme out of the way. The "Bush apparatus," largely through Lt. Col. Oliver North's unit in the National Security Council, not only participated in the circulation of this disinformation, but was instrumental in exploiting the "LaRouche killed Palme" filth, to create the circumstances for the politico-legal witch-hunt against LaRouche, and the railroad conviction of him and several associates, in December 1988.

On Aug. 26, 1992, Herbert Brehmer, a former officer in Division X of the East German State Security Service (Stasi), revealed in an interview with *Journalisten*, the magazine of the Swedish Journalists' Association, that he and the top Stasi apparatus had launched an international disinformation campaign, to attempt to implicate LaRouche and his co-thinker Swedish associates, the Swedish Labor Party (EAP), in the assassination of Palme. Brehmer stated, "At my desk, I drew up the outlines of how the 'EAP theory' would be conduited into the Swedish police investigation. . . . Nothing was actually true, but it sounded well-informed and credible."

It is most germane to the overall story, that soon before



Left: Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme (with rose) in Gothenburg in September 1982. New evidence is pointing to George Bush and his "privatized" intelligence operations, as responsible for the murder of Palme on Feb. 28, 1986. Right: EIR was on the track of this story nearly ten years ago, as shown by our cover story of Nov. 20, 1987.



his murder, Palme had begun to move against a complex of arms deals, which inclusively involved the powerful Rostock, East Germany-based firm IMES GmbH, headed by Stasi officer Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski. In September 1985, Swedish police raided the Malmö offices of international arms trafficker Karl-Erik Schmitz, and discovered thousands of documents detailing illegal arms shipments from IMES to various groups involved with Bush and Oliver North's secret wars in Central America, Africa, and Central Asia.

It is the "South African connection" to this Bush/North-centered complex of international East-West arms deals, heretofore largely overlooked, that is now coming into the spotlight. Reporting Sept. 30 on the South African developments, the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* asserted that Palme was probably killed because he wanted to stop the "international arms traffic. . . . While Olof Palme was appointed by the UN as mediator in the Iran-Iraq War, dossiers are uncovered on the illegal export of heavy weapons, cannons, and missile-launchers produced by several companies headed by Bofors. . . . Palme was, for sure, aware of it and wanted to stop it." The South African connection in this trade was crucial in the arms "spider web," the paper reported. *Corriere* author Massimo Nava used the occasion of the South African developments, to denounce the Brehmer-Stasi disinformation campaign against LaRouche. Hopefully, in the coming days, more media outlets around the world will do the same.

### 'The perpetrators of this evil deed'

What has happened in South Africa, over the past days, is

as follows. In late September, Eugene de Kock, former head of South African death squads, caused a sensation at the hearing for his sentencing for the murder of anti-apartheid activists. De Kock matter-of-factly announced, seemingly out of the blue, that Craig Williamson had been the mastermind of the Palme murder. A few days later, Coetzee declared that he knew the identity of the killer, namely, Anthony White. De Kock, Coetzee, and other high-level South African security officials have also named Swedish-origin mercenary Bertil Wedin, currently living and working in the Turkish-controlled section of Cyprus, as directly involved in murdering Palme.

While none of these contentions has yet been proven, one highly informed expert on southern Africa told *EIR* that Coetzee should be viewed as "reliable" in making such assertions. Also, a Swedish policeman originally involved in the Palme assassination investigation, Tommy Lindstrom, has told the Swedish press, that the "South African connection" was the one being most hotly pursued, in the period immediately following Palme's murder.

In South Africa, the revelations have been taken seriously. The ruling African National Congress (ANC) issued a statement on Sept. 26, "On the Murder of Olof Palme." The ANC stated that "the people of South Africa owe it to Olof Palme and the people of Sweden and democrats the world over, to ensure that the perpetrators of this evil deed face the full weight of the law. The National Party government [which ruled during the apartheid era] must come clean on their knowledge, or otherwise, of this matter." South African Jus-

tice Minister Omar assured the Swedish government of assistance in the investigations.

### **British SAS and the Bush 'secret government'**

Williamson has been identified in the Swedish press as a crucial liaison between South African intelligence and the British intelligence services. White is a former Rhodesian mercenary, who joined the British Special Air Services (SAS) and South African intelligence in the 1970s. Both have been high-level officials in a security outfit called Longreach. According to Swedish press reports Oct. 3, the boss of Longreach, Michael Irving, was formerly a high-ranking officer in the British Navy.

This *British* nexus is of great importance, in piecing together the wide complex of arms-drugs operations that came under the purview of George Bush during the 1980s. A "maverick" British expert on intelligence matters, who has independently determined Bush's prominent role in covering up Syrian responsibility for the December 1988 terror bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, told *EIR* on Oct. 2 that the implementation of the Bush/Iran-Contra operations, on a global basis, was much more dependent on contracting out such operations to "former SAS" individuals and firms than has so far been publicly documented. "Very critical to how all this was done, were the actions of 'former SAS' people, of the type now emerging in this South Africa-Palme story," he said. "After leaving active service, many of them set up little 'consultancies.' They were often the 'cut-outs,' for the American intelligence operations, that were effectively under the control of the [Reagan-Bush] White House. It was good for the Americans to do it this way: there is no direct link, and a heavy factor of deniability. Really, these were, in content, *British intelligence* operations, but done at U.S. behest. This was crucial to what is correctly described as the 'privatization' of intelligence. Ex-SAS British officers were very key; they had no moral compunctions about doing these things, and they were hired to perform, and they performed well, for what they were doing."

With that in mind, the activities of Longreach bear further attention. The firm was part of the South Africa-based apparatus that provided arms and training to those so-called anti-communist "freedom fighters" in Mozambique and Angola, Central America, and Afghanistan, support for which was largely coordinated by the Reagan-Bush-era "Project Democracy" structure, the which included North's "Iran-Contra" operations, and under the protocols of which Bush was made coordinator of U.S. intelligence operations. One of the board members of Longreach, is Italy's Giovanni Mario Ricci, head of a Seychelles firm whose name bears his initials, GMR. Ricci is close to, or perhaps a member of, Italy's secretive Propaganda-2 (P-2) freemasonic lodge. Over the past decade and a half, P-2 has been repeatedly exposed for shady financial deals, involvement in political assassinations, and the like.

This may have very direct relevance to the Palme assassi-

nation: On April 30, 1990, Swedish journalist Olle Alsen, writing in the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter*, reported that he had a telegram in his possession, allegedly sent on Feb. 25, 1986 by P-2 head Licio Gelli to one Philip Guarino, a U.S. Republican Party official and *confidant of George Bush*, which stated: "Tell our friend Bush that the 'Swedish tree' should be felled." Three days later, Palme was dead. According to Alsen, Palme's name was often mispronounced in Washington as "Palm," i.e., the name of a tree.

Also of interest, is that Longreach has done security work, in Mozambique, for the Lonrho firm of Britain's magnate "Tiny" Rowland. Rowland was a pivotal player in the Bush White House secret programs. In August 1985, he "loaned" \$7.5 million to his Saudi business partner, Adnan Khashoggi, for the purchase of TOW missiles for Iran, one of the earliest arms-for-hostages deals of the Reagan-Bush White House. He continued to meet with Manucher Ghorbanifar, the so-called "first channel" between Bush and Ayatollah Khomeini, and with Amiram Nir, the Israeli intelligence officer who had been formally "loaned" to Bush's Terrorist Information Working Group ("TIWG"). Nir, who worked closely with Bush, and with one of Bush's liaisons to the drug cartels, Felix Rodriguez, died in a mysterious plane crash in Mexico in December 1988. Nir was on Rowland's payroll at the time that the Lonrho private plane in which he was flying, crashed, sending him to his death.

Another crucial high-level British-Bush link, is Sir James Goldsmith. At some point in the early 1990s, Goldsmith took over Operation Lock, a British SAS project in Southern Africa financed by Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature. Operation Lock was ostensibly targeted at poachers who were stealing rhinoceros tusks from Africa's national parks; it was later exposed as an assassination program targeting the ANC and other "liberation movements" (see *EIR*, Oct. 28, 1994, "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor").

Goldsmith was part of a special group of so-called "private donors" who visited the White House in March 1983, to set up the original "private" funding for the Nicaraguan Contras, under a program that had the Orwellian name "Public Diplomacy." Goldsmith is a personal friend of George Bush, and has been, for decades, a close friend of "Get LaRouche" influential John Train, the latter also a key "Public Diplomacy" operative.

### **South Africa and the 'explosives cartel'**

The inherent limitation in the revelations coming out of Africa, is to portray the motivation behind the killing of Palme as resentment against the Swedish prime minister's opposition to apartheid, and his alleged involvement in sensitive mid-1980s diplomacy to bring about a post-apartheid system in South Africa. While there may be an element of truth in this, it diverts attention away from a vastly more important reality about South Africa in the 1980s, namely, its central role in the distribution and manufacture of weapons, in partic-

ular, those destined for the Iran-Iraq War.

The link has frequently been made between Palme's death, and his attempt, in his capacity as a United Nations mediator of the Iran-Iraq conflict, to blow the whistle on arms flows to that war zone. To comprehend this, one has to recall one of the most salient features of the 1980s: the *hundreds of billions of dollars*, cumulatively, in arms deals that transpired during that decade, particularly into the Iran-Iraq theater, to fuel a genocidal war. What is necessarily brought to the surface by the South African revelations on the Palme murder, is a fact which has, hitherto, been relatively suppressed: namely, that South Africa was a crucial base of manufacture and distribution for the arms traffic to Iran and Iraq. A well-informed expert on such matters told *EIR* that "South Africa was the vehicle for most of the heavy artillery, shells, and so on, that were sent into Iran and Iraq, particularly Iraq, during the 1980s."

The heart of the international arms-trafficking monster, is a secretive entity in Europe known as the "European explosives cartel." This is a network of large munitions manufacturers, that has the official title European Association for the Study of Safety Problems in the Production of Propellant Powder (EASSP). It was founded on Nov. 6, 1975, in Paris, by the following firms: France's SNPE, Sweden's Bofors, Britain's Nobels explosives, (then-West) Germany's Wasag AG Nitrochemies, Holland's Muiden Chemie, and Belgium's PRB. These companies cooperated with other weapons and explosives producers in eastern and western Europe, such as Bulgaria's Kintex, the communist-era firm suspected of involvement in the drug trade, as well as in the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II.

The explosives cartel is at the center of a vast web of political-military intrigue, throughout Europe and extending far beyond the continent. For example, there is the case of one Helmut Raiser, who became chairman and chief executive of Wasag AG, in 1973. He is currently a board member of the shadowy Geopol Services SA consultancy firm, based in Geneva and Paris. In the 1980s, Raiser ran a network of companies involved in international arms trafficking. In many of these deals, he collaborated with Hans Kopp, the husband of Elisabeth Kopp, the former Swiss justice minister who is also a board member of Geopol. According to Swiss intelligence, both Kopp and Raiser had been under police surveillance, because of their role in the weapons and munitions trade.

It was the EASSP network that Oliver North drew upon, for his complex of international arms transactions.

Palme is not the only prominent figure who is believed to have lost his life because he somehow got in the way of this Bush-orchestrated "spider web." That list would also include the late Schleswig-Holstein Gov. Uwe Barschel, French Gen. René Audran, and Belgian Minister André Cools. The Cools case is particularly relevant. He was the political boss in Liège, center of the Belgian arms manufacturing industry, and knew all the details of activities of PRB, the Belgian firm that participated in the explosives cartel, including PRB's

arrangements with the controversial Gerald Bull, head of the Space Research Corp. It was most likely because he "knew too much," that Cools was eliminated. In the midst of the ongoing Belgian scandals (pedophilia, corruption, and so on), the question of why Cools was murdered is again coming to the fore (see *EIR*, Sept. 27, 1996, "Belgium Arrests Tied to Iran-Contra Scandal"). Reliable Swedish sources have informed *EIR*, that PRB was the intermediary firm in crucial deals between Sweden's Bofors and South Africa.

In fact, Bofors and its "employee" Schmitz had vast ties to South Africa. Schmitz, the weapons dealer who coordinated shipments of explosives to Iran through his company, Scandinavian Commodity, on behalf of the European explosives industry from 1982 to 1985, cooperated mainly with the South African company Armscor. In one case, Iran ordered 4,700 tons of powder from the office of Schmitz; Schmitz contacted Armscor, which promised to deliver 3,000 tons to Iran. The rest of the order, around 1,500 tons, was gathered from different producers in Europe, including PRB.

One crucial figure in PRB-South African transactions was arms manufacturer Gerald Bull, whose Space Research Corp. has been working with PRB since 1973. Over the years, PRB owned significant shares in Bull's company, and PRB was the key to providing shells for Bull's unique 155-millimeter howitzer, a weapon in great demand around the world. Parts for the shells for the howitzer were produced in South Africa. Intelligence experts believe that Bull's murder, in 1990, had less to do with purported Mossad objections to his "Super-Gun" technology sold to Iraq, than to the threat felt by certain South African-based interests, that he was going too public with discussion of South Africa's role in the arming of Iraq.

## The John Train connection

In unravelling the complex of Schmitz-Bofors, South Africa, arming of Iran, and so on, one other curious fact takes on great potential relevance: For the financing of his deals, Schmitz would turn to help from Erik Penser, a Swedish businessman who bought up the Bofors firm. Penser's Nobel Industries AB, owner of Bofors, together with Penser's holding company Yggdrasil, owned the largest share of the Swedish state postal savings bank, PK Banken. In the 1980s, central "Get LaRouche" task force operative John Train was a director of PK Banken International, in New York.

Train is a key figure in the Bush apparatus. He was initially brought onto the Bush White House team, to provide "private sector" cover, for support for the "Afghan mujahideen." While this, like the support effort for the Nicaraguan Contras, was portrayed as crucial to the global "fight against communism," the effect it had, was to flood the United States with tons of heroin, the proceeds of which were used to finance the Afghan War.

As one follows that track, one finds, as with all operations associated with George Bush, a vast number of dead bodies along the way.