

Olof Palme Exposed As An Agent of the CIA

by Ulf Sandmark

The radical, murdered Prime Minister of Sweden, Olof Palme, was an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency from his early youth, at one point in charge of secret “Stay Behind” networks organized by the CIA in postwar Western Europe. His early career started “among Nazis and spies.” These were the revelations, appearing under banner headlines in the Swedish press, announcing the publication of a new book, on Feb. 14. This was the same Olof Palme, who, as Prime Minister in the 1980s, had the stomach to publicly and repeatedly accuse the Swedish collaborators of Lyndon LaRouche, of being “directed by the CIA.” And still today, as these new revelations confirm that LaRouche had been right, the late Prime Minister’s son, Marten Palme, has tried to dismiss the book as being “on the EAP level” (referring to LaRouche’s co-thinkers in Sweden’s European Labor Party).

The book, by journalist Jonas Gummesson, *Among Nazis and Spies: The Youthful Years of Olof Palme*, brings out Palme’s secret Nazi background, which *EIR* had first exposed in 1984, but now, there is more detail. The book relates how little Olof was born into a family of operatives and Nazi sympathizers. Even his maternal uncle, Ottokar von Knieriem, was the Stockholm representative of Germany’s Dresdner Bank, and later listed by the Allies as a “dangerous Nazi,” who escaped extradition, because of a mobilization by the Swedish elite.

But, Gummesson makes no mention of the big fish in the family, August von Knieriem, his mother’s first cousin. So far, this man has not been mentioned in connection with Palme, anywhere outside the publications of LaRouche’s collaborators. Uncle August was the top legal official of the chemical giant I.G. Farben, which built Auschwitz. This huge project, of slave-labor factories and concentration camp, was negotiated under the control of Uncle August, who personally inspected Auschwitz on behalf of the company. He also negotiated with Standard Oil, whereby John D. Rockefeller protected Farben’s wartime properties in the United States. (See “Auschwitz Hair Named Ambassador to Britain,” in this issue.)

Uncle August was indicted at Nuremberg for slavery, mass murder, and crimes against humanity, but the sensitivity of his case allowed him to get off.

The Socialist Cover

In 1947, Olof Palme studied at Kenyon College in the

U.S., while Uncle August was standing trial in another case there. It was during this time, that Olof “turned socialist,” which is an important ingredient in his legend. In 1949, Palme was sent out to intervene into the communist-dominated student international, IUS, in Asia and Europe. In 1950, he started an international anti-communist student organization, ISC. Not until 1951 did he become a member of the Social Democratic student organization.

The book breaks with the standard legend, by bringing up Palme’s Nazi friend, Lennart Hagman, who is exposed as having a “solid Nazi past.” In 1951, Hagman worked out a plan for Swedish military intelligence, arranging for Palme to fulfill his military service in the reserves at the Chiefs of Staff foreign intelligence desk. From there, the young military-intelligence officer was hired—his first real job—to use his position as a “student leader” to travel abroad and gather information.

In 1953, Palme became the private secretary of the Social Democratic Prime Minister Tage Erlander. Gummesson writes, “Olof Palme had at least one assignment, that his immediate superior did not know about. It had to do with the resistance organization that was built up in Western Europe after the Second World War, the so-called Stay Behind. The initiative came from the CIA and the task was the same in all countries: in case of a new war and a Soviet occupation, to work underground and lead the resistance against the occupation.”

The story is most likely true, given the general policy of the victorious powers to hire Nazi and fascist networks for intelligence and political operations. It is well known, that the Stay Behind networks in Italy and Belgium were built up from a nucleus of former Nazis and fascists, and that the Gehlen spy network in Germany was hired to spy on the Soviet Union.

During all the years of Palme’s anti-Vietnam War protest activities against the United States, this story was never revealed. The book raises questions about Palme and his career: How could he work for NATO, while leading the anti-Vietnam War demonstrations; be a friend of Kissinger, and lead the fight against Washington; work for the CIA and propose nuclear-free zones; push the International Monetary Fund austerity policy, and the same time, be the “friend” of the Third World?

Palme was hired as a player by the Anglo-American elites, whose geostrategic policy was to control the world, through the balance of terror. Without understanding this policy, developed by Lord Bertrand Russell, it is impossible to understand the game Palme played. Russell was the man who, in 1947, wanted the United States to drop an atomic bomb on the Soviet Union; then, when this was not possible, Russell devised the doctrine of balance of terror, donning the garb of a “pro-Soviet” peace pacifist. Palme followed in the same track, after his initial recruitment as a CIA warrior in Churchill’s Cold War.