

the lone engineer from Kafka's novella, the inventor of a machine that tortured a living person, pales before the authors of today's war plans. Perhaps the space age is the age of military science fiction? But should we then hurry to enter this age?

In old times it used to be said, he whom Lord God would destroy, he deprives of reason. Political reason is indeed becoming a deficit commodity in the West. Yet another syllogism in defense of the nuclear arms race is the following: "Yes, nuclear war is irrational, but that doesn't mean that the nuclear arms race is irrational." The advocates of this view assert that the A-bomb has become a political weapon. It helps achieve quite practical tasks—in the struggle against the U.S.S.R. and its allies on the one hand, and in strengthening the unity of the Western alliances on the other. As we see, inventive political thought seeks and finds any pretexts for continuing war games.

One English scholar told me, that President Reagan, in conversations with conservative British lions and lionesses, threatened to drive the Russian bear into a corner by intensifying the rhythm of military competition: let the Russian people experience what hunger is. So there it is, the ultimate, ever-loving goal of American policy!

But this goal, too, is no more rational than the strengthening of U.S. security by means of space war. Nobody has yet succeeded in cornering the "Russian bear." Ask the last experimenters on this—the German fascists.

Of course the arms race is a heavy burden for us. It diverts resources from peaceful branches of production. But nobody will succeed in violating the military parity that has been achieved. Yu. V. Andropov has warned about this with all responsibility. And any realistic politician should consider this a fact which you cannot change nor avoid. . . .

And one last thing. Our opponents not infrequently say to us: "But aren't you really doing the same thing as the Americans? Aren't you really accumulating lethal weaponry and modernizing it?"

I am convinced: such people do not understand or are ignoring the fundamental difference between the positions of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. Our actions are of a reactive nature. We go along after Washington, which beginning in 1945 has aimed its nuclear barrels at us. They were the first to create the atomic bomb, the atomic submarine, the nuclear-armed aircraft carrier, the cruise missile, etc. And now they intend to be the first to create the MX missile and a space system which would permit them even just for a year, for a day, for an hour, to count themselves ahead.

And what would be left for us to do—turn a defenseless cheek and count on nuclear mercy? We have had and we have the sacred, indisputable right to necessary self-defense.

But some time it is necessary to stop, so that the war game launched by the U.S. not grow into a monstrous, unimaginable, planetary nuclear mushroom. There is only one conclusion: to stop the nuclear arms race and take the path of freezing nuclear arsenals.

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## Scandinavia

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# Socialist Olof Palme and seeking a territorial deal

by Clifford Gaddy in Stockholm

After three months of relative calm following the notorious Soviet submarine incidents off Sweden's coasts last spring, the Swedish political scene is now once again dominated by talk of territorial waters, boundaries, and violations. This time, however, the issue is not underwater incursions, but the redrawing of the map of the entire Baltic region to hand over a big chunk of Western Europe to the Soviet Union.

While European politicians further south are vying with one another to make deals with the Soviets for what is called *Mittleuropa*—a Central Europe decoupled from the United States in favor of a special relationship with the U.S.S.R.—Sweden's socialist premier Olof Palme is maneuvering to bring the northern flank of the continent into this same game. Palme's plan is to force NATO members Norway and Denmark out of the Western alliance and to form, together with the Soviets, a "Northern European Regional Federation" composed of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, plus the Soviet "republics" of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

For Palme, of course, the role of organizer for a neutral, pro-Soviet Europe is not a new one. His incessant propagandizing for a "nuclear-free zone" in Northern Europe has been going on for years. What is unexpected in the latest developments, however, is that socialist Palme is getting the explicit backing of the Swedish oligarchy. Their reasoning seems to be: If our German cousins can seriously discuss the possibility that Yuri Andropov will permit the reunification of Germany, why should not we Swedes settle for anything less than reuniting Sweden with its old provinces—Finland, Estonia, and Latvia?

To outsiders' ears, the idea sounds absurd, and—as is common when Palme is involved—there are indeed farcical elements to the whole matter. Nevertheless, as in the case of Franz-Josef Strauss and Germany, the threat to the West is a serious one.

### Dispute with Denmark

What Palme has done so far to orchestrate the deal with the Soviets is the following. On Aug. 4, after a one-month holiday on the Baltic island of Gotland where he has a sum-

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## the Baltic nobility with the Soviet Union

mer cottage, Olof Palme suddenly announced that Sweden now has a major territorial dispute on its hands with Denmark! Palme rushed to the Swedish capital, without stopping to change his dirty jeans and T-shirt, to call an emergency press conference on the issue. There he delivered a protest to the Danish government for permitting trial offshore drilling for oil in the waters of the Kattegat Strait between Sweden and Denmark.

The Danes claim that they are merely drilling in waters that belong to them. Palme says that the Danes have drawn a false map; Denmark, according to Palme, has wrongly counted their small island of Hesselö as if it were part of the mainland of Denmark. This island should not count, said Palme, and therefore the waters are Swedish.

The catch in all this, and the real explanation for what Palme is really up to, is that Sweden in fact does have a major territorial dispute in the Baltic region. But it's not with Denmark; it's with the Soviet Union, and there, too, an island is involved. The Soviets want to draw the territorial limits between Sweden and the U.S.S.R. straight down the middle of the Baltic Sea, without regard for any islands, large or small. The Swedes have always insisted that the line must be drawn midway between the Soviet (i.e., the Latvian) coastline and the Swedish island of Gotland in the Baltic.

For the Swedes, this dispute has been a crucial issue of national defense. Northern Gotland and the adjacent island of Faarö are the sites of large Swedish defense installations. If the Soviets get their way in this territorial dispute, Gotland will be useless as a defense site, since the Soviets can then legitimately position all the ships, submarines, and platforms they like just a few miles off the Gotland coast—in *Soviet* waters.

Thus, the significance of Palme's artificial conflict with the Danes should be clear to one and all. Keeping the Soviets on their side of the Baltic depends entirely on the principle, recognized in international law, of counting the island of Gotland as an integral part of Sweden. Palme is telling the Soviets that Sweden does not want to count a Danish island in drawing the border to the south. The Soviets will of course

use Palme's arguments against Sweden the next time the negotiators sit down to discuss the Gotland issue.

### Oligarchs back Palme

As clear as this case is, the remarkable thing in Sweden in past weeks has been that only a couple of lonely voices have dared to accuse Palme of "giving away Gotland to the Russians." With these exceptions, all the other major press outlets and political spokesmen, including the nominally anti-Palme conservative press, have backed Palme.

The most flagrant example from the conservative side is Conservative Party defense spokesman Carl Bildt, the politician who is normally regarded as Olof Palme's main antagonist among established Swedish political circles. In his wordy commentaries on the Danish dispute, Bildt has studiously ignored the crucial Gotland/Soviet question.

Perhaps more than anything else, Bildt's insidious role in this affair is proof that Palme's behavior towards the Soviets at this moment is no longer his personal game or even something prompted merely by his international cronies in the Socialist International. Bildt is the spokesman of the Swedish oligarchy, with a background in the oligarchy's military intelligence. The only conclusion to be drawn from his support for Palme is that the Swedish barons have now officially joined the movement for *Mittleuropa*.

While Palme himself presides over the farcical side of the affair (comparing Danish Prime Minister Poul Schlueter to the Argentinian generals who seized the Malvinas Islands), the oligarchs are entertaining serious ideas about how the Baltic area will look in the New Order of a fragmented,



Olof Palme

NSIPS/San Ezrol

neutralized *Mittleuropa*. Might there be the possibility of a new type of federation of the Baltic nations, including the so-called republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—of course, under Swedish hegemony, as in the days of old?

### The role of the churches

In the fantasies of certain Baltic oligarchs, this is perhaps not as outrageous an idea as it appears to the normal observer. The historical reference is clear: a couple of centuries ago, Sweden actually did rule all of these areas. But there is also a much more recent precedent, one which has a continuity until today. A modern Baltic Regional Federation would be the realization of a plan proposed by the leading Swedish geopolitician of this century, Lutheran Archbishop Nathan Söderblom, ordinarily better known as one of the founders of the World Council of Churches movement. In intimate collaboration with the networks of Swiss-Venetian intelligence operative Alexander Helphand/Parvus during and after World War I, Söderblom had the goal of establishing a regional bloc of the countries around the Baltic Sea, thus making the Baltic, as he put it, *mare lutherum*—a Lutheran lake—with Söderblom himself as the political-religious patriarch.

Indeed, there is good reason to take a close look at the role of the Lutheran Churches of Sweden and Finland in this whole scenario today. At the same time that Palme launched his border dispute with Denmark, the state church of Finland, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, was just finishing a summit meeting with top representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church in Leningrad and Moscow. The Finnish delegation was headed by the new Archbishop John Vikström, of Swedish heritage. Vikström's talks with Metropolitan Antoniy of Leningrad and Patriarch Pimen in Moscow centered on the topic of creating a nuclear-free zone in Northern Europe.

In this light, a couple of other revealing Baltic-Russian links should be mentioned:

- The number-two man in the Russian Orthodox Church, the Chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate, is Metropolitan Aleksiy of Tallinn and Estonia. Aleksiy's real name is Aleksey Mikhailovich von Ruediger. The von Ruediger family was one of the leading Baltic German noble families, and as such, one of the most important Lutheran families in that part of the Russian Empire. Today, one of Aleksiy's special functions in the Russian Orthodox Church is to maintain contact with the Lutheran Churches of Eastern and Western Europe.

- Olof Palme himself is a direct descendant of Baltic German nobility. His mother, Elisabeth von Knieriem Palme, was born on an estate about 80 miles northeast of the Latvian capital of Riga, then as now part of the Russian Empire. Palme spent his childhood summers on the family estate in the 1930s. Just a few years ago, Olof Palme's older brother Claes—a lawyer specializing in maritime law and the chief legal counsel for the Soviet state in such cases in Sweden—appealed to the Soviets to return the von Knieriem family estate to him and his brother.

# French response to return to politics of

by Mark Burdman

The response of the French government to Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi's aggression in Chad has reintroduced a certain word into the vocabulary of Europe: appeasement. The Mitterrand regime has shown a combination of military posturing and political underhandedness which could be compared to the Daladier government's lie-down-and-die attitude in the face of Adolf Hitler's 1938-39 assault on Europe.

### Munich, 1938. . .

A continental European source who is not usually hard-line on defense matters told *EIR* Aug. 17: "What the French have been doing in weakening opposition to Qaddafi and in driving a wedge between the Europeans and the Americans is absolutely unacceptable. This represents a new tendency in Europe. What the French are doing now with Qaddafi is appeasement."

A chorus of voices in the French press blasting Mitterrand began with an Aug. 12 front-page article in *Le Monde* by influential commentator Jacques Amalric, titled "The Price of Indecision." Amalric stated that Mitterrand's actions had convinced Qaddafi of one thing: "aggression pays," and warned that Mitterrand may have opened the door to massive Soviet influence in Africa.

Doubts are multiplying that the expanded French military deployment since the Aug. 13-14 weekend is serious, as opposed to a cynical attempt to satisfy pressure from the United States for France to act in Chad, while trying to prevent America from gaining influence in Africa in the face of French inaction.

Even on the French left, the alarm is being raised. Over the Aug. 13-14 weekend, the French newspaper *Liberation* published a statement by singer Yves Montand and others comparing the French government's reflex in the case of Chad to "Munich, 1938."

The French political force most outspoken and straightforward in its criticism has been the fast-growing Parti Européen Ouvrier led by Jacques Cheminade, a former candidate for the French presidency.

In a statement issued Aug. 18, Cheminade stressed: "The military deployment that we putting in place in Chad is at the best only a new Maginot line. It is not of the quality that will