

## Northern Flank by A. Borealis

### *Svenska Dagbladet* shows its colors

*Why one of Sweden's leading newspapers is joining the East German press in attacks against the Schiller Institute.*

The Schiller Institute's campaign to strengthen the Western alliance has not only drawn blood from those in NATO countries who want to decouple Europe from the United States. The "conservative" daily *Svenska Dagbladet* in the neutral country of Sweden is apparently also upset by the formation of the new institute. "The Schiller Institute," said the paper in a Sept. 9 front-page attack, "views the Soviet Union as an aggressive, expansive state which has to be stopped by a stronger defense and closer Swedish relations with the Western alliance."

Since when is a stronger defense against Soviet expansion a crime in the eyes of Swedish conservatives? Judging from the broad-based support that organizers for the Schiller Institute have found within these layers, it clearly is not. In recent weeks, the campaign for Sweden to join the Western alliance, co-sponsored by the Institute and the European Labor Party, has found conservatives and Social Democrats alike fed up with Prime Minister Olof Palme's policy of appeasing Russia, as well as with the soft opposition to Palme by the conservatives in Sweden's Moderate Party.

What seems to have upset this press mouthpiece of the Swedish oligarchy is that the campaign for closer Swedish relations with the West threatens to wreck the policy for a neutral but well-armed Sweden, co-existent with what is seen as the stronger superpower, the Soviet Union.

The article, titled "ELP: Sect with Hard Discipline," includes a large front-page picture of a European Labor Party campaign placard, comparing Sweden in 1984 with Finland in 1939, when that neutral country was assaulted by the Red Army.

Perhaps it is the growing recognition among the Swedish population that neutrality may not save them from Soviet attack—catalyzed by the campaign for closer relations to the West—that caused *Svenska Dagbladet* to mimic the editorial position of *Neues Deutschland*, the official outlet of the East German ruling party. The East German paper on Aug. 16 denounced the Schiller Institute as "right-wing."

The Swedish daily's affinity to *Neues Deutschland*, however, may be more profound. Last June, the Swedish paper praised Palme's spectacular visit to East Germany, when in the middle of the largest Soviet military maneuvers in East Germany since the war, "peacenik Palme" arrived at the Peenemünde military airbase. *Svenska Dagbladet* not only covered the visit, but its editor-in-chief, Ola Gummesson, was granted an exclusive interview with East German party chief Erich Honecker. Honecker liked the interview so much that he had the text reprinted in *Neues Deutschland*!

The Palme visit to East Germany had followed by just two weeks Swedish Defense Minister Anders Thunborg's trip to East Germany, a visit Thunborg described as designed to

"further develop the cooperation between the two states and their armies."

Exactly what kind of army cooperation Thunborg was speaking of has never been elaborated. It is known that Honecker's masters in Moscow have demanded that Sweden prove its capability to shoot down Western cruise missiles passing through Swedish air space on their way to Eastern targets. And it was Thunborg who, in the fall of 1983, announced that tests designed to demonstrate such a Swedish capability had been concluded. The announcement was favorably greeted by Radio Moscow.

As early as a September 1982 speaking engagement in Stockholm, Kremlin leader and Palme Commission member Georgii Arbatov stated that "Sweden must pursue a more active policy of neutrality," a code-word for Swedish acquiescence to Soviet demands. Hosting Arbatov was the "*Svenska Dagbladet* Executive Club."

Returning evil for good, the paper of the Soviet Journalists' Association, *Za Rubezhom*, in a recent issue charged Sweden's meek Moderate Party with "proposing that Sweden should abandon its neutrality" in favor of "a mutual assistance treaty with NATO," and adding the fallacious statement that "in its propagandistic fervor, *Svenska Dagbladet* is particularly outstanding . . . [its] anti-Soviet baiting sometimes exceeds the limits of all even elementary decency."

These charges are not to be read literally, but are Moscow's way of communicating that its assets will be held accountable for any deviation within their ranks. While providing the Moderates and *Svenska Dagbladet* with an anti-Soviet cover, the Soviets are communicating that unless the Schiller Institute campaign is thwarted, the deal that Palme and the oligarchy imagine to be on with Moscow might be suddenly called off.