
Global Showdown

Russians rehearse seizure of Norway

by Konstantin George

Less than 12 hours after the U.S. air strikes on Libya began on April 14, Moscow began staging a massive military-political response. While all Soviet noise was focused on protesting U.S. "criminal aggression" in the Mediterranean, the military forces of the Russian Empire were on the move in another sensitive and endangered region of NATO—the poorly defended Northern Flank.

The maneuvers began on the same day that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov was "hosting"—"roasting" would better capture the spirit of those sessions, as we shall see below—the new Swedish prime minister, Ingvar Carlsson, who was in Moscow at the head of a large Swedish government, banking, and industrialist delegation. The maneuvers also began one day before Gorbachov departed for East Germany to attend and speak at the East German Party Congress, and, more importantly, as *EIR* reported in its last issue, to hold top-secret high-level military strategic meetings with Russia's wartime commander-in-chief, Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, and the military leadership of the "Group of Soviet Forces in Germany" (GSFG), as the Soviet forces based in East Germany are called.

Gangster tactics against Norway

In a brazen intimidation move against Norway, the Soviet task force continued moving west till it was in the Barents Sea opposite the shore of Norway's northernmost province of Finnmark. There was no reason to go so far west, except to "give Norway a message" as one Norwegian defense source commented. Having delivered Gorbachov's "message," the task force suddenly turned 180 degrees due east, till it reached the western part of the Soviet Kola Peninsula, which borders on Norway's Finnmark. On April 17, the Soviet Marine Infantry Brigade, simulating a wartime landing operation in the Norwegian fjords, landed in fjord terrain on the Kola Peninsula, in what was pre-war Finnish territory, only eight miles from the Soviet-Norwegian border. Never before had such a large, provocative amphibious assault exercise been held so close to the Norwegian frontier.

The amphibious landing was the largest component of wide-ranging Soviet ground, air, and naval exercises staged in and around the Kola Peninsula during April 15-18. The exercises, which focused on surprise-attack airborne and sea-borne landing operations, rehearsed the Soviet wartime operations plan against Norway. The plan envisages, through lightning airborne and sea-borne landings, the seizure on the first day of war of all NATO's strategically vital ports and airfields in the northern part of Norway. If northern Norway falls, not only is the entire northern flank of NATO indefensible and incapable of receiving any reinforcements, but the largest concentration of Soviet ballistic missile submarine forces—stationed in the Barents Sea, north of Norway—are invulnerable to NATO military forces.

An examination of the types of units concentrated in the Kola Peninsula and Leningrad Military District, confirms that the Soviet military plans for the far north in wartime are based on airborne and sea-borne landing operations. Besides the reinforced marine infantry brigade and elite marine infantry spetsnaz units, air assault regiments and airborne/air assault spetsnaz units are based on the Kola Peninsula. One such air assault brigade is based along the same fjord where the marine brigade landed on April 17—a stone's throw from Norway. In addition, the Leningrad Military District contains the 76th Airborne Division, based near Pskov, south of Leningrad, which can be brought overnight to the Kola region, and used for seizing northern Norway.

Redrawing the map in the Baltic

Swedish Prime Minister Carlsson was "invited" by Gorbachov to Moscow for only one reason: to deliver his submission to Soviet demands that Sweden will play by the rules Moscow imposes—or else. Fresh in everyone's memory were the published Soviet warnings shortly before the late Premier Olof Palme's murder on Feb. 28, that Palme had "failed" to meet Soviet expectations.

While Carlsson gave every indication of caving in to Gorbachov during the Moscow talks, Gorbachov nonetheless warned Carlsson in the crassest terms not to abandon capitulation. The April 16 edition of *Krasnaya Zvezda*, the Soviet military newspaper, quotes Gorbachov telling Carlsson, "We want our relations to Sweden not to be called into question by any turn in the situation. Any problems which may arise must be judged openly and frankly, as it should be between good neighbors."

From Carlsson's behavior in Moscow during his visit, he clearly chose wholesale appeasement. This began with the Swedish leader's statements in Moscow, denouncing the U.S. air strikes against Libya, as "criminal aggression," "violations of international law," etc., all carbon-copies of the Soviet denunciation lexicon. That was Carlsson speaking on April 15. Then came the Kremlin banquet, with Gorbachov's "reminder." Carlsson made his full capitulation public the

next day, at his Moscow press conference, through the announcement, quoted in all Soviet newspapers on April 17: "I expect that soon in the course of negotiations we will reach an agreement on the question of demarcating our [respective] economic zones in the Baltic Sea."

Carlsson was referring to the "question" of drawing the dividing line in the Baltic Sea between Soviet and Swedish fishery and economic exploitation zones.

The Baltic fishery and economic exploitation zones is no more a "question" than the Sudetenland was a "question" in 1938. Just as Hitler made the Sudetenland a question, demanding that Czechoslovakia "negotiate" its annexation by Nazi Germany, a certain late Kremlin Führer, Yuri Andropov, unilaterally in 1983, made the Soviet-Swedish boundary in the Baltic a question.

In spring 1983, Russia suddenly demanded that then Swedish Prime Minister Palme "negotiate" a redrawing of the map in the Baltic, which would demarcate the boundary between the Russian and Swedish economic zones along a line midway between the Russian Baltic provinces and the Swedish mainland. Russia's demand—if submitted to—would place the large Swedish island of Gotland, located in the middle of the Baltic, inside the Russian Baltic Sea economic zone. It would only be a matter of time before Gotland became a *rayon*, or district, of Soviet Latvia. Even more devastating would be the precedent. To give but one example, in no time, Moscow's Warsaw Pact satellite, Poland, could proclaim a sovereign Baltic economic zone, placing the large island of Bornholm, belonging to NATO ally Denmark, in Polish—i.e. Soviet, jurisdiction.

Ever since that original Andropov demand, the Kremlin has been demanding, in near-ultimatum language, that Sweden negotiate redrawing the Baltic map. The late Olof Palme, while he was reported to have been several times on the verge of acceding to Moscow's demands on this question, never actually did so. The same cannot be said for Carlsson.

Even more alarming is the fact that Moscow's massive intimidation and blackmail campaign against the Northern Flank, has spurred a political mobilization by the Danish Social Democracy and the Norwegian Labor Party (the Socialist International party in Norway) to take power, and thus establish an appeasement bloc in all of Scandinavia.

Crises in Norway and Denmark

On April 23, the vice-chairman of the Danish Social Democracy, Sven Auken, in an interview in the Danish defense publication, *Forsvaret i Dag (Defense Today)*, called for adopting a doctrine of so-called "defensive defense." The proposal is nothing short of military insanity, and politically, surrender, being a Danish copy of the infamous defense paper drafted last year by the West German Social Democracy's so-called defense expert, Andreas von Bülow, and adopted by the Social Democratic Party executive. Von Bülow de-

manded the pull-out of U.S. forces from West Germany, and all nuclear weapons from German soil, together with a stipulation that no armored units be stationed near the border with East Germany or Czechoslovakia. Forward defense against a Warsaw Pact invasion would be based on infantry formations equipped with shoulder-fired anti-tank weapons—and perhaps a Bible and rabbit's foot.

Auken, in his "defensive defense" proposal, calls for huge slashes in Denmark's already inadequate naval and air force units, creating a so-called "on shore" defense with minefields, and "on shore" anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile batteries. And all this, as he states in the context of a "Nordic nuclear weapons free zone"—meaning free of NATO nuclear weapons. Auken goes so far as to insist that no nuclear weapons be introduced into Denmark even after a Warsaw Pact invasion has already begun. "Can we, for example, expect British forces to come to our rescue without bringing tactical nuclear weapons? We can, if we have a Treaty on a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the north. . . ."

Auken also explicitly writes off to Warsaw Pact seizure, West Germany's northernmost province of Schleswig-Holstein and the port of Hamburg, in the passage where he calls for setting up a "defensive zone" across the southern part of the Jutland Peninsula "to forestall a Warsaw Pact advance from neighboring West Germany."

Danish military sources are appalled at the level of insanity embodied in Auken's proposals. As one expressed his contempt for the "on shore" defense concept, "If they ever reach the shore, then it's all over," adding the same thought to the Jutland "defensive zone," because the fall of Schleswig-Holstein would ensure the occupation of Denmark.

Another Danish military source heaped yet more ridicule on Auken: "Cutting our naval and air forces, and relying on only ground forces to defend Denmark, is like basing the defense of Austria on the Navy."

In neighboring Norway, the ruling conservative prime minister, Kaare Willoch, lost a parliamentary vote of confidence on April 29 over his tax increase package. His desperation move was prompted by huge losses in Norwegian tax revenues caused by the fall in oil prices. Oil is Norway's main export. Willoch's margin of defeat was provided by the tiny hard-core-Friedmanite "Free Enterprise" Progress Party, which has two seats in the parliament, teaming up with the pro-appeasement Labor Party, led by the radical Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland.

On April 30, Willoch resigned as prime minister, and Norway is faced with the imminent danger of the Moscow-leaning Brundtland coming to power, if not immediately, then in the near future, either through elections or shady deals. Should that disaster indeed occur, then Gorbachov will be silently smiling in the Kremlin, reflecting on how his show of imperial gunboat diplomacy off the Norwegian coast in the middle of April paid off handsomely.