

## Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

### The Palme case revisited—by Moscow

*Soviet media have changed their approach to reporting on the murder, away from their usual slanders of LaRouche.*

Soviet press organs have floated new leads to the still unsolved murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, differing from their usual ones. In a March 19 article on the "Swedish Echo of Irangate," i.e., illicit Swedish arms shipments to Iran, the official organ of the Soviet Red Army, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, points to a possible involvement in the Palme murder of an international, Israeli-tied arms cartel, and the French-based terrorist band Direct Action.

The floating of such leads signals a departure from the standard Russian propaganda approach of attempting to blame the murder of the Swedish premier on EIR founder and 1988 U.S. Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

*Krasnaya Zvezda* describes the Swedish arms giant Bofors as part of an international cartel involved in illegal arms sales to Iran, with branches in every major European country. The arms cartel is not limited to Europe: "Israel and South Africa maintain active contact with the cartel."

The arms cartel's Swedish subsidiary, however, "is only the tip of the iceberg. What lies underneath? . . . Whoever in the West tries to interfere with the cartel, and tell the truth, runs a risk to their own security. Palme gave support to those people who were not afraid to come out against these forces."

The killing of the Swedish premier was not the only murder in this context, *Krasnaya Zvezda* goes on. "In

January 1985, French General René-Pierre Audran was murdered. The general was also involved in the problems of arms deals with Iran. He was killed by the French terrorist group, Direct Action."

The Russian army daily proceeds to link the French terrorist outfit to the Palme murder: "On Feb. 21 of this year, four leaders of Direct Action, who earlier had been hiding in Scandinavia, were arrested. Immediately, some people took note that one of the men arrested was very similar to the photo composite of Palme's murderer."

The article was signed by "O. Vakulovsky," the same signature used for a prominent Dec. 12, 1986 article in *Krasnaya Zvezda*, which slanderously blamed Palme's murder on LaRouche. Sources report that the real author disguised behind the Dec. 12 signature is a certain Nikolai Vukolov, Stockholm correspondent for both the Red Army daily and the Soviet news agency TASS. *Krasnaya Zvezda's* employing the same signature for the March 19 article helps to underscore the change of approach.

Stockholm correspondent Vukolov had already co-authored an article on the alleged LaRouche "connection" to the Palme murder in the Soviet weekly *New Times* of September 1986, which is now the subject of a lawsuit in a Paris court, filed by LaRouche and his associates, the European Labor Party in France.

As late as March 9, *New Times*

published another article co-authored by Vukolov, entitled "The Palme Murder: Trails and Theories." The article contained the whole spectrum of standard accusations against "extreme right-wing American organizations," and "the European Working Party," the formulation often used by the Soviets in trying to implicate LaRouche's associates.

But two weeks later, in its March 23 issue, *New Times* published yet another item on Sweden, now conforming to the new approach signaled on March 19 by *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

Entitled "Another Arms Scandal," the new article reviews the role of Swedish arms merchant Karl-Erik Schmitz, whose company, based in Malmö, Sweden has been trading in arms and explosives with Iran. Investigations of this Malmö connection, *New Times* writes, led to clandestine arms deals involving at least eight other countries. As the scandal grew in Sweden, the focus shifted from the arms companies involved "to the politicians and officials whose job it is to enforce arms export control laws."

If Schmitz had no permission from the Swedish authorities, the Soviet weekly asks, "who, then, is behind his operations?" Part of the answer, *New Times* asserts, elaborating one connection just put forth by *Krasnaya Zvezda*, is given by the fact that "Israeli go-betweens were involved in Schmitz's deals."

The Soviet weekly says, "The inquiry will emerge at a political level within the next few weeks, as the Swedish parliament's Constitutional Committee plans to hear evidence from three former foreign trade ministers and a group of high-ranking officials at some of the country's ministries."

The possible links between Palme's murder and illicit arms sales to Iran have already been outlined by EIR and some other Western press.