

KGB employed Danish anti-LaRouche agent

by Poul Rasmussen

The opening of the files of the former East German secret intelligence service, the Stasi, is casting light on the activities of thousands of communist agents all over Europe, and many of these low-life types are now scurrying for cover. The dissolution of the Soviet empire might also bring some answers to the question many have asked themselves throughout the past 20 years: "Who is saying all these nasty things about Lyndon LaRouche, and why?" Part of the answer to that question found its way into the pages of most of the Danish press during the second week of January.

For the past 17 years, Denmark has had the "honor" of hosting one of the small handful of journalists worldwide, who are purveyors of the voluminous slanders of Mr. LaRouche. In the United States, hardly any slander has ever been written against LaRouche which did not originate from the pens of either Dennis King or Chip Berlet, two New Left scribblers who formerly wrote for the marijuana lobby's magazine *High Times*, and who were recruited by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) to do their "journalistic" dirty work for them. In Denmark, similarly, the press attacks on LaRouche can be ascribed to one person, Jørgen Dragsdahl, a journalist at the small left-wing newspaper *Information*.

On Jan. 5, *Extrabladet*, the largest tabloid in Denmark, carried a centerfold with the banner headline, "Editor of 'Information' Was a KGB Spy." The article was an exclusive interview with Oleg Gordievsky, a former colonel of the Soviet KGB who had defected to the West in London in 1985. According to Colonel Gordievsky, Jørgen Dragsdahl has been operating as a Soviet agent of influence and spy since the middle of the 1970s. In the KGB files, Dragsdahl carried the code name "STOT."

Gordievsky identified the two KGB officers who controlled Dragsdahl as Mikhail Petrovich and Stanislav Chebotok. *Extrabladet* also claimed that Dragsdahl had received large sums of money from these controllers on at least two occasions, in two secret meetings in Budapest and Vienna.

The strategic stakes

Dragsdahl has denied all the allegations of espionage, but if the information printed by *Extrabladet* is true, it certainly sheds some interesting light on a man who built his career by vile attacks against LaRouche and his associates.

As *EIR* has documented in numerous articles in the past, the international media attacks against LaRouche centered around four principal events: 1) the publication in 1978 of *Dope, Inc.*, which sent the ADL and British intelligence into apoplexy, for its identification of their roles in the international drug trade; 2) LaRouche's 1982 back-channel diplomacy on behalf of what later became the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI); 3) LaRouche's call for the Third World to break the grip of the Anglo-American monetary system; and 4) the victory of two associates of LaRouche in the Illinois Democratic primary race for high state offices, which showed that the LaRouche candidates' movement could win.

In an article dated March 9, 1990 ("Gordievsky on the LaRouche SDI Plan"), for example, we showed, through recent press interviews given by the KGB colonel, how the Soviets had deployed in 1982-83 to block LaRouche's influence in the Reagan administration.

According to *Extrabladet* and Gordievsky, the KGB's keen interest in Dragsdahl started in 1976. In a document from the files of the KGB, dated Sept. 13, 1976, published by *Extrabladet*, Dragsdahl is referred to by the new code name "STOT." The KGB report refers to an espionage operation against the Danish prime minister's office. The KGB officer in charge suggests involving agent STOT.

Dragsdahl's defense against this charge is that it is not possible, because Dragsdahl was in the United States at the time renewing his contact to his old friends in the Black Panther Party and the New Left (most likely including Dennis King and Chip Berlet).

When Dragsdahl returned to Denmark in August 1977, the KGB immediately reestablished contact, according to the Danish newspaper's account. One of the very first things Dragsdahl wrote on his return to the country was a vicious slander against LaRouche, published in *Information* in December 1977. In this article, LaRouche and his associates were for the first time accused of being agents of the CIA.

This article was followed by other slanderous attacks on LaRouche at the beginning of 1978. This is obviously the beginning of Dragsdahl's new career as the "Dennis King" of Denmark. Parallel to this, Dragsdahl also builds a reputation as a "strategic expert"—more truthfully, an advocate of Soviet strategic interests. He authored innumerable anti-American and anti-NATO articles in the Danish press.

In view of his anti-U.S. attitude and his secret contacts to the KGB, Dragsdahl's career as a LaRouche-hater reached an interesting inflection point in 1989. When Lyndon LaRouche was thrown into jail, his associates in Denmark contacted numerous prominent lawyers in order to solicit international support for the legal fight to free LaRouche. Some of the lawyers contacted the U.S. embassy in Copenhagen and requested information on the LaRouche case. The embassy answered by sending a package containing several of Dragsdahl's slander articles against LaRouche. The KGB must have been very happy.