

Northern Flank by Lotta-Stina Thronell

Why no wish to solve Palme case?

Newly released documents on the Bofors deal with India could cause an international scandal that some do not want.

On Feb. 28, some 150 people gathered in Stockholm on the eighth anniversary of the murder of Socialist Prime Minister Olof Palme. A handful of private murder investigators were present at the meeting. A big brouhaha broke out when one of the speakers, Lars Krantz, a film producer and private investigator, asked whether it were not about time to investigate Palme's role in the illegal weapons trafficking. Maybe this could shed new light on the assassination, he suggested. Others protested that "this is not the right day" to bring up such an issue.

Three days earlier, the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* had published an article, "Weapons and Bribes: The Palme Mystery," dealing with the release of "hundreds of banking documents on the sale of Bofors cannons to India." The fact that the Swiss government had decided to deliver the banking documents could trigger "an international scandal, which the Swedish authorities have tried to avoid for years," the paper reported.

It is certainly obvious that the Swedish authorities, both government and police, so far have suppressed any lead in the Palme murder investigation that would reveal how closely Swedish government and business circles worked with the East German communist intelligence service, the Stasi, and other secret services in dirty international affairs. This is particularly true for the disinformation campaign against the European Labor Party (EAP) and Lyndon LaRouche, which was launched by the Stasi from

East Berlin immediately after the murder. It also applies to the role of Sweden in the illegal weapons trafficking conducted by Karl-Erik Schmitz at the beginning of the 1980s.

On Aug. 20, 1992, the magazine of the Swedish National Journalists Association, *Journalisten*, published an interview with Stasi officer Herbert Brehmer describing how the Stasi used the Swedish media to carry out a disinformation campaign, to tie the EAP to the Palme murder.

Journalisten failed to suggest that the Stasi disinformation could have been part of a strategy to suppress any possible connection between the murder of Palme and the Bofors weapons smuggling to Iran over the "Northern Route" during the Iran-Iraq war (Palme had been assigned by the United Nations to mediate between Iran and Iraq). In 1984, the Swedish customs service was intensifying its work to close down the smuggling. Large amounts of contraband from the Bofors company were confiscated. In June 1985, customs confiscated 50 tons of explosives originating from Bofors, leading to a raid on Karl-Erik Schmitz's office in Malmö in September the same year. Schmitz was put on trial.

In a Feb. 24, 1994 radio broadcast with "EIR Talks," LaRouche pointed out that this period, from the beginning of the 1980s until the murder of Palme in 1986, was characterized by close collaboration between U.S. and Soviet intelligence services. "What we're looking at," he said, "are the

operations with the Soviet intelligence services by sections of the U.S. intelligence services, in keeping the Iran-Iraq war going, so they would mutually kill each other (which was the objective the British had in that case), which also involved the operations of the Contras, and the drug trafficking there."

The fact that Schmitz was caught red-handed in this arms trafficking, according to LaRouche, led to the assassination of Palme, "in which the East German Stasi people with whom [Oliver] North was working, and whom [accused spy Aldrich Hazen Ames] was overseeing, tried to set me up as the author of the assassination, which, everything shows, was done in their interest, because Palme was going after the arms trafficking."

No one in Sweden really dares to bring in the full scope of implications in the Palme murder case. The police investigators, led by chief detective Hans Oelvbö, have now, in collaboration with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, decided to look for a "lone assassin," and cut all other leads. According to Oelvbö, the police are confident of finding the killer before summer. On Feb. 19-20, the evening rag *Expressen* was used in a pathetic effort, once again, to fraudulently link the Palme assassination to LaRouche associates in Sweden.

Åke Liljefors, presenting himself as an "independent expert on policy and the strategy of public opinion," published an article going in the right direction at the end of January, with the title "The Bofors Affair Might Have Triggered the Palme Murder," in which he directs all questions to the remaining leadership of the Social Democratic Party today. Liljefors points to the deals between India and Sweden, but excludes the issue of Karl-Erik Schmitz and the "Northern Route" illegal weapons trade to Iran.