Northern Flank by Göran Haglund

Russian propaganda film postponed

Moscow's documentary-drama charging that LaRouche killed Palme is recognized as "propaganda" by Swedish TV.

In a remarkable stroke of genius, Swedish TV officials have admitted that a Russian film alleging that Olof Palme was murdered in downtown Stockholm by U.S. presidential candidate and *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. "is definitely a propaganda film." The admission followed a decision announced on Feb. 17 to postpone the Swedish broadcast of the film scheduled for Feb. 27, on the eve of the anniversary of Palme's assassination.

Denying that the delay had been caused by protests that the original timing implied an endorsement of the film by the state-run Swedish TV, officials said the postponed broadcast on March 6 would be prefaced by remarks acknowledging the propagandistic nature of the film. Aired twice on empire-wide Soviet TV, the 55-minute "docu-drama" uses Russian actors to "show" that Palme was killed by Western right-wingers, the CIA, or most likely on orders of LaRouche personally.

Among those protesting the broadcast, two U.S. embassy officials paid a visit to Swedish TV Director Olle Berglund on Feb. 12, expressing concern both over the timing and "the absurd accusation that the American government would be in any way involved in the murder."

The official cause for the postponement was the wish of Swedish TV to obtain a "better distribution over time" of programs produced for the anniversary, plus a request of Palme's brother, conservative lawyer Claes Palme, not to "offend the feelings" of Palme's family by airing the film on the anniversary. Claes Palme said the film was "tasteless beyond all description. To commemorate his death, which is painful for his family, showing a Russian propaganda movie, what kind of idea is that?"

Claes Palme's bitter criticism of the Russian show is all the more damning, as he himself is a trusted asset employed by the Soviet state to safeguard Russian interests in Sweden. This includes both his formal employment as a lawyer representing the Soviets in legal cases in Sweden, and his 1985 appointment as chairman of the board of the Swedish branch of the Soviet car trading company Matreco, a well-known front for Russian espionage activities. (See EIR, March 19, 1985.)

Asked by the liberal tabloid Expressen of Feb. 14, Claes Palme ferociously denied that Olof had any affairs with women, blurting "that's just bullshit! When would he have had time [sic!] to have affairs with women, since he was both a devoted family father and watched by all police."

Claes Palme seems to be overlooking that the circumstances of his brother's death indicate the police watch was rather lax, as the bodyguards were dismissed while the premier went to a crowded public cinema. Also overlooked are numerous leaks from what Stockholm Police Chief Hans Holmér once termed the most secretive part of the Palme inquiry, that on his private life.

This dossier includes security guards testifying that Palme used to visit a discreet love nest in Stockholm with millionairess Emma Rothschild, daughter of British Lord Victor Rothschild, both investigated as Soviet intelligence assets.

Holmér's possession of such dossiers prompted public speculation after the reorganization of the murder investigation, that it was precisely Holmér's blackmail capabilities that explained why the government didn't dump him as the first step in the reorganization on Feb. 4. That same day, Swedish TV announced its intention to air the Russian show targeting LaRouche, while sources said the reorganization aimed at reviving Moscow's earlier efforts to implicate LaRouche in the crime.

In response to the public attention given to Holmér's powerful blackmail capabilities, Premier Ingvar Carlsson on Feb. 13 issued a defensive statement, "categorically denying the allegations," saying: "In plain language, this means that we in the government of Sweden, fearing something that the police know about our private lives or whatever it might be, would permit ourselves to be influenced by this and try to lead the investigation into the murder of Olof Palme in any other direction than the correct one."

Carlsson concluded: "Equally absurd and unrealistic is the accusation made anonymously today in *Dagens Nyheter*, by one prosecutor in the Palme investigation, that Hans Holmér would have such information about Olof Palme's private life, that the government cannot get rid of the chief of police."

Based on strong suspicion that Holmér has usurped powers not granted a police chief under Swedish law, High Prosecutor Lars G. Andersson that same day was assigned to investigate whether Holmér has violated the law in his conduct of the murder investigation.