

Poutainen Kati



To Mr. and Mrs. Harold Weisberg

7627 Old Receiver Road

Frederick

Maryland 21701

U.S.A.





FLYPOST-PARAMON

December 18, 1989

Dear Harold,

I haven't written to you for some time now, mostly because I haven't had time to learn more about the JFK-assassination lately. All my time has been consumed trying to write down some of my experiences about the difficulties we have had in our efforts to untangle some of the web surrounding the Palme-murder. The writing has taken longer than I expected. I have a deadline 1:st of February next year, hope I'll make it.

To give you a glimpse of some of the questions in the Palme case I enclose an article written by a friend over here. (His name sounds American but he is a Swede.) The second article I enclose is an interview with another friend of ours named Gunnar Wall.

I hope you and your wife are in good health. Hopefully the hot Maryland summers haven't been too painful for you.

I saw you on Swedish television some time ago. It was the British Channel 4 program that centered around Steven Rivele's ridiculous theories that some kind of French under-cover agents hired by the Mafia were behind the JFK-murder. Swedish Television cut the last 50% of the program, which was about Rivele's theory. I think this improved the program. There was an interview with you ^{about} ~~at~~ the Tague incident. At the time (to my joy) you seemed

God Jul
och

Gott Nytt År

önskar

Kari och Charmaine

Dear Kari,

12/26/89

A week ago yesterday I got home from the hospital with three heart bypasses.

This is the first letter I've attempted since then. I hope you will understand the need for brevity and my failure to make full response/comment. Your 12/18 is interesting as is your project. Good luck with it. There hasn't been that much in the press over here but the criticism of the arrest and the release of the alleged subject were reported.

Gerard (Chip) Selby did the documentary, Reasonable Doubt. He can be reached at P.O.Box 174, College Park, Md. 20740. I don't know what means, if any, are available to him for making other than the standard US WCR copies. Fine young man.

I seem to be making a good record, especially for one of '76. But I do stay tired.

The summers were not too hot but your mention of them comes at a time when we have just set a record for cold in the month of December!

I was quite disappointed to learn that the British crew went for the Rivele connection but I'm please that it was eliminated in your country. Somehow the British TV reporters seem to be copying the worst of ours. Before I agreed ~~to~~ to talk to that crew it promised it would do no such thing as a condition of my appearance. Another British crew did likewise with the King case, as a result of which they could not place it here.

I do not remember even hearing of Peter Lemkin. Be somewhat more than merely suspicious of his alleged credentials as a critic. How he can afford to do what he does may find a simple and adequate explanation but that is not true of his letter. If you get Wroß-Fire expect to waste whatever it costs you. It is a compilation of the nuts and of their output. I was asked to skim it by the publisher, something I refused to put my name to, but while awaiting his response did skim a few pages and it is really terrible, by a guy who knows so little he can't begin to see that.

I'm not in a position to evaluate the Razine business but suggest as a generality that the ready audience for such stuff over here and the synthetic credentials that attach to those who make such takes up increases both the crop and its acceptability. Those who air such shows are anxious to latch onto such crap.

You are fortunate that your judicial system served you so much better than ours served us.

Thanks also for the nice card. We hope for a good year for us all!

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

to be in good form. Hope your health has stood by you. I of course video-taped the program. Talking of videos, I recall that you in your last letter wrote that a young man over there in Maryland had made a video about the JFK-assassination as part of his degree. He had won a prize with the video. I would be interested in acquiring this video. Could you give me his name and address so that I could write and ask to buy a copy? Even though you can't see a video made for American television networks here in Europe. We have a different system, but I think it can be transformed to an additional cost.

Last but not least, do you know anything about a fellow named Peter Lemkin? He has written a letter to my brother (which I enclose) and claims to be a longtime JFK-assassination researcher. I am somewhat suspicious of the guy. He travels all around the world. How can he afford it? Who funds him? You are one of the foremost researchers in this field and as far as I know you never had the funds to travel all around the world giving lectures.

He claims to be an American and that he amongst other things has worked for the Christic Institute.

The "Razine" tape he is referring to in the letter is a fantastic story connected to the Palme-murder. It is from a radioprogram called "The Bill Moran Show" broadcasted on September 17 1988 in Los Angeles. The program was about the Iran-Contra arms deals. A CIA-man who called himself "Mr Razine" appeared in it.

Suddenly this "Mr Razine" started talking about a telegram that had been sent to Philip Guarino, a man who had had a high position in the Republican party and had been one of the top men in Ronald Reagans election campaign in 1980. The telegram was sent by Licio Gelli master of the fascistic P2 free mason's lodge in Italy. (Well known for much shady business.) The telegram said:
 "Please tell our friend that the Swedish tree will be felled."

It was sent on the 25th of February 1986, Three days before Olof Palme was murdered. Many have wondered who "our friend" mentioned in the telegram could be. Lemkin who claims he knows "Mr Razine" says 'it's George Bush! What a conspiracy!

Merry Christmas

Kari Poutainen

Fornhöjdsvägen 68 II

S-15158 Södertälje, Sweden

P.S. The alcoholic the police suspected had murdered Palme was found not guilty in court, so the case is still unsolved. The Swedish judicial system withstood the pressures of a simple "solution". Thank God!

Peter Lemkin
P.O. Box 1046
Coronado, CA 92118 USA

4/12/89

Pertti,

I hope you will remember I spoke with you from Stockholm a little over one month ago about the Palme investigations. I am an independant Amerikan researcher in assassinations and covert operations. I work with an informal group of similar researchers around the world, including Henrik Kruger and Agneta Vistar and others in Skandinavia. It was a friend of Agneta who had told me about your work. In our conversations you mentioned a book you were working on. I AM MOST INTERESTED to recieve a copy or drafts of it as soon as would be possible. I would gladly pay for any costs involved. I am trying to get up to date on Palme murder information so I can help to do further investigation. I have long been a JFK researcher and find the parallels strong and frightening.

As I know you and your brohter were also long time JFK assassination researchers, there is a great new book out on the subject. It is called: CROSSFIRE-The Plot That Killed Kennedy by Jim Marrs, Carroll & Graf, New York, 1989.

Anyway, I would like to stay in contact. I will be back in the U.S.S.A. for two or three months and then back in Norge. Any information, leads references or articles (på svensk, norsk eller dansk, O.K.) would be MOST appreciated. If there are any areas in which I can provide information, please let me know. I am working mostly on JFK and other CIA assassinations. U.S. government overthrows and destabilizations, Iran-Contra and its interconnections and the fascist connections to western intelligence agencies. I was one of the people who supplied Agneta and Henrik with some of their information linking the Palme assassination with elements of U.S. intelligence. I was the person who introduced the 'Razine' tape to Skandinavia.

Good luck with your book and research. A good review of the research is most needed. CROSSFIRE might give you some ideas as to format. Let me know if I can help with any leads etc. Hope to hear from you. I'll contact you by phone upon my return to Skandinavia.

Hjertelig hilsen,



P.S. This is on another matter, but this was sitting on my desk and thought it might interest you.

RANDOM LENGTHS
11/15/89
World News

Congressional Report Reveals:

CIA Downs Jet To Protect Drug Pipeline

by Erick Anderson

Last December 21, a PanAm Boeing 747 bound for New York crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland killing all 259 people aboard. Speculation at the time suggested that a terrorist bomb placed aboard that plane at its point of origin in Frankfurt, West Germany resulted in the downing of the flight.

Recent information based on a release by Ohio Congressman James A. Traficant, Jr. and reported to be part of PanAm's insurance investigation, alleges that not only did intelligence sources in Germany and the United States know that it was a terrorist bomb, they knew in advance that it was to be planted onboard Flight 103. And according to an analysis of information obtained by *Random Lengths* from the Congressman's office, the terrorist act may have been engineered by the CIA in Germany to protect a drug smuggling operation which links high-ranking CIA officials in the United States and overseas with Syrian terrorist organizations operating in West Germany. This same information was confirmed in a November 4 article prepared by the national bureau of the Long Beach Press-Telegram. The source report was allegedly supplied by Victor Marchetti, a former CIA agent and co-author of *"The CIA and The Cult Of Intelligence"*.

The key players in what is evolving as a real life spy thriller include: Ahmad Jabril, a leader of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the man

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JAMES ALLEN
(213) 519 1442

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CIA Linked To PanAm Air Disaster

ig attack but did not want to risk the Al-Kassar operation. The nature of the tips passed on CIA-1 is not known, but at this time law enforcement security tightened around all but PanAm airlines.

Twenty-four hours before the flight, a Mossad (Israeli Intelligence) agent reported to the BKA that a bomb would explode aboard a PanAm flight. BKA asked CIA-1 for instructions. CIA-1 did not reply to BKA. On the day of the flight, Jabril, through an intermediary, activated the Al-Kassar drug route at the PanAm terminal, using a Turkish baggage handler to hold the suitcase for loading until the other luggage had cleared customs inspection. A BKA surveillance agent

The agent, alert to the bomb warnings, called in a report to his superiors, saying something was very wrong...

Noticing that PanAm flight's loading noted that the "drug" suitcase loaded that day was different in make, shape, material and or to the one normally used for Al-Kassar's shipment. The agent, alert to the bomb warnings, called in a report to his superiors, saying something was very wrong. BKA

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CIA Linked To Drugs, Air Crash

who originally masterminded the bombing as a terrorist act; the kingpin of the drug smuggling operation, a Syrian named Monzer Al-Kassar, who was used, during the Iran-contra affair by Oliver North to secretly arm the Contras, and who was, according to the documents released by Congressman Traficant's office, cooperating with the CIA in Europe in exchange for CIA protection of his heroin routes to the United States; Khalid Jafar, a drug courier working for Al-Kassar, the man who actually brought the bomb on board the plane; McKee, the leader of a special CIA team working out of Beirut, Lebanon; CIA-1, the command group for CIA operatives in Germany; and CIA "Control" a group or individual who was in command of operatives in Europe, operating from a base in the United States.

Reconstructing the events of November and December 1988, *Random Lengths* has

...The McKee team also realized that some CIA unit was protecting his drug smuggling routes into the United States via Frankfurt airport...

found that McKee and his team, some time before December 1988, learned of Al-Kassar and began an investigation of his drugs- and arms-smuggling and terrorist support activities. The McKee team also realized that some CIA unit, probably CIA-1, was protecting his drug smuggling routes into the United States via Frankfurt airport, according to the congressional documents.

McKee also learned of the agreement between Al-Kassar and the CIA, whereby Kassar's drug smuggling operation would be protected by the CIA in exchange for assistance in aiding hostages held overseas, and that it was known and agreed to by Syrian intelligence. McKee and his team reported back to CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia with information regarding their investigation including the facts and names, and reported to their superiors in Langley that they had film of the hostage locations. The CIA did not reply. The McKee team, believing they had been left out in the cold by their command at Langley, were outraged, and realized their lives were in danger without

support of CIA headquarters.

By mid-December, just days before the crash in Scotland, angry and frustrated, the team made plans to return to the United States with their evidence of duplicity and cover-up on the part of the CIA, Syrian, German and other intelligence forces in Europe. Quoting from the report released by Congressman Traficant, "Their plan was to bring the evidence back to the United States to inform the government, and to publicize their findings if the government covered it up." They did not announce their return, but they were under surveillance by Syrian agents working for Al-Kassar when they made their travel arrangements, which included a connecting flight with PanAm Flight 103 in London.

Originally, the bombing was to be a terrorist attack on American Airlines. Jabril who knew that Al-Kassar was operating a drug smuggling operation through PanAm Airlines, and that it was protected by the CIA, chose not to disrupt it, and instead chose American Airlines as his target.

It was at this time that warnings arose about a possible bombing which would occur onboard a U.S. air carrier. The West German Police (BKA) learned of the bombing attempt and informed CIA-1 of the impending attack. The CIA requested assistance from BKA to tighten security at all of the airlines except PanAm, ostensibly to funnel the attack toward PanAm where they already had surveillance in place to monitor the attack.

Events came quickly to a head two to three days prior to December 21, with BKA informing CIA-1 that in fact the planned attack had been switched from American to PanAm

...Al-Kassar had notified his CIA handlers that the McKee team was about to blow the whistle on the drugs for hostage arrangement...

when Jabril noticed a tightening of security at the other airlines, while simultaneously Al-Kassar had notified his CIA handlers that the McKee team was about to blow the whistle on the drugs for hostage arrangement. CIA-1 wanted to warn its people about the impending

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According to the report, at least five and possibly eight CIA agents — the McKee team — lost their lives in the sky over Lockerbie.

...CIA "Control", replied back: "don't worry about it, don't stop it. Let it go..."

erbie when the bomb in the brown Samsonite suitcase exploded. What is unclear is whether the bombing was allowed to protect the Al-Kassar drug pipeline, or to protect the political reputations of those in the United States who benefited from the arrangement the CIA had with Al-Kassar. What is also unclear is whether the film and documents which the

McKee team hoped to make public were ever found amongst the rubble on the ground in Lockerbie.

Note: On November 3, 1989 a court order was issued in an attempt to obtain the release of findings regarding CIA involvement in the crash of PanAm Flight 103.

Palme murder investigation weaves a tangled web

THE MURDER OF Swedish premier Olof Palme on February 28, 1986, was a trauma for a nation whose people believed themselves safe from the political violence afflicting other countries. The mystery that continues to shroud the assassination and the scandals that have developed around the investigation have added to a series of scandals in recent years that have been shaking the credibility of the state administration.

This has a particular political importance in Sweden, a country that never experienced a democratic revolution. The policy of the state was liberalized under the pressure of the mass movement and international events, but fundamentally the administration has retained considerable arbitrary power.

All these contradictions are now coming to a head with the start, on May 30, of the trial of a suspect that most Swedes find it hard to believe could be guilty.

MICHAEL JENSEN

WHEN OLOF PALME was murdered in 1986, the police response was the greatest non-investigation in the country's history. It started with the failure to block roads inside and outside the city, to put a guard on the airports, docks and railroad stations and to issue a national alarm immediately, despite the fact that the identity of the victim became known minutes after the murder. In fact, in general nothing was done on the national level in the first hours after the murder.

It is possible that police were not authorized to take such drastic measures, but this gave an unfortunate impression of indifference. Many people certainly expected that vigorous measures would be taken, if for nothing else than to demonstrate the nation's anger and the effectiveness of the police force. But the police took no immediate steps other than those that would be carried out for an "ordinary" murder.

Others, outside the police forces, did take drastic measures. That is evident from the fact that the top military command met on the night of the murder to assess whether there was a military threat.

After this unimpressive beginning, it seems odd that it was a bureaucrat, the county police chief in Stockholm, Hans Holmér, a jurist without police training, who took operational charge of the murder investigation. His activity has been

described in a white paper prepared by journalists at the weekly *Proletären* entitled "The murder of Olof Palme and the police trail."

Holmér disregarded the national police chief, the national police command, the assassination commission and all the professional police authorities on murder cases. He assigned the best qualified murder investigators that could be brought into the case to sorting out tip offs that he later assessed personally.

Repression against Kurdish community

Hans Holmér has good connections at the top, and he got a representative of the government in his investigation group, a person who was subsequently described as a passive observer but who helped to give the impression that Holmér had the government's consent for everything he did. It was important for the government to maintain that the contact man was an observer, since direct control would conflict with Swedish basic law.

However, all this was discussed only a long time afterward. In the first period, everyone believed that the murderer would quickly be caught. And Hans Holmér, who had already started out on what would be the main trail for him, lost no time. Two

weeks after the murder, a Kurdish bookshop/café in Stockholm was raided, and ten people were arrested simply for being on the premises.

When the prosecutors later started to question the legality of Hans Holmér's methods, his close contacts with the government were a factor that delayed his removal as the head of the investigation. Instead, one after the other, the prosecutors went off the case, because Holmér was clearly disregarding democratic rights and liberties. In several instances, a legal authority, the Swedish justice ombudsman, has established that Holmér broke the law. He is now being prosecuted for certain such violations, and further prosecutions are possible.

Evidence pointing to police involvement

While the campaign against the Kurds was going on, on March 13, 1986, a man with right-wing sympathies and a certain connection to the reactionary European Workers Party was arrested. The evidence was so weak that the prosecutor released him on March 19. Then, harassment of the Kurds in Sweden got underway in earnest. If this witch-hunt had led to the expulsion of some Kurds, the chief of the investigation could have said "We know who murdered Olof Palme. There was not enough evidence to convict him, but it was more than enough to deport him." Then later, Holmér might have been able to say, "he died in a Turkish prison." Instead, the witch-hunt against the Kurds led to Holmér's downfall. The attack was too crude, and no evidence was ever offered.

There is a long series of circumstances that point to the involvement of policemen. One of them is the absolutely unbelievable disregard of witnesses who offered unwelcome testimonies (that is, those who did not point out Kurds). The following are the salient points in the "police trail."

There are accounts by at least 20 witnesses about a man present at the time and place of the murder. All of these accounts cited a tall, often blond, man and, in at least eight accounts, he was supposed to have had a walkie-talkie (or other radio communications equipment). These are witnesses that were found by journalists without help from the police. The real number could be much larger. There is no such testimony about Kurds or even people of a foreign appearance.

One witness, called "Lars" in the mass media, followed the murderer and encoun-

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near

tered a police car that slowly passed him, and somewhat later turned back. "Lars" asked the commanding officer in the car, "are you chasing the one who fired in Sveaväg?" "Yes," the police answered. But this conversation took place five minutes before the alarm went out, if we are to believe the commissioner who arrived first at the scene of the murder and left a minute after the alarm was given, at 11:30pm. The alarm is supposed to have been sent out at 11:29pm, but policemén had turned up already at 11:23 and said that they were after the murderer, and no-one in the leadership of the investigation thought it worthwhile to look into this any further.

Other witnesses say that they can identify a certain policeman who was at the site of the murder but who claims to have been at home. One witness reported about a tall blond man, but got the answer "No tall blond men are in question" from a policeman. Another witness says that he saw a certain policeman get in a bus five minutes after the murder. He had difficulty making his deposition and was finally threatened by a policeman... "If you go on like this, you are going to be prosecuted." The bus driver gave a similar testimony, and was subjected to aggressive treatment by the police. Another witnesses had to wait for up to a year before they could give testimony that seems quite central. Some were not heard at all.

The investigation has not systematically studied the police trail. Moreover, since the leadership of the investigation was never ready to consider such a hypothesis, the data is lacking for such a study. The police car mentioned above that appeared on the fleeing murderer's path does not appear in the police force's own reconstruction of the events.

Links between police and extreme right

A large number of the policemen on duty on the night of the murder belonged to the notorious group in the Stockholm police, the so-called Baseball League, who appear in civilian clothes, often sports outfits, from which they got their name. The group was set up to deal with street violence, but with hundreds of complaints about its involvement in violence it quickly came to be seen itself as a threat in the street scene, even by the police. Although the group was formally dissolved, it seems to have persisted as a tightly knit social group.

A part of this group have outspoken fascist sympathies, and even before the murder the Stockholm police were obliged to investigate the existence of right-extremist groups in the force. Among other things, a South African police magazine published a statement by a visiting Swedish policeman who expressed his approval of the South African police riot gear intended for use against the Black majority.

Hans Holmér left the leadership of the

investigation on March 5, 1987, after a flood of criticism from the prosecutors for his illegal actions, especially against the Kurds in Sweden. In a certain sense, it can be said that the legal system functioned, but that goes only for the part that the prosecutors are directly responsible for. It does not apply, for example, to the assessment of tip offs, which really determines who comes under suspicion.

The new leadership of the investigation, made up of three prosecutors, in fact adopted the old starting point, which excludes the police from suspicion. The commission's spokesperson, Jörgen Almbiad, has moreover made statements several times in the media that seemed to clear the police of suspicion, but which have later proved to be incorrect.

At the end of 1988, a 41-year-old man was arrested for the murder. His trial is to begin at the end of May, and is expected to last for a month. He is an alcoholic and a drug addict, and has been portrayed by the investigating commission as a crazy loner, the perfect solution for the Palme assassination.

Mass media kept silent about "police trail"

But it is hard to believe that the perpetrator of this murder was a man previously arrested and convicted for 63 crimes, including an unsuccessful attempt to steal a pack of sausages worth 11 kronar [a little more than \$2, a pathetic sum in view of high Swedish prices]. His latest brush with the law was over urinating against a shop window in central Stockholm.

All the serious crimes he has committed have been related to outbursts of rage, and he has been arrested in connection with every case. He is hardly the sort of man to manipulate shells so that the shooting would make less noise, as is believed to have been done in the case of the Palme murder, and to have eluded the police for three years.

The evidence has remained weak, and the mass media give the impression that people are being prepared for an acquittal. A well-known lawyer made statements several times in the media that there is not sufficient evidence for a conviction, that the suspect should never have been prosecuted, and so on. And the evening paper *Aftonbladet* did a poll showing that less than 20% of the population believe that he is guilty.

With the exception of some articles in the social-democratic magazine *Arbetet*, which is published in Malmö [a port city just across the strait from Copenhagen] and not read in Stockholm, the mass media have kept silent about the police trail. The contributions that have come forward have focused on details, often odd ones, making it totally impossible for the general public to comprehend what is involved.

The biggest daily, the liberal *Dagens Nyheter*, has offered mainly disinforma-

tion. From the outset, it had regular meetings with Holmér. After the anti-climax represented by Holmér's departure, the paper has continued to back the new leadership of the investigation, and in the recent trial against *Proletären* [for libeling police officers] it came to light that the information in an interview in *Dagens Nyheter* that seemed to exonerate the police was probably fabricated by the staff.

One scandal leads to another

In every case, it was denied by the spokesperson for the new leadership of the investigation when he was called on to testify under oath about his interview. Another alternative is that the new spokesperson, Jörgen Almbiad, was a bit careless with the truth. He has been caught out on previous occasions.

It is often crime reporters who have covered the murder of Olof Palme, and their jobs depend on cooperation from the police. When, in addition, the official leadership of the investigation refused to discuss the slightest suggestion that police might be involved, they did not have any nerve to raise the question.

In the spring of 1988, the police arrested a policeman at a Swedish customs post with a banned listening device. He turned out to be a private bodyguard for publishing company director Ebbe Carlsson, former press secretary of a previous social democrat minister of justice. The mystery of a private individual who got a bodyguard from the police and proved to have a letter of recommendation from the minister of justice led finally to the resignation of the minister, along with others. Ebbe Carlsson's trail proved to be a variation of the Kurdish hypothesis, this time even more clearly backed by government representatives.

So, one scandal opened up another, but while they have been peeling away like an onion, we are not getting closer to the truth. Rather, the path to the murderer is being blocked by one scandal after another, which all have to be investigated both by the prosecutors and the parliament's constitutional committee.

Now, all sections of the bourgeoisie and the top echelons of the social democracy are clearly hoping that the murderer will not be found, or at least not turn out to be a policeman. The police and judiciary have so committed themselves to defending their own people that a non-partisan investigation would find the entire legal system a solid brick wall.

There is no freedom of speech when it comes to the murder of Olof Palme. A witness reported seeing a policeman just before the murder. Neither the police nor the mass media reacted. Then, the witness wrote a book, naming the policeman, and three left-wing papers published the information — the Workers' Communist Party paper *Norrskensflamman*; the Communist



Olof Palme (DR)

League-Marxist Leninist paper *Proletären*; and *Internationalen*, the paper of the Socialist Party, Swedish section of the Fourth International. The witness was sued by the two policemen, along with *Norrskensflamman*. Then, the chancellor for justice initiated a case against the other two papers for aggravated libel, taking over individual suits against them by the policemen.

The case against *Proletären* has just concluded, and the others will soon be heard. In the *Proletären* case, where the defendants were allowed to call witnesses under oath, several points were revealed that cast even more suspicion on the police. In connection with these prosecutions, a campaign for press freedom is being conducted in Sweden, along with collections for the papers under attack.

Olof Palme's murder has given rise to conflicts on a scale never seen before in Sweden. A significant minority of independent journalists and others are convinced that the judicial system is covering up for the murderer, while the mass media are keeping a tight lid on it all. And the state prosecutors have the support of less than 20% of the population in believing that the person who is to be tried for the murder is guilty.

In the coming weeks, the trials will be held against the left papers *Internationalen* and *Norrskensflamman*, as well as against the suspect. The authorities will do everything to cover up the facts concerning the police trail, and if the judgments are handed down in July at a time when the workers are on vacation, that may make it more difficult to mobilize people in defence of the right of free speech.

At the same time, pressure is growing for consideration of the police trail. In the summer, a report is expected from an independent committee headed by journalist Herbert Söderström, who has investigated a long series of circumstances and observations since the time of the murder. ★

State sues Socialist Party paper

THE NEWSPAPER of the Swedish section of the Fourth International, *Internationalen*, has come under attack from the state for what it has written about the investigation of the Palme assassination. As we go to press, it is about to be taken to court on charges of aggravated libel of policemen.

The following interview about this case was given to Gerry Foley in Stockholm May 12 by Gunnar Wall, a member of the staff of *Internationalen*.

WHAT IS the charge against *Internationalen*?
Internationalen is being sued by the chancellor of justice, who is the highest state prosecutor in cases relating to the freedom of speech. He is accusing *Internationalen* of the graver variety of libel, which is called aggravated libel. This means that the publisher responsible for the paper could be sent to jail if we are convicted.

That has not happened in Sweden in a number of years, and it is rather unlikely. But in the related libel cases against two other left-wing papers, the prosecutor has argued that the publishers should be sent to jail.

■ For how long?

He never specified. The maximum is two years. No-one has been sentenced on such charges in Sweden for 25 years. In the 1970s, two journalists were sent to jail because they had exposed an illegal intelligence operation. Then, the publisher of the paper was not taken to court. Instead they sued the two journalists, who got sentenced

of a year. In fact, our publisher is facing the threat of a jail sentence because of what *Internationalen* has written.

■ Is the real threat jail or high fines?

There is also a danger of fines. Fines will not be any substantial amount [in the chancellor for justice's suit]. The more serious problem is that the four cops that have sued us are asking for compensation [and whose suits have been taken under the chancellor's case]. Together, they are asking for 400,000 crowns [about \$80,000]. *Internationalen* also faces the threat of having to pay the cops' court costs.

There is not a big risk of any jail sentence, or that we will have to pay the full amount that the cops have asked, because they have asked for a much higher amount of money than is ever paid out in libel cases. By way of example, the weekly newspaper of the KPML-r, *Proletären*, got its sentence yesterday. The cops asked them for a million and a half crowns. They got 165,000.

One of the articles in *Proletären* was declared aggravated libel. Some others were ruled libel, and more than half were exonerated. So, even if our two articles are ruled to be aggravated libel, such a sum is absolutely unrealistic. But still there is a threat, because even if we had to pay a smaller amount of money, that would effect our possibilities to publish a paper of the quality that we have now.

■ What exactly did you publish that is supposed to amount to aggravated libel?

We are supposed to have described four cops as accomplices in the Palme murder. We have written a number of articles on the Palme case, and two of these articles (in issue 49, 1987 and issue 2, 1988) have been sued. We have asked a number of questions about the authorities' investigation of the Palme case.

There are a number of things that seem more and more scandalous. One of these is the possible implication of members of the Stockholm police force in the murder, or in a cover-up, or helping the murderer get away. A number of witnesses' stories point to the possibility of some sort of police involvement.

All this has to be seen in relation to the background of the case — the scapegoating of a Kurdish organization and other scandalous things which give the impression that the authorities are not really interested in getting the true facts about what happened.

■ So you wrote about the bizarre aspects of the assassination and the investigation, not that these four cops were implicated?

Yes. Then the question about the cops began to come up during 1987, when more and more people were starting to have serious doubts about what was really going on in the investigation. That was after the res-

ignation of Holmér, who was the chief of the investigation for the first year. He was the highest bureaucrat in the police in Stockholm at the time of the murder, and he took personal charge of the investigation. That was a rather an odd thing to do for a person who is not a professional investigator. He has a background as a chief of the security police and as an attorney.

Holmér has never been a cop with investigative experience and so on. In Swedish law, it is the state attorneys who should lead major investigations, and the police should be their helpers, so to speak. But in fact, Holmér succeeded in taking the leadership over the heads of the attorneys. He handled the investigation totally for a whole year, and devoted most of the police forces to an effort to pin the murder on the Kurdish organization, the PKK.

This whole case went to pieces after a big raid in January 1987. After that, it was obvious that he had no evidence. It had only been a lot of very loose speculation. So, he had to resign, and from then on a lot of newspapers started to be critical of the whole investigation. A lot of indices that pointed to something being wrong were raised in the newspapers and on the radio. So, over 1987, more and more papers started to write about things happening in the investigation and also about witnesses who had seen cops doing things that did not look right.

One of the witnesses wrote a book which came out at the end of 1987. And when it became known what he was writing, and that he was publishing the names of two of cops (who were later to sue us), the attorneys for the cops talked about trying to get the book withdrawn. His name was Lars Krantz. He was a TV producer, and he had been a witness to an episode during the night of the murder. Also some pictures of the cops were published in two other left-wing papers.

At *Internationalen*, we came to the conclusion that there was going to be an attempt to gag the press, and so we also published basic facts about what was called the "police trail." That was to help to make it impossible for the authorities to suppress information about this. We did not know if we would be sued, but we formulated the things we wrote in a very exact way, and we were careful not to say that these cops were involved or anything like that.

We only pointed to a number of facts, and the lack of investigation of these facts. And that was in the first article that was sued later. The other article, ironically, was part of an interview with a member of parliament. In December 1987, after we had published the first article, a statement was published by a parliamentary commission charged with investigating the authorities' handling of the Palme case, the Eden Man Commission.

22 The Commission submitted a substantial report at the end of spring 1988. But

already, in December 1987, it issued a smaller statement concerning the police hypothesis. They said that they had looked into that, and they had found no reason to believe that any policemen should be treated as suspects.

On the other hand, they said that they had no basis for excluding the police or anyone else who could be involved. But our hypothesis was that this statement from the commission was a political attempt to counter the debate in the press about the police hypothesis.

So, we interviewed one of the members of the commission, a member of the Swedish Communist Party, the VPK, Göran Svensson. He is no longer in parliament. He is a rather famous CP theoretician, and he had also signed this statement.

The interview was rather long, and we published it in two parts. We asked him why the Commission came to the conclusion that it did. In the interview, he gave more detailed arguments than any other paper has published. But still, ironically, this article was sued because we had mentioned the names of the policemen in it. That is the basis of the suit, so to speak.

■ **But now you consider that this is a question of freedom of the press. You are running a defence campaign that is not purely a legal one. What kind of support have you had?**

Ourselves and the other two papers who have been sued agreed on a statement, and we asked people to sign it. We have got signatures from 500 well-known people — for example, the chief editor of the social democratic daily *Arbetet* in Malmö, Lars Enquist, the very famous Swedish actor and director, Hans Alfredsson, and a number of authors, such as Werner Aspenström.

■ **What about support from journalists' organizations?**

Not from the central journalists' union. But we have been supported by the former editor of *Dagens Nyheter*, Olof Lagercranz, who is also a well-known author and has a very high standing.

■ **He is the one who wrote an acclaimed biography of Strindberg?**

Yes. And a number of other journalists signed. But most of them were not journalists in the daily press. I think this may be because most of the big media have been cautious on this for a number of reasons, and it is not easy for journalists to sign. So, most of the people who have signed are so-called free professionals, like artists, authors, actors and so on.

But also we have statements from the journalists' clubs on a number of papers, and from the executive board of one of the two big unions on the Swedish radio corporation, the SIF, which represents part of the journalists and all of the technical

staff. It organizes white-collar workers in industry, everyone from typists to the bosses. Many of the TV journalists, on the other hand, are in the journalists' union.

■ **Do you link the three cases?**

The statement is a common one on the basis of defending freedom of speech and of the press. We thought that, even if we have differences with the other papers, the basis of the attacks was the same. It was an attempt to stop a free debate about this issue. We have no reason to dissociate ourselves from the other papers, even if we say that we wouldn't have handled the story the way they did.

■ **But your legal case is different?**

Yes. There are three trials, and not one. We don't have any responsibility for the others.

■ **They did different things? They accused specific policemen of being implicated?**

Norrskensflamman's case is rather similar to ours. *Proletären*, on the other hand, had a much more aggressive campaign, including describing the four cops as suspects — not as accomplices, but as suspects. They also had their pictures on the front page week after week. And they distributed hundreds of thousands of copies of a leaflet with the names and pictures of the policemen. They ran a headline on the front page of their magazine saying "Sue us or indict us if we are guilty, or if we are wrong." They were more or less asking for a suit against them, and to achieve that, they were openly provocative.

There were both good and bad sides to doing that. On the one hand, they succeeded in getting a lot of publicity; on the other, they took bigger risks. I am not necessarily saying that what they did was wrong. But we only take responsibility for the things that we have done.

It was only us and *Proletären* who were sued by the chancellor of justice. *Norrskensflamman* was sued by the cops as individuals. The chancellor for justice's position in our case and that of *Proletären* was that we should not be allowed to call any witnesses. He argued that we should not be allowed to demonstrate that the things that we were writing were true, because it was illegal from the start to say things like that, since an investigation of the crime was going on. He was defeated in the *Proletären* case, because they were permitted to call a number of witnesses, including Holmér himself.

■ **Does that mean that you will also be able to call witnesses?**

Well, we have not yet come to the point where that will be decided. The *Proletären* case was heard in Göteborg, and we are in Stockholm. We have indications that in Stockholm the court is more severe. They will allow us to have witnesses, but they may be more restrictive about it. ★