

that it was "obvious that the Baltic Sea must form part of such a zone."¹¹ The Soviet reaction to such suggestions was swift, clear, and unequivocal. Writing in a Finnish journal, the Soviet "commentator" Yuri Komissarov (widely believed to be a pseudonym for the views of the Soviet leadership) declared the unacceptability of any extension of the zone "beyond the territories of the participating states, [or] into air space or territorial waters which are open to general use in accordance with international law." More specifically, ". . . the Soviet Union is a nuclear power and therefore neither can its territory nor any part thereof be included in a nuclear-weapon-free zone or in a so-called "security belt" adjacent to the nuclear-weapon-free zone; nor can the stipulations of the nuclear-weapon-free zone be an obstacle to navigation by Soviet naval vessels in the straits of the Baltic Sea, regardless of the type of weapons they carry."¹²

A "breakthrough" of sorts for the zone concept came with a revival of interest in the idea in official circles in Norway, in the wake of NATO's 1979 "two-track" decision on modernizing its theatre nuclear forces. A November 1980 pledge by Foreign Minister Knut Frydenlund that Norway would "increase its involvement in favor of such arrangements"¹³ prompted British and American requests for clarification of the Government's position. Prime Minister Odvar Nordli replied that any Nordic NWFZ "would have to be part of a broader European arrangement."¹⁴ Similarly, when Labour leader Gro Harlem Brundtland took over as Prime Minister in February 1981, she explicitly disavowed any "isolated Nordic arrangement."¹⁵

11. Hans Blix, "Stability and security in the Nordic area," *Yearbook of Finnish Foreign Policy* 1978, p. 39.

12. Yuri Komissarov, "The future of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Northern Europe," *Yearbook of Finnish Foreign Policy* 1978, p. 30.

13. "Storting Debates Foreign Policy," *News of Norway*, Norwegian Information Service, New York 38:1, 23 January 1981, p. 3.

14. John Vinocur, "Norway's Plan for Nuclear-Free Zone Worries Allies," *NYT*, 15 February 1981, p. 3.

15. "Prime Minister on Disarmament," *News of Norway* 38:4, 27 March 1981, p. 20.