

"Dove of Peace" assassinated

By MELYNDA JARRATT
Brunswickan Staff

Called a "dove of peace" and a "true democrat", Olof Palme, the Social Democratic Prime Minister of Sweden, was shot and killed last Friday night. He and his wife were walking unguarded down a snow-dusted street in the heart of Stockholm while on their way home from a movie. The death of Palme, who was shot in the back by an assassin, shocked the world as news of his murder spread quickly throughout news centres late last Friday.

The question people are asking is: Why? Why would anyone want to kill a true Social Democrat and a man of peace? A man whose personal motivations guided him more than once during his leadership of Sweden's Social Democratic Party to take a stand on international issues ranging from the Vietnam War to world hunger and disarmament? Why would anyone or any group for that matter want to eliminate a man who has stood like a shining beacon in the sea of international affairs? That is the question which has plagued Sweden and the world community as it mourns yet another death of an outstanding and most unlikely target for assassination.

In a year which has seen the end of two of the world's most hated and dictatorial regimes, one in Haiti with the ousting of Jean-Claude Duvalier and the other in the Philippines with the speedy departure of Ferdinand Marcos to a safe haven in the United States, the murder of Olof Palme on the relatively safe streets of Stockholm presents a ironical and unfortunate situation. Palme was a man of peace, a person whose own principles led him to take a stand on issues which even the most democratic of governments either chose to ignore or to tolerate. It was these fundamental guiding principles which saw him walk in a protest march against the Vietnam War and which had him say in 1983, "Every minute, more than 1.3 million dollars is channeled to military purposes and during that minute 30 children in poor countries die of malnutrition and starvation."

In a country which has prided itself on its openness and in which politicians could literally walk down city streets amongst thousands of people unimpeded, Sweden has now experience a moment in time which shall forever change its open attitude. She has now joined the ranks of countries like the United States, Egypt,

India, and West Germany, where political murders run rampant and isolationism is the key word when it comes to the availability and accessibility of their most important leaders.

The first time Sweden experienced an assassination of this nature was during the time of George Washington when her reigning monarch was murdered by an assassin at a masked ball. As events unfold this week, suspicion naturally falls upon outside terrorists. In the last 8 days the Stockholm police have been examining the two bullets which were recovered by private citizens after police had combed the area where Palme fell. Swedes are speculating that the guilt for Palme's death lays in one of two leftist groups of German origin. Altogether, there have been three calls to foreign news agencies in Europe claiming responsibility for the murder. Two came for the Holger-Meins Commando group - an off-shoot of the Red Army Faction, formerly known as the Baader-Meinhoff Gang. The other came from the Red Army Faction itself. On Monday, March 3, Swedish police said that a news agency in London received a call from a person purported to represent the Holger-Meins Commando group, claiming responsibility for the shooting. The Holger-Meins group was at the centre of an occupation of the West German Embassy in Stockholm in 1975, which resulted in the death of one of its members. The gang's members and supporters blamed Palme's government for the death.

Regardless of who is responsible, the Swedish police are encountering mounting difficulties and public criticism as the date of the assassination draws further away. Border checks at airports and on land have brought little if any clues as to who the murderer or murderers are and as time passes the chances of finding the culprit(s) lessen. Police have few clues and admitted this week that they are at virtually the same spot in regards to solving the crime as they were last Friday night when the murder occurred.

Palme's wife and a storeowner who works beneath their apartment in the Old Town section of Stockholm have said that they noticed a suspicious-looking character hanging around the outside of the Palmes' apartment last Friday. But in an area of town that is much frequented by tourists, the possibility that this "character" may be the assassin is unlikely. As well, the bullets which pierced

Palme's back and grazed his wife - leaving her slightly wounded - are of an extremely rare type, adding further difficulties to the solving of this heinous crime.

Further investigation has fuelled speculation that the killer or killers may have stalked Palme all day, following him even into the subway car, called a T-bane, as he and his wife took an unexpected trip to the movies in the newer section of town. Police have asked the public to come forth if they have any clues to the murder, or if anyone noticed a suspicious person riding on the T-bane with the Palmes that Friday night.

News reports last week-end led credence to the possibility that the murder may have been the work of a lone psychopath, whose only motive may have been a dislike of Palme's Socialist leaning

government, but perhaps that is just Sweden's way of coming to grips with the situation. They refuse to believe that any organized group may have been responsible because of Palme's political colouring. He was a man of peace, they say, so why would anyone want to kill him or have a reason to?

One week later an answer to that question has still not been found. The spot where Palme was killed has become a shrine as Swedes from all over the country flock to the barricaded street corner where Palme was gunned down. Passers-by threw woolen scarves, hats, and gloves on the pavement and the large crimson coloured patch of Palme's blood was nearly covered with a carpet of flowers. They stand there and weep...and they wonder if a way of life in Sweden may have changed forever. The irony of his death has

frustrated not only the ordinary Swede who in this dark Scandinavian winter may think twice about taking a stroll along Stockholm's ancient, and cobblestoned streets, but of Palme's peers and fellow politicians as well. This instant of violence may have changed Sweden forever and it makes them ask if a way of life in their open society is now over? Desperately wanting to avoid becoming like West Germany where politicians barricade themselves behind barb-wire fortresses, the change has already taken place. Ingvar Carlsson, the new Prime-Minister has declared that he will accept bodyguards until the murder has been solved.

It is clear through the grief of the Swedish people that their dove of peace will not easily be replaced but as Carlsson said this week Olof Palme's work will not disappear with Olof Palme."

IBM manager to give lecture

Carl Ledbetter, one of the top managers for IBM Corporation, will deliver the 1986 Dineen Memorial Lectures at the University of New Brunswick.

Dr. Ledbetter's lecture, entitled, "Think Fast: Computing in the 21st Century," is aimed at a general audience. It will be given on both campuses of the university.

The Fredericton Dineen Lecture will be held March 11, at 8 pm in the Dineen Auditorium, Head Hall.

On the afternoon of March 11, Dr. Ledbetter will deliver a technical lecture on "Future Trends in Large Scale Scientific Computing." It is scheduled for 2:30 in Dineen Auditorium.

All lectures are open to the university community and the general public.

Dr. Ledbetter received his bachelor of science degree, *magna cum laude* in mathematics from the University of Redlands in California;

his MA in mathematics from Brandeis University in Massachusetts; and his PhD in mathematics from Clark University.

After several years in academic positions, he moved to IBM Corp. in 1981. He is now manager of scientific/engineering product strategy and planning in the data systems division.

Dr. Ledbetter is active in a number of profession organizations: the American Mathematical Society, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the Operations Research Society of America, the Institute of Management Sciences and the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications.

He has received several academic and professional awards, including IBM awards for excellence.

The Dineen lecture series, which began in 1980, honors the former engineering professor and UNB president, James O. Dineen. It is sponsored by the University, the faculty of engineering and the Associated Alumni of UNB.

Engineering exhibits

On Saturday, March 8 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, (in Fredericton) the public is invited to view the exhibits produced by Engineering students from the Atlantic region on solutions to current industrial engineering problems. The

display is part of the Atlantic Engineering Design Competition '86, hosted by the University of New Brunswick's Engineering Undergraduate Society. Winners will advance to the National competition at McGill University in Montreal in April.

chsr fm

Continued from p. 2

to 3,000 dollars.

According to Varty, all money donated to the station will be put to good use. Some of the equipment is getting worn out; as a matter of fact, some of that equipment is over twenty years old. The money could also be used to import programs on music,

science, literature, or politics or perhaps to hire an unemployed person from the community.

The station is broadcasting live today from 11:00 AM to 5:00PM from King's Place. It is a chance for the public to meet some of the people who work at the station.

After today's King Street broadcast, the station will host a night of music at the Student Union Building with Deja Voodoo from Montreal, the Guilt Parade, and the Laughing Gaddafis from Fredericton.

Tomorrow will be CHSR-FM's first annual bottle drive, from 10:00AM to 6:00PM. It will cover the area bounded by George Street, University Avenue, King's College Road, and Smythe Street. Bottles will be picked up at doors or the curbside.

All week, the station has been giving away records, posters, theatre tickets, and pop that has been donated. The purpose of the give away is to recruit listeners and familiarize people with the pledge line.