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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 MSC-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 TRSE-00
PM-10 PA-02 OMB-01 INRE-00 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02
SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 DS-01 DSE-00 P-02 T-01
/058 W

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P 010742Z JUL 88
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1354
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Theodore Sellin, Senior
Reviewer**

RELEASE IN FULL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STOCKHOLM 04949

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, MARR, UR, SW, PINR, PREL, PROP
SUBJECT: ANONYMOUS SOVIET OFFICAL "ADMITS" SOVIET SUBS
HAVE VIOLATED SWEDISH WATERS

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS, AN ANONYMOUS SOVIET GOVERNMENT OFFICAL ADMITTED TO A SWEDISH REPORTER THAT THE SOVIET UNION SENT SUBMARINES INTO SWEDISH WATERS IN PREPARATION FOR A POSSIBLE ARMED EAST-WEST CONFLICT. ACCORDING TO THE UNNAMED OFFICIAL, ANOTHER REASON FOR THE ALLEGED SOVIET INTRUSIONS WAS THAT THE USSR LACKED FAITH IN SWEDISH NEUTRALITY, ESPECIALLY AFTER SECRETARY WEINBERGER WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT SECRET SWEDISH DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS. THE SOVIET OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, SAID THAT NO SOVIET SUBMARINES HAVE BEEN IN SWEDISH WATERS SINCE 1985. THE SWEDISH MFA HAS REACTED CAUTIOUSLY TO THE PRESS REPORTS, WHILE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS SAID THEY WERE NOT SURPRISED.
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THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO DENY CATEGORICALLY THAT ANY SOVIET SUBMARINES EVER INTENTIONALLY VIOLATED SWEDISH WATERS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DAILY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC EVENING TABLOID "AFTONBLADET" (AB) REPORTED JUNE 29 THAT AN UNNAMED SOVIET GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL REVEALED TO AB'S REPORTER BJORN LOFSTROM IN MOSCOW ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION SENT SUBMARINES TN EXPLORE SWEDISH COASTS. (FYI: A SIMILAR STORY APPEARED ON THE FRONT

PAGE OF THE MAJOR CONSERVATIVE DAILY "SVENSKA DAGBLADET" ON JUNE 30. END FYI). THE SOVIET OFFICIAL ALLEGEDLY

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TOLD AB THAT THE SOVIET MILITARY PROBABLY HAD A NEED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SWEDISH WATERS IN CASE OF AN EAST-WEST CONFLICT. THEY HAD TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY COULD HIDE FROM THE SWEDISH NAVY. THE IMPORTANT THING FOR THE SOVIET MILITARY AND THEIR VIEWS ON GLOBAL STRATEGY IS TO HAVE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ALL POSSIBILITIES, THE OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY SAID. THE SOVIET MILITARY WAS NOT ALTOGETHER CERTAIN THAT SWEDEN COULD PROTECT ITS TERRITORY IN THE EVENT OF A MILITARY CONFLICT. VARIOUS FACTORS, ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET OFFICIAL, CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPRESSION THAT THE USSR COULD NOT RELY ON SWEDISH NEUTRALITY. FOR EXAMPLE, FORMER U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY WEINBERGER WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT SECRET SWEDISH DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS, THE SOVIET OFFICIAL SAID TO AB.

3. THE ANONYMOUS OFFICIAL WENT ON, AND STATED THAT PREVIOUS SOVIET ADMINISTRATIONS HAD MADE SEVERAL MISTAKES, FOR EXAMPLE THE DEPLOYMENT OF MEDIUM RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE, AND THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN. BUT THE SOVIET OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY SAID THAT NOW UNCLASSIFIED

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EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT AND HE COULD MORE OR LESS GUARANTEE THAT SOVIET SUBMARINES NO LONGER EXPLORE SWEDISH, FINNISH OR DANISH WATERS. "WE KNOW THAT THE SLIGHTEST MISTAKE, OR A NEW GROUNDING, WOULD START A CONFLICT WITH SWEDEN, AND NOT ONLY SWEDEN. THERE WOULD BE OUTCRIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT WOULD BE FATAL TO GORBACHEV'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT WE ARE NOT DANGEROUS. WE WOULD MAKE A ROD FOR OUR OWN BACK," THE SOVIET OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

4. RESPONDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS, ACTING FM PIERRE SCHORI SAID TO AB THAT HE HAS NEVER HEARD A SOVIET OFFICIAL SAY ANYTHING LIKE THIS, AND HE IS NOT WILLING TO INTERPRET WHAT IT MEANS AS LONG AS THE SOURCE REMAINS ANONYMOUS. SCHORI FURTHER SAID THAT THE USSR NEVER HAS OFFICIALLY QUESTIONED SWEDISH NEUTRALITY. THE REVELATIONS BY THE SOVIET OFFICIAL ARE CONTRARY TO EVERYTHING SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD SWEDEN BEFORE, SCHORI ADDED. SCHORI MADE A POINT OF NOTING THAT THE FORMER SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER, ANDREI GRESCHKOV, VISITED EXACTLY THE SAME SECRET DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AS WEINBERGER DID. EVEN THOUGH OTHER MFA SOURCES ALSO REFUSED TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS FROM STATEMENTS BY AN

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ANONYMOUS SOVIET OFFICIAL, THEY SPECULATED THAT "GLASNOST" MAY HAVE INFLUENCED THE OFFICIAL, WHO FELT SECURE IN OPENLY DISCUSSING WHAT HE THOUGHT HE KNEW.

5. ANOTHER THEORY AIRED BY THE MFA WAS THAT SOMEONE WITH GOOD INTENTIONS WAS TRYING TO SIGNAL THAT EVEN THOUGH THE SOVIETS HAD MADE MISTAKES EARLIER, THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP WOULD NOT BE SO FOOLISH. IF THIS IS TRUE, THE ANONYMOUS SOVIET OFFICIAL MUST HAVE HAD HIS "REVELATIONS" CLEARED IN ADVANCE. AN MFA SOURCE

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CONCLUDED BY SAYING: "NEVERTHELESS, AS A SWEDE, AND REGARDLESS OF THE BASIS FOR THE SOVIET STATEMENTS, ONE HAS TO NOTE THAT SOMETHING IS STILL GOING ON IN SWEDISH WATERS."

6. THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION PARTIES LOST NO TIME IN COMMENTING ON THE ALLEGATIONS. MODERATE PARTY LEADER

CARL BILDT SAID THE STATEMENT WAS INTENDED TO SUPPORT GORBACHEV. CENTER PARTY LEADER OLOF JOHANSSON WAS PLEASED THAT SWEDISH THEORIES NOW HAVE BEEN "CONFIRMED." LIBERAL PARTY LEADER BENGT WESTERBERG NOTED THAT THIS STATEMENT COMES AS NO SURPRISE, BUT HE ADDED THAT IF THE STATEMENT IS CONFIRMED IT IS "SENSATIONAL." SPOKESMEN FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY VPK
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EXPRESSED HOPES THAT THE NEW STATEMENT WOULD BE OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED.

7. THROWING COLD WATER ON THE MEDIA'S SPECULATIONS, HOWEVER, SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN BORIS PANKIN REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTED HIS PRESS SECRETARY ALEXANDER MICHALOV TO SAY TO THE SWEDISH PRESS: "WE CAN CATEGORICALLY, AND WITH GREAT CERTAINTY, SAY THAT THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY SOVIET SUBMARINES IN THE SWEDISH ARCHIPELAGO OR IN SWEDISH TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE VIOLATIONS." MICHALOV ADDED THAT NOBODY IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY KNEW THE SOURCE BEHIND AB'S ARTICLE.

8. SWEDISH MILITARY VOICES HAPPILY NOTED THAT THE VERSION PRESENTED BY THE ANONYMOUS SOVIET OFFICIAL COINCIDED EXACTLY WITH THEIR OWN THEORIES AND ANALYSIS. BUT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE INTRUSIONS HAVE STOPPED. AS LATE AS DECEMBER 1987, THE PRESS REPORTED, THE SUPREME COMMANDER MADE A NATIONALITY ANALYSIS OF 1987 VIOLATIONS WHICH CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE USSR WAS BEHIND RECENT INTRUSIONS. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, DID NOT FIND THE EVIDENCE STRONG ENOUGH AT THE TIME TO RESULT IN AN OFFICIAL PROTEST. NEWELL

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