



Baltiska Kommittén, Mr. Kosygins visit to Sweden

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MR KOSYGIN'S VISIT TO SWEDENProgramme of ActionI. The Political Background of Mr Kosygin's VisitKhrushchev 1964 - Kosygin 1966

On July 18, 1966, Mr Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, will arrive in Stockholm on an official visit. It is noteworthy that a Soviet Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Sweden only two years after Mr Khrushchev's visit in June 1964, which cost the Scandinavian countries some 10 million Swedish crowns - Sweden alone spent over 4 million crowns - and proved a complete failure. Mr Khrushchev himself was overthrown three and a half months after his Scandinavian tour, and the few humanitarian concessions to which he agreed, were cancelled. It is now a matter of history that Mr Khrushchev's behaviour here was not tactful, not to say ridiculous. His attempts to promote Moscow's Baltic policy, partly with flattery, partly with threats, found no response whatsoever. His attempts to justify the forcible occupation of the Baltic States and to whitewash the obtaining conditions there, met with an irritable and hostile reaction because Swedish public opinion is aware of the true state of things in the occupied Baltic States. As the Swedish authorities deemed it necessary to protect Mr Khrushchev's person with thousands of security police, Sweden was for the duration of his visit transformed into a police State, something which seemed to be both ominous and ridiculous to the Swedes. Quite apart from this Mr Khrushchev's personal behaviour was unbalanced and clownish.

The complete failure of Mr Khrushchev's Scandinavian trip gave rise to sharp criticism of his colleagues in the Kremlin and contributed to his fall. The failure was largely due to the critical and hostile attitude of the Swedish public and of the Swedish Press. These had been influenced, inter alia, by the efforts of the June Committee and its propaganda actions against the visit, which were noticed also in the foreign Press.

Moscow is now planning a completely different visit for Mr Kosygin, attempting to avoid the mistakes of his predecessor. Mr Kosygin will visit Sweden alone, which prevents counter-actions on a Scandinavian scale on the 1964 pattern. The programme of the visit is strictly confidential, also to prevent detailed plans for counter-demonstrations. His public appearances have been cut down to a minimum while confidential political discussions will predominate.

World-Political Background of the Visit

Kosygin's visit to Sweden will be taking place on the initiative of Moscow. The Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Erlander, was in 1965 invited to

Moscow which inevitably entailed an invitation for a return visit. Mr Kosygin's Swedish visit is part of the current Soviet policy in Europe. According to preliminary plans Mr Kosygin was to have visited Sweden on July 4. The date of his visit has now been postponed to July 18, the reason being important talks in the beginning of July, concerning the preparations for a world Communist congress and a more active Soviet policy in Vietnam. In the meantime Mr Kosygin has paid a visit to Egypt and will visit Finland next month; President de Gaulle will visit Moscow also in June. It is generally thought in East European capitals that the Soviets plan to call a major conference of their satellites after President de Gaulle's visit, in order to plan a joint diplomatic offensive against the USA and Western Europe. Obviously the Russians would like to use President de Gaulle's desire to banish Anglo-Saxon influence from the continent of Europe to achieve the old goals of Soviet policy: 1) a settlement in Central Europe leading to a neutralised, disarmed Germany, the Baltic and Scandinavia, and 2) the withdrawal of the USA from Europe.

Neutralist Pressure in the Baltic Area

After World War II Soviet foreign policy has persistently worked for the neutralisation of the Baltic area and for the transformation of the Baltic Sea into a Soviet "lake". In 1950 the Soviets proposed that the littoral States of the Baltic should close the Öre Sound and the Great and the Little Belt to all warships of countries not bordering the Baltic. In 1957 Mr Khrushchev suggested that the Baltic Sea should be "neutralised" which, according to Moscow, would entail Norway's and Denmark's withdrawal from NATO and the liquidation of West German naval and military bases in the area. Mr Ulbricht's slogan, "The Baltic - a Sea of Peace", serves the same purpose. Mr Kosygin's policy is the same, the only difference being that he is even more energetic. On July 24, 1964, he said in a speech at Paldiski, a Soviet naval base in occupied Estonia, "The Baltic has not yet - contrary to the will of the Baltic peoples - become a sea of peace. This sea has friendly coasts but it has also coasts housing NATO bases which are anything but friendly towards us." It is natural that Moscow is implementing its pressure for a neutralisation of the Baltic on its weakest spot - Sweden, because Finland has already succumbed to Soviet pressure on this point.

Generation of Hostility towards the USA and West Germany

Moscow's propaganda against US policy in Vietnam has been growing apace and will probably reach its peak during Mr Kosygin's visit to Sweden. Already in the middle of May Mr Kosygin in a speech compared US policy in Vietnam to Hitler's policy in Europe. "The crimes the Americans commit in Vietnam recall Hitler's frightful deeds when he oppressed towns, nations and peoples during World War II," he told students in Cairo.

There is no doubt that Mr Kosygin will exploit his Swedish visit for even more severe attacks on the USA, considering that the ground has been prepared politically for a long time. Moscow's and Peking's parallel subversive activities in Sweden, concentrating particularly on Vietnam propaganda, have been unusually active and have cost much money, employing all available Communist and semi-Communist organisations and fellow travellers. These Moscow tactics have been patently successful. The anti-US propaganda and hysteria in Sweden have grown from month to month and have resulted in the burning of US flag and anti-US rioting. Parallel with it, the anti-West German propaganda has been stepped up in the same manner, and has been equally successful.

II. Programme of the July Action

The so-called June Committee which directed and co-ordinated the information campaign and demonstrations during Mr Khrushchev's visit, is now doing the same for Mr Kosygin's visit. The campaign itself is known as the July Action and its purpose is to counter the above Soviet propaganda with objective and matter-of-fact information on each separate point. The June Committee is of the opinion that the best and most effective antidote to Soviet propaganda is factual information on Soviet dictatorship and on the colonialist oppression by the Soviet regime. This means, in other words, that we shall once again recall the crimes the Soviets have committed by annexing European countries like Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, by implementing Communism by force and betrayal in nominally independent States and by suppressing by force of arms liberation movements in Hungary and elsewhere. More than 100 million once free people in Europe have been enslaved by the Soviets during and after World War II. Lack of freedom in the Soviet Union itself, the latest proof of which are the shocking sentences passed on two Russian writers, is something which must also be emphasised. Religious persecution is still rife under the Soviets. Last but not least, it is important to draw public attention to the deliberate russification drive in the Baltic States and other non-Russian areas of the USSR, promoted, inter alia, by State- and party-sponsored influx of Russian settlers.

Nor should purely humanitarian questions be forgotten. We must recall that men and women in the Soviet Union are still being detained in concentration camps in the remote parts of Siberia and on the shores of the Arctic Ocean, that help from the free world - gift parcels containing clothes, food and medicines and dispatched to friend and relatives behind the Iron Curtain - is being hampered and cynically exploited through excessive import levies, and that strict censorship still prevents Western books from reaching readers behind the Curtain. A case in point are the agreements on cultural exchange which Moscow is trying to exploit politically to promote Communist interests.

The July Action of the June Committee will at the same time try to explain the true US aims in Asia and Europe. The June Committee is going to stress the following in its information campaign: the USA is fighting in Vietnam to save the Asiatic peoples from Communist tyranny. The free nations of Scandinavia and of Europe in general should support morally and materially these US endeavours to save freedom in Asia and to lay the foundations for a peaceful and democratic progress there, instead of vilifying the USA. The June Committee will also stress that without generous US aid Sweden and the other European States would not have been able to remain free and democratic States. Without US aid and without military co-operation between the USA and Europe, Sweden, the other Scandinavian States and most of Europe would have been Soviet satellites today.

Finally the June Committee attempts to correct the distorted picture of West Germany which is being promoted in Scandinavia by the Soviets. The slogan of the July action is: "Freedom by a Free Sea". In other words, the Committee is going to discuss the importance of the freedom of the Baltic, as contrasted to the Soviet attempts to close it to third nations to the advantage of Soviet tyranny.

The Organisation of the June Committee

The June Committee comprises the representatives of several Swedish organisations and of 22 exile organisations in Sweden. It co-operates closely with the Baltic Committee in Sweden which has kindly put its premises and office staff at its disposal. Local June Committees have been established in major Swedish provincial towns. This organisation, which came into being from Mr Khrushchev's visit, is now available for the July Action.

III. The Main Items of the Programme

Swedish-Language Booklet: Frihet vid fritt hav (Freedom by a Free Sea)

Its contents are planned as follows:

Appeal of the July Action, signed by all Swedish and exile member organisations

Birger Nerman: Soviet Baltic Policy and Sweden

Adelaida Lemberg: Soviet Russification Policy, Particularly in the Baltic States

Ture Nerman: Sentences Passed on the Two Soviet Writers

Rev. Martin Juhkam: Religious Persecution in the Soviet Union

Bertil Häggman: A Short Biography of Kosygin

Harri Kiisk: Deportations from the Baltic States in Soviet Documentation

An article on the 10th anniversary of the Hungarian Insurrection

Brief Statements by prominent Swedish authors and publicists.

The booklet is to be two printer's sheets and the planned edition is 10,000 copies.

Mass Meetings in Stockholm and in Other Swedish Towns

A mass meeting in Stockholm is scheduled for the evening of July 18, the date of Mr Kosygin's arrival. Although the visit coincides with vacations, the organisers hope to attract sufficient audience. Other meetings will be held in other major Swedish towns.

Folders, Leaflets and Posters

We intend to print several short folders and leaflets, including a special folder on US policy in Vietnam. The poster of the July Action, reading "Frihet vid Fritt Hav" will be printed in several sizes.

International Press Centre and Contacts with Journalists

A great many foreign correspondents from both the East and the West are expected to Stockholm for Mr Kosygin's visit. The June Committee will operate a special Press Centre in 1, Arsenalsgatan, in the centre of Stockholm, from July 15-22. During Mr Khrushchev's 1964 visit a similar Press Centre proved a great success. The Press Centre would hold a number of Press conferences and distribute to journalists literature, bulletins and surveys of the situation in the oppressed territories. Soviet Baltic policy, etc. The Press Centre would also distribute the publications sent to Stockholm by international organisations for dissemination.

The June Committee would like to invite a prominent exiled Russian author to visit Stockholm simultaneously with Mr Kosygin, and ask him to give a Press conference to draw attention on lack of freedom in Soviet cultural life, so clearly exemplified by the sentences passed on Sinyavsky and Daniel.

Costs of the July Action

The calculated costs of the above programme are as follows:

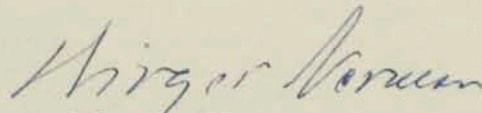
Booklet and its distribution	Sw.Cr.	8,200
Appeals, folders and leaflets		4,300
Demonstrations		5,000
Press Centre		8,800
Other costs		11,700
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Total	Cr.	38,000 =
	=	£ 7,600

Outside Aid Necessary

Mr Kosygin's visit to Sweden, as shown above, brings to the fore a number of problems, such as Soviet dictatorship in general, the war in Vietnam, reunification of Germany, etc. We feel that international bodies and exile organisations in several countries ought to be interested in exploiting this opportunity. This is why the June Committee hopes that its 1966 July action will enjoy benevolent support and help from these organisations.

The Committee has launched a collection among the Swedes and the exiles living in Sweden and hopes to obtain about 20,000 crowns by it. The remainder, 18,000 crowns or 3,600 dollars, cannot be covered from Sweden and the Committee hopes that its friends abroad would consider contributing towards the cost of the July action.

Stockholm, May 1966


Birger Nerman

Chairman of the Baltic Committee
and of the June Committee


Arvo Horm

Secretary of the Baltic Committee
and of the June Committee