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FCIS Daily Report SCANDINAVIA

#201-1955

Oct. 14, 1955

File Wallenberg

SWEDISH PAPERS COMMENT ON WALLENBERG CASE

Stockholm, in English to Eastern North America, Oct. 13, 1955, 1200 GRE-E

(Press Review)

(Text)

The news that Mr. Raoul Wallenberg, the prominent Swedish businessman and officer in the foreign service, may still be alive in a Soviet prison camp, is the subject of wide comments in this morning's editions.

Here, for example, is what the Liberal newspaper DAGENS NYHETER writes: "We still do not know how much truth to attach to the report that Raoul Wallenberg was seen in a Central Asian prison camp in 1953. If this report is reliable, it will inevitably arouse the strongest hopes all over Sweden. At the same time a united public opinion will insist that the authorities do everything they can to secure Mr. Wallenberg's immediate release and return to his native land."

Another Liberal newspaper, STOCKHOLMS-TIDNINGEN, observes that the Soviet security organization in the east directly administers most of Siberia and Central Asia where the prison camps are situated. No other department of the Soviet Government is in a position to inspect what is going on, continues STOCKHOLMS-TIDNINGEN, which writes: "It is therefore more than likely that Mr. Wallenberg has been placed in a camp where it is difficult for the Soviet Foreign Ministry to track him down. But now that the power of the MVD has been crushed by the death of Beria and the friendly attitude of the new regime, Sweden can well ask to have a new investigation made on the basis of the latest report. To dismiss such a request would be an insult, since the present Soviet rulers ought to realize that the Wallenberg case is a matter close to the hearts of the Swedish people. An honest effort to comply in Moscow will greatly improve relations between Sweden and the Soviet Union."

According to the Social Democratic newspaper MORGEN-TIDNINGEN, the latest evidence is of the kind which cannot be disregarded by the Russian authorities. MORGEN-TIDNINGEN goes on to say: "A detailed Russian report in this case, together with the immediate return of Mr. Wallenberg as soon as he can be found, will do more than any other act to demonstrate a sincere desire for closer relations between peoples."

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201-5925

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Admittedly Mr. Wallenberg's fate is only one of hundreds of thousands from the chaotic last days of the war, but he stands as a symbol for them all. An explanation of the Wallenberg tragedy would rank as a mark of good faith and a sincere desire to work in the service of eased international tension."

REVIEW OF FINNISH PRESS, OCT. 13

Helsinki, Finnish Home Service, in Finnish, Oct. 13, 1955, 1015 GMT--L

(Press Review)

(Summary)

TUSSI SUOMI says that the introduction on July 1 of a system of automatic issue of import licenses for raw materials and certain consumer goods gave rise to some fears of an excessive rise in imports, but a survey of the first 3 months shows the surprising fact that such imports have in fact decreased. One reason for the decrease is undoubtedly to be found in the deposit requirement, which has caused some difficulties in financing imports.

Another reason is that a system of automatic licenses has reduced the need for maintaining large stocks of raw materials. It is also possible that purchases made under the new system have been more advantageous, and that the volume of imports therefore has not decreased as much as the value of the imports would seem to indicate. Experience gained so far shows that the partial automatization of imports has fulfilled the hopes attached to it. The real question is, how much have these hopes been exceeded? A further, complete freeing of imports from controls will not be as easy a matter, but the present system could evidently be extended without risk. No undue delay ought to be permitted to such extension, the paper concludes.

MAARANEN speculates on the chances of the Diet giving its approval to the Government proposal fixing the farmers' income and agricultural prices, and emphasizes the importance of this proposal.

HELSINGIN SANOMAT says that the Vukemiska Mining Company's plans for starting mining operations in the seabed off the Aaland Islands have encountered growing opposition from the island population, who see here a danger to the Swedish character of the islands. Evidently there is no concern over the economic issues, although Finland certainly does not possess plenty of iron ore. There is a fear that a possible influx of Finnish workmen would affect the linguistic balance of the islands.