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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : Embassy STOCKHOLM 903

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 8, 1957

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For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	REC'D	OTHER
	01-10	2-11	USA-10
SUBJECT: JOINT W KA NO. 6 - SIGMA R I - POLITICAL			

OSD-2 AM-35 NAVY-30 MAR 24 CIA-16 OCB-2 SACLAN-1

1. Soviets Finally Reveal Wallenberg is Dead (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

After years of official Swedish inquiries, the Soviets have finally disclosed that Haul VAULLENBERG, the Swedish diplomat and humanitarian, died in Lubianka prison in 1947 (two years after Soviet troops picked him up in Budapest). Deputy Foreign Minister GROMKO handed a note to Swedish Ambassador SOHLMAN on February 6 explaining that after an intensive investigation it was learned that Wallenberg died of a heart condition on July 17, 1947, according to a physician's report to Minister of State Security ADAMKIN (liquidated in the Beria purge). The Soviets blamed Abakumov for concealing Wallenberg's fate and expressed their regrets. Prime Minister BERNDER presided over a press conference at 4 p.m. February 7 at which Foreign Minister UNDEN and former Foreign Office Secretary-General Arne LINDBLAD were present to give the details of the Soviet reply on Wallenberg to the press. The story was first released to the Swedish public by radio at 7 p.m. last night. No story in contemporary Swedish history has received the press and radio play given the Soviet answer on Wallenberg. In general, the editorial reaction has been regretfully to admit that Wallenberg is dead but to question the Soviet interpretation. An official Swedish Government declaration stated, "It must be regretted that the Soviet reply contained such meager information." A whitebook on the entire case is expected soon. Wallenberg's mother and other relatives doubt that he is dead and both hope and insist he is still alive.

Comments (CONFIDENTIAL) The Foreign Office indicated to the Ambassador that since it had no proof that Wallenberg was alive after 1947, it was inclined to believe the Soviet story. An official Government release indicated, however, that the Soviet reply was not fully satisfactory because it was so meager. The entire Swedish nation is moved by what it considers an act of Soviet barbarism.

2. Cabinet Reconstructions: Further Comments (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Discussion of the significance of the Cabinet shifts of February 1 (see Joint Weeks No. 5, February 1) has continued to occupy a prominent position in the Swedish press during the past week. The Government maintains that the

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