

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1966

The Honorable Richard Helms  
Director,  
Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Dick:

During early July, Mr. Gordon Gray, a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, visited the Scandinavian countries to review U.S. foreign intelligence and related activities. Among the matters included in his report was one concerning the lack of public understanding in Sweden of United States foreign policy objectives.

Mr. Rostow sent a memorandum to the Secretary on August 4 which contained the following recommendation by the Board:

"That the Department of State, in consultation with appropriate officials of the USIA and Central Intelligence Agency, consider the advisability of undertaking more extensive programs in Sweden with a view to: (a) offsetting the massive propaganda programs which the Soviets have targeted against Sweden; (b) placing that propaganda effort in better perspective; and (c) achieving in Sweden improved understandings of and attitudes toward significant policies being pursued by the United States in international fields."

Clearly, one of the main problems at this time is the one-sided exploitation of the Vietnam conflict primarily by Swedish Communists, radical Socialist intellectuals, certain members of the labor movement, and left-wing elements of the Social Democratic Party. The views of these groups have gained an inordinate amount of attention and space in both the press controlled by their organizations and in leading liberal-independent daily newspapers. Social Democratic Party and labor union organizations have also been persuaded to adopt resolutions opposed to US policy in Vietnam. The fear that the left-wing element of the Social Democratic Party might bolt the party, which could spell the end to the party's ability to stay in power, has led certain Social Democrats to side with them in public

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speeches and statements. The more moderate leadership of the party and the labor union movement has found it extremely difficult to hold the line since it cannot afford to repudiate these left-oriented spokesmen.

I am also writing to Mr. Marks along these same lines, and would propose that representatives of our three agencies meet soon to consider the Board's recommendation and measures which might be feasible to implement it. State's representative will be Mr. David H. McKillop, Country Director for Scandinavia, who will call upon other officers in State for assistance as may be required. I would appreciate it if you would designate a representative from your Agency. State will then take the initiative in arranging a meeting.

Sincerely,

  
U. Alexis Johnson

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