

Western World Making Assessments of Wennerstroem's Spying

(Editor's note: Western defense planners, already worried by a series of security shocks in Britain and elsewhere, got another nasty surprise last month with the arrest of one of Sweden's top military officers as a confessed Soviet spy.)

There was immediate concern that his revelations to the Russians may have jeopardized the entire "northern flank" of western defenses in Europe. The following United Press International team report by Joseph W. Grigg and Elie Maissi in Paris, Jan Westergren in Stockholm, Paul A. Allerup in London and Darrell Garwood in Washington, assesses the damage, as it is known today.)

By United Press International "My God!" exploded the man in the British Defense Ministry. "Not Wennerstroem!"

That was last June 20, the day Sweden announced the arrest of Col. Stig E. C. Wennerstroem, recent head of the Air Force section of the Swedish Defense command, trusted aide of the country's defense minister, Sven Andersson. Wennerstroem had admitted being a paid spy for the Russians for 15 years. No one was more shocked than the Swedes themselves. But the repercussions went much further—to NATO headquarters in Paris, the Pentagon in Washington, the defense ministry in London.

Watermelon Seed Spit Mark Broken

Raleigh, N. C.—(UPI)—Wally Ausley, a local boy, spat a watermelon seed 35 feet and six inches Wednesday.

The unheralded Ausley's remarkable performance astounded the crowd, shamed his competitors, and broke the watermelon festival record.

The old champion, John Alexander, once spat a watermelon seed 34 feet. His best effort Wednesday was 29 feet, but it appeared that would do.

Then Ausley stepped to the foul line, bit off a hunk of watermelon and carefully selected a likely seed with his tongue. He held the seed between his teeth, waiting around it to dry it off.

Then he leaned his 200-pound frame forward, squinted and loosed a mighty spit that brought gasps of wonder from the crowd.

"It's just a matter of conditioning," said Ausley modestly.

Catterick Camp, England—(UPI)—Lt. Col. Clive Torry, commandant of the 8th Signals Regiment, today ordered his troops to reduce the hundreds of pinups above their bunks to three per man.

The big question was how much had Wennerstroem told? How much could he have known about NATO plans and weapons?

Sweden, Europe's famous "neutral" through two world wars, was not a NATO member. But as a western nation, a friend if not an ally of the North Atlantic powers, it had long had access to some of the latest in western weaponry, almost certainly had mapped its own defenses in line with what it knew of Allied planning.

Sweden is still pumping the blond, handsome 56-year-old colonel to learn every detail of what he passed on to the Russians and he is said to be cooperating fully. Sweden's own future depends as much as anyone's on the answers he gives.

Meantime the whole western world has been making its own assessments—and some of them have been uncomfortable.

No One Comments
Officially, neither Sweden, nor NATO nor any of the western countries involved has commented on the specifics of Wennerstroem's disclosures to the Kremlin.

On the official level, there has been a tendency to play down the likelihood of any really serious damage to NATO's defenses. Unofficially, however, reporters "testing the temperature" in the concerned capitals find many clues that the worry goes deep.

In Stockholm, leading newspapers have said flatly that the colonel may have laid the country "bare" for an attack before a new national defense scheme can be prepared.

The assumption is the Russians know in detail Sweden's present defense set-up. It is a reasonable assumption since Wennerstroem himself was among the defense planners. Swedes also are convinced that the colonel gave the Russians details on a wide variety of top-secret Swedish and NATO weapons, including data on the latest Swedish-built jet fighters and Bofors guns and rockets.

In Washington, U. S. officials reexamining security precautions in the light of the Wennerstroem case and other recent lapses have expressed alarm that the Swedish colonel may have revealed data on the important Hawk anti-aircraft missile to the Russians.

The Hawk missile is designed to kill low-flying aircraft which can avoid conventional ground-to-air missiles. It is a technically excellent weapon which the Soviets were not able to match until recently—after the U. S. negotiated sale of it to Sweden in mid-1960.

Belgium, France, West Germany, The Netherlands and Italy also bought Hawk missiles.

By coincidence or otherwise, the Soviets now have a missile known as "Sam-3," which nearly duplicates Hawk. They might have designed it without the aid of espionage but it on Hawk would have been a major coup.

British military observers see other dangers. They have said that a quick Russian knockout of Sweden, made easier by Wennerstroem's help, could give the Soviets a big advantage in any future war. According to this reasoning, the Russians would over-

run Sweden using only conventional weapons and would have it in their hands before the NATO powers—not likely to start atomic warfare before the Russians did—could do anything about it.

One British commentator described this phase as an "atomic pause" during which the Soviets invade Swedish Lapland and move into NATO-partner Norway, occupying its western coast as far south as Narvik.

Open Western Europe
It already has been pointed out in the United States that any such development would expose NATO's northern flank; in effect, opening western Europe to attack through the back door.

As a trusted officer of the Swedish defense staff, Wennerstroem may well have had access to technical data on

Hawk. Between 1952 and 1957, the affable Swedish colonel served as an air attache in Washington and was a favorite in diplomatic and military circles because of his impeccable culture and charm. What he may have learned in Washington has not been speculated on in public.

He departed Washington in mid-1957 in an aura of special sympathy because his 16-year-old blonde daughter had run away for a time, without the benefit of marriage, with a congressional page boy.

Before leaving, Colonel Wennerstroem was awarded the Legion of Merit and a citation which said he had distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious conduct as a senior attache and had "contributed immeasurably

to Swedish-American friendship."

Swedish press has called "this shocking spy puzzle." If convicted, Wennerstroem would face life imprisonment.

Speculation as to the extent of the help Wennerstroem was able to give the Soviets will continue at least until his trial, and probably beyond.

On the surface there appears no limits to what the colonel might have given the Russians at least about Sweden's own security secrets. At the time of his arrest he was the disarmament expert at the Swedish foreign office. As head of the Air Force defense command until 1961 he was privy to all the country's military information.

Rarely has one country had a more strategically placed spy in the top military echelons of another.

He would not say whether NATO also is reorganizing affected parts of its overall defense program but a newsman's guess would be this probably also could be taken for granted.

Under Interrogation
Wennerstroem, whose trial is now expected to take place some time this fall, is under intensive interrogation and it is understood in Stockholm that the Swedish defense staff and intelligence service are working closely with NATO experts in the job of fitting together what the

French defense ministry sources also admit unhappiness but claim some of the press reports of potential damage to western defenses by Wennerstroem have been exaggerated. One French official told United Press International: "This is, of course, a bad thing. But it cannot be considered catastrophic for the alliance."



ADMITS SPYING—Swedish Air Force Col. Stig Wennerstroem, left, who admitted spying for the Soviets for 15 years, is preceded by unidentified policeman as the former arrives at Magistrate's Court in Stockholm. (UPI)

Background Work By Kennedy Aide Ends Racial Crisis

By AL KUETTNER
UPI Correspondent
Burke Marshall has done it again.

At the Justice Department where he is assistant attorney general in charge of the civil rights division, Marshall has the reputation of getting things accomplished when all else fails. His boss, Robert Kennedy, leans heavily on his abilities and called on him again as the racial crisis at Cambridge, Md., worsened.

Tuesday, white and Negro leaders whose conflict at Cambridge had produced bitterness and some bloodshed for 19 months announced an agreement that halted demonstrations indefinitely. The news accounts said simply that Marshall was present to witness the signing of the settlement in Kennedy's office.

Marshall's work—handled in the Cambridge case without going to the scene in person—was largely instrumental in bringing opposing factions together and producing the climate that made negotiations possible.

Second Victory
This was the second major victory on the civil rights front for Marshall in three months. He played a key role in producing a settlement of the racial upheaval in Birmingham, Ala., last May.

When Marshall arrived in the steel city, the possibilities for restoring peace were gloomy. Huge demonstrations were erupting on the streets as thousands of Negroes batted at long-standing racial barriers. The city had two governments, the result of a recent changeover that had not taken effect.

A civic group called the "Committee of Seventy" was attempting to work out at least a truce that would halt the demonstrations which were threatening to become a riot. Members of the committee were getting nowhere with Negro leaders or with each other. There were wide differences of opinion on how to deal with the uprising.

Marshall did not seem to cut much of a figure as he walked down a long corridor at the Chamber of Commerce building and into a board room with the Birmingham committee.

The quietest voice in the room was that of Marshall, a 41-year-old Harvard-trained lawyer who had no civil rights experience prior to joining the Kennedy administration team in its early days.

Within only a few days, however, the committee had reached an agreement with Negro leaders to embark on the city's first efforts at desegregation of public accommodations. Although the agreement was unofficial inasmuch as there was no municipal government to approve it, the Negro side accepted it in good faith. This was more of Marshall's persuasive work.



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