

Scandinavians Know They're Right In Line of East-West World War

By GODFREY ANDERSON
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OSLO—Scandinavians know they are right in the line of fire if the East and West clash in a new world war.

Their strategists recognize that the shortest routes to Russia for atom bombers and guided missiles go across Scandinavia from bases in North America, Greenland, Iceland and England. They know this same atomic air corridor would

be used to reverse by Soviet bombers and missiles from bases north or west of Moscow.

In military parlance, this is being "under the gun." It isn't a comfortable position for Scandinavians.

Norway and Denmark already are committed to the west as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Sweden is maintaining its traditional position as a neutral.

But strategists in allied Norway and Denmark and officially neutralist Sweden don't agree on what part their countries may play if a hot war really comes.

One group thinks Scandinavia—while from the polar ice cap to the south of Denmark represents roughly half of the east-west contact line in Western Europe—will become a focal point in any conflict.

The other, backing the probability of a primarily air and atomic war, thinks Scandinavia may be fought over rather than fought through it.

Lt. Col. Sam Myhrman, a Swedish staff officer, writing in the Ny Militar Tidskrift (New Military Journal) predicted:

"Scandinavia will become a storm center of any European east-west conflict. It lies under the bullet trajectory and is a highly desirable base area to both parties."

Col. Myhrman points out that a Soviet thrust westward across Europe would leave the Red Army's northern flank exposed unless Scandinavia were also taken.

Allied Airbases in Southern Scandinavia would permit the allies to bomb the Russian extended line of communications through Poland, East Germany or across the Baltic. The mere risk of such a threat, he thinks, would cause the Russians to take preventive measures against Scandinavia from the start.

"If Denmark and Norway were occupied without Sweden being involved, the result would be complete encirclement (of Sweden) by Soviet or Soviet-controlled areas," he warned. "Such a situation might mean that Sweden would be completely dependent upon the Soviet Union."

"From a military point of view, however, it isn't possible for Russia to carry out occupation of Norway without involving Sweden. Because Norway, supported by the Atlantic Pact, will offer determined resistance, the Soviet Union would be forced to put in very strong ground or airborne forces.

"This, in turn, would require strong air support and extensive supply services. A tactical air support can hardly act anywhere else than in the 'Cap' area (extreme northern tip of Scandinavia) without involving Swedish territory."

A primary Russian aim must

also be to disrupt the west's vital trans-Atlantic communications. Once again the deep silent fjords of Northern Norway may become enemy submarine bases. The bases would have to be secure on the landward side and there would have to be air cover to protect the subs stealing in and out.

The other group for Scandinavian military insist that defensive strategy should be keyed to the needs of 1960 rather than 1939. Some in this group feel much NATO planning, insofar as it has been disclosed, is based on outmoded views.

They believe 1960 strategy is being discussed at the Kremlin. They believe, too, it is being discussed in more realistic terms at the Pentagon.

These strategists feel that the next war will be an atomic air war and that little else will be of consequence.

They believe that the United States has a stockpile now of about 1,000 atom bombs, while the Russians have "several hundreds." Between 1956 and 1958 they expect both Russia and America to have in mass production, jet bombers capable of carrying atom bombs right to the enemy's backyard.

By 1960, they say, both powers will be in a position to wage a war based on strategic ideas never applied before—each hitting hard to the other's home bases in a series of attempted knockout.

The opinion here is that the U.S. should have the initial advantage in such an atomic exchange. With nearer bases, its planes won't have so far to fly. But the Russians will be quick to retaliate on bases from which attacks are made.

In the view of these Scandinavian officers, the Red Army would almost certainly seek to occupy Western Europe and smash handy Channel bases for pounding Great Britain to submission.

But they believe occupation of the Scandinavian area might have less importance in Soviet eyes. They reckon it might take the Russians three months and a million men to get the northern peninsula firmly in their hands, if Norway and Sweden stood firm with the NATO powers behind them.

Sweden has the world's fourth largest air force, mainly equipped with latest type jets. (The first three are the U.S., Russia and Britain.) Sweden has been building her defenses steadily since 1939 and claims a well trained army.

Norway, which had virtually no army in 1940 when the Nazis swept in, now has a small well equipped force.

Denmark, with flat open coun-

try where tanks can move freely, is a greater strategic problem. Both Norway and Sweden most fear invasion from the south, where their own terrain presents less natural obstacles. But the defensive capacity of Scandinavia has, it is claimed, increased all around.

With such costs for a small return, it is thought the Russians may concentrate their effort mainly on knocking out Scandinavia's air bases from the sky without seeking to occupy the long, mountain-torn peninsula.

Seeing Scandinavia's role in a future all-out atomic war as main-

ly an air base area, the advance guard strategists see the task of the three countries mainly as one of building up air forces and keeping their powder dry.

Obviously, so long as Sweden holds to her present strict neutrality, there can be no question of staff talks or unified defense plan-

for the region. If such talks were held, even in secret, the fact they had taken place would quickly be known across the Baltic. Swedish neutrality would go by the board and the results might be incalculable.

But, even with no official contacts, Norwegian, Swedish and

Danish officers do sometimes meet socially and on an individual basis. Strategy is "shop talk" for soldiers the world over.



'Conspiracy' Claimed By Magnuson

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Magnuson (D-Wash.) accused the Eisenhower administration Saturday of "actively conspiring with private monopolies to help hi-jack" power resources "owned by the people and developed by the people."

In a speech prepared for senate delivery Magnuson said President Eisenhower has revealed "his ignorance of the facts."

Magnuson used much of the material from his prepared speech during running debate on appropriations for western power projects. Then, without formally delivering his address, he obtained unanimous consent to have its text inserted in the Congressional Record.

He accused Secretary of Interior McKay and Republicans in Congress of "trying to stop the clock on western progress and development."

If the new Republican power policy stands, Magnuson said, "it will inflict irreparable damage to the west and south."

"It will throw the west back to the days of water grabs and land grabs; the south back to the so-called reconstruction era."

The new Republican power policy under President Eisenhower's administration is more weighted in behalf of private monopoly by far than the Republican power policy of the Harding, Coolidge and Hoover administrations.

Magnuson's attack was based upon cutbacks in funds for federal power projects in the west and south, decisions of Secretary McKay in awarding power sites to privately owned utility companies, and power policy statements by them and the House appropriations committee.

The Senator cited President Eisenhower's remarks at a June 17 press conference about what the President called the socialistic theory whereby taxes from all the country are used to subsidize a particular region which "then sought to draw business from other areas."

'Squeezed Off Air By Idaho Power Co.'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Magnuson (D-Wash.) told the Senate Saturday that the Idaho-Oregon Hell's Canyon association was cut off Radio Station KDHS at Boise, Idaho, because a private power company did not like the broadcast.

The association favored a federal power dam on the Snake River on the Idaho-Oregon border, which has been withdrawn by Secretary of Interior McKay allowing a private utility, the Idaho Power company, a Maine corporation, to proceed with its project there.

Magnuson referred to this during Senate debate over a policy of the Eisenhower administration and got Senate consent to include letters concerning the incident.

Lloyd Tupling of the Hell's Canyon Association wrote Magnuson his group was "bucking suppression and censorship" in its effort to reach the public with broadcasts favoring the Hell's Canyon project.

Tupling said the association bought 13 weeks time on KDHS for broadcasts but that Earl Slade, Jr., station manager refused to sell additional time because the "Idaho Power Company objected to the broadcasts."

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