

Pressures on nuclear states

The proposal for a Non-Atom Club and Swedish
Diplomatic effort for the Creation of the NPT
Regime

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My Research

- Theme: the Swedish policy of neutrality in 1950s and 60s.
- Interest: How did the neutral ideas affect the Swedish policy of neutrality in several matters (e.g. Security policy, European Integration, UN peacekeeping)?
- Focusing on the different interpretations of the policy of neutrality within Sweden

The Non-Atom Club = The Undén Plan

- Initiated by the Swedish minister of foreign affairs, Östen Undén, in 1961.
- The Swedish project to acquire nuclear weapons began just after WW2
- In the late 1950s: Intense discussion on whether Sweden should produce nuclear weapons or not.



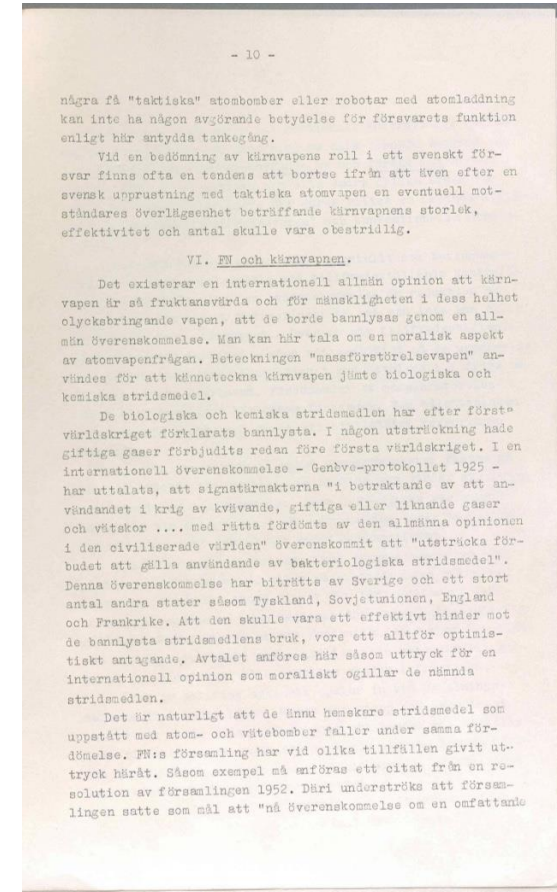
The Prime Minister's Strategy

- Prime Minister, Tage Erlander, worried about a split of the party, the Social Democrats.
- International negotiation on disarmament between US and USSR.
- Erlander tried to prolong the final decision



Opposition to Swedish nuclear weapons

- In the late 1950s, there were strong anti-nuclear groups in Sweden, e.g. the Federation of Social Democratic Women.
- Östen Undén : opposed to nuclear acquisition
 - ⇒ Moral perspective
 - ⇒ Swedish nuclear weapons caused the Soviet fear. (Östen Undéns samling, L108:31, KB)



The opposite view toward nuclear weapons

SUPPORTERS

- Deterrent
- Increase the capacity of defense
⇒ Increase the possibility of being neutral in case of war
- Military, pro-nuclear politicians

OPPONENTS

- Assurance
- Increase Soviet fear to Sweden
⇒ Increase a risk of the Soviet first attack to Sweden
- Damage to civil society

“Defense Research” in 1958

SUPPORTERS

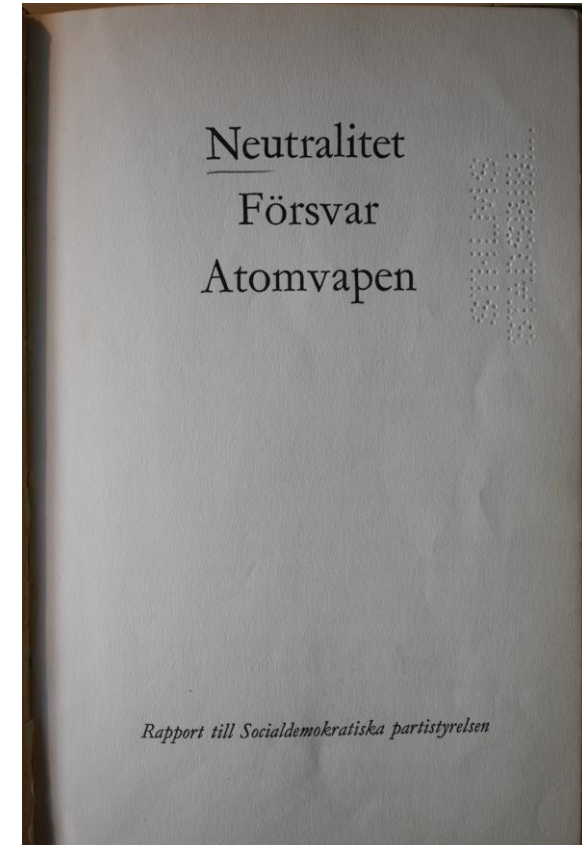
- Continuation of the research for producing nuclear weapons.

OPPONENTS

- The expression of their will not to promote researching to produce nuclear weapons.

Committee in the Social Democratic Party

- In 1958, Erlander summoned a committee where both supporters and opponents discussed on nuclear issues.
- Hard to make a compromise.
 - ⇒ prolong the final decision
 - ⇒ commitment to international disarmament



Change in international situations

- U-2 incident and the Berlin crisis led worsen relationship between US and USSR.
- Tage Erlander's speech
⇒ it was necessary to prevent violent actions in international affairs related to the Cold war “more urgent than ever”.



Change in internal situations

- The chief of air staff, Stig Norén, expressed his negative attitude toward nuclear weapons.
- A leading supporter within the Social democratic party, Per Edvin Sköld, became cautious to support the Swedish nuclear project. (“Sensational event”)



Östen Undén's initiative

- Undén appointed Alva Myrdal directed to draft a Swedish policy of international nuclear disarmament.



The Super Powers' request for Swedish commitment to international disarmament

- US request: join the new disarmament committee (Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament)
- USSR request: The Soviet ambassador to Sweden met Östen Undén in the summer 1961 and claimed repeatedly that small countries, such Sweden, should raise their voice about peace issues.

⇒ Their motives were different

First note by Alva Myrdal

- Goal: Acceptable for both US and USSR
- In footnote: Non-nuclear nations should not take part in the nuclear umbrellas which was provided by nuclear countries.
⇒ This point led the idea of creation of the Non Atom Club.
- Undén established a committee on the policy of disarmament in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Second note and the Soviet declaration

- Mentioned the Swedish “special” role as a neutral country in the nuclear issues.
⇒ Non-nuclear nations should not produce, acquire and equip nuclear weapons.
- 31st August, the Soviet announcement of resumption of nuclear tests.



The Undén Plan

- In October, Undén made a speech in the general assembly.
⇒ “No issue on the agenda of the General Assembly is of greater importance than disarmament”
- Draft resolution: asked the secretary general to inquire of the countries about the possibilities of joining the non-atom club, where the member countries would not produce, acquire and equip nuclear weapons.
- Approved; for 54 voted, against 10 votes, abstention 23 votes.



Recognition of the role as a neutral nation

- the significance of restarting the discussion on the nuclear disarmament.
- Sweden should exert **pressures on the nuclear powers** from the view of neutral countries.

⇒ Swedish standpoint

(In the telegram from Myrdal to Åström, March 27th 1962, HP48, V Box 447, 38, Riksarkivet)

Thank you for listening