



# Swedish Security Strategy during the Cold War

-The Soviet Threat and Cooperation with Western Countries-

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# Swedish Neutrality 1834

- Decline of Sweden as Baltic Sea Empire (Östersjöväldet)

- Napoleon War (Loss of Finland)

- Karl XIV Johan:

“System of strict and independent neutrality”

(system av sträng och oberoende neutralitet)

**Small state consciousness**





# Swedish Doctrine of Defense Policy during the Cold War

- “non-aligned in peacetime, *aiming to be neutral in war*” (formed around 1957-1958).

Strict neutrality from 1834 was abandoned.

# Sweden and the Second World War

- German troops transferred through Sweden
  - transported more than about 2 million soldiers from Norway to Finland between 1940 and 1943.



- Air strike on Stockholm-city, Södertälje and Strängnäs by Soviet Union (1944.2.22)
  - Soviet as an increasing real threat to Sweden.



# Soviet Perception of Sweden

- Swedish Extradition of Baltic Soldiers to Soviet Union.
- "Swedish neutrality will compromise on external pressure."  
- Alexandra Kolontaj
- "Sweden cannot ignore Soviet pressure and authority."  
- Iriya Chervichov.




# New Defense Plan

- Defense Minister Per Edvin Sköld ordered Supreme Commander of Swedish Armed Forces, Helge Jung to formulate a new defense plan (June 28, 1944).
- Commander Jung estimated that the world will be divided by two blocs;  
USA + UK vs. USSR



Helge Jung

# Three War-Cases

War-Case:	Case I	Case II	Case III
Hypothetical Enemy	 Germany	 Russia (Soviet Union)	 USA & UK

- The Case I : Germany was totally beaten and the German threat was no longer realistic. (abandoned)
- The Case II : Soviet was the main threat. (remained)
- The Case III : The possibility was extremely low.  
(This case remained to enhance reliability of the neutrality)

# Östen Undén's View of the Neutrality

“Limiting hypothetical enemy to Soviet Union can harm the reliability of Swedish neutrality”

Östen Undén  
Minister of Foreign Affairs



# Case II : Three scenarios

[Three scenarios in War-case II]



- Sweden cannot defend itself alone.
- Nuclear weapon will be necessary for Swedish defense
- Main strategy is to gain time until Sweden receives military support. **[Q] From which country [or countries]???**

# The Ghost Rockets (Spökraketerna)



Ghost rockets (Spökraketer)

- A large number of flares were observed in Sweden.

- Swedish government was confident enough to identify the flying objects.

- Swedish Air Force (SAF) approached The British Royal Air Force (RAF) to request joint investigation (Juny 8, 1946).

# The Secret Diplomacy of Swedish Armed Forces



The British Ambassador to Sweden  
Sir Cecil B. Jerram

- SAF notified RAF that they would handle the whole negotiations to

Officers of Swedish Armed Forces never trusted the Socialdemocratic government especially Östen Undén, who was blamed for being pro-Soviet Union.

the Swedish Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs.

Dual-track Diplomacy  
by SAF  
(the origins of Western cooperation)

# The Revelation of the Secret



Swedish Prime Minister  
Tage Erlander



Bengt Nordenskiöld

- Swedish Prime Minister Tage Erlander was informed about the confident plan through British broadcasting.
- Soviet news agency TASS also reported and revealed the Swedish and British cooperation.
- The chief of staff of Swedish Air Force Bengt Nordenskiöld interrupted the mission and apologized to RAF.
- Saved some possibilities for future cooperation between the two countries.

# After 1947

- Britain's financial crisis and withdrawal from India (leading to decline in power)
- Swedish acceptance of the Marshall Plan
- SAF developed a new secret cooperation with the American Strategic Air Command.
- Sweden has been entrusted the defense of NATO's Northern Flank, the Baltic Sea by the end of 1950's.