

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

To : The Secretary
Through: S/S
From : INR - Thomas L. Hughes *T/LH*
Subject: Swedish Military Chief Seeks Appropriation
for Nuclear Weapons in Next Budget

MAY 20 1965

General Torsten Rapp, Supreme Commander of the Swedish Defense Forces and a recent visitor to Washington, is reported to have asked the Swedish Government for authorization to include the cost of acquisition of nuclear weapons in the next defense budget (presumably for 1966/67). The request is the latest move in a propaganda campaign of the military and is based on the argument that such weapons are necessary if Swedish defenses are to remain strong enough to deter incursions which would violate Sweden's traditional policy of armed neutrality.

Chances for Immediate Action are Slim. The leaders of the four noncommunist parties have not permitted the issue of nuclear weapons to come to a decisive vote in parliament, both because of widespread opposition to acquisition within the ruling Social Democratic Party and the two center parties and because of hope that international agreements stopping nuclear weapons testing and controlling the manufacture and use of such weapons would remove the necessity for any Swedish action. The Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 increased such hopes, and Rapp's chances of forcing a positive decision under present circumstances are therefore slim.

Question Likely to Remain Open and Weapons Research May Increase. At the same time, the government is likely to continue to keep open its option of taking

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action when it deems it necessary, and there are indications that Rapp may have succeeded in getting the currently limited research program on nuclear weapons expanded. Just prior to his Washington visit and while in Washington, Rapp made statements favoring such an increase so that the time required for future weapons development could be cut from an estimated 7 to 3 or 4 years. Recent statements by Prime Minister Tage Erlander in parliament and by a high defense official in private indicated that research probably has been increased, although to what extent is not known.

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