

1 January 2017

With Licence to Kill and Cover Up

On the assassination of Olof Palme and the death of trust in Sweden

TWO MONTHS FROM TODAY, thirty-one years will have passed since Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme was shot dead in central Stockholm. Officially, the murder remains unsolved. But it is almost certain that the identity of the shooter has been known since 1992 — and that the police conducting the investigation have shielded him from justice ever since.

The likely assassin was himself a policeman at the time, and is now a member of the Swedish parliament. His role in what appears to have been a wider conspiracy became known because two young women of Finnish descent asked an acquaintance for the time in their native tongue.

Nicknamed Anki and Anneli, the two friends were anxious to avoid missing the train to their hometown in the suburbs as they strolled along Sveavägen Road near midnight on 28 February 1986. Then Anki noticed a familiar figure standing by the Dekorima art supply shop and, knowing that he spoke Finnish, asked him for the time in that language.

In response, he just stared at her without speaking. Anki persisted: "Why won't you say what time it is?" But he remained silent and appeared nervous.

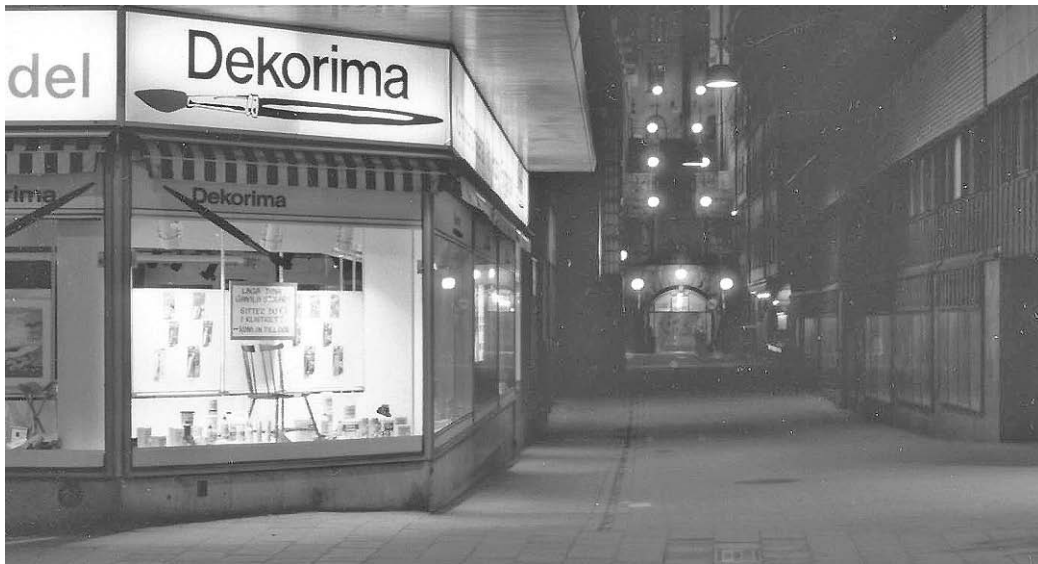
When he finally spoke, it was into a walkie-talkie — a large and clumsy object compared with the mobile phones of today — which he held under one arm. "I have been recognized. What should I do?" he said. A voice answered: "Never mind that. They are coming now. Do what you're supposed to do."

During this exchange, also in Finnish, Anki saw what appeared to be a handgun under the man's other arm.

It was a strange situation and becoming stranger by the second. So the two women reversed direction and hurried off toward their train. A minute or two later, they heard what sounded like a gunshot, — or perhaps a car backfiring — from the direction of the "Dekorima Man" as he came to be known.

The next morning, they woke to the news that Olof Palme had been shot to death at precisely the scene of their eerie encounter. They were in no doubt that the loud noise they had heard was from the gun that Anki had seen. She had recognized the gunman, and she was certain that he had recognized her.

Anki, a single mother, was also certain that their lives were now in danger. Her knowledge of the Dekorima Man had been acquired at an exercise gym where he hung about with a group of men that she knew to include violent criminals.



After shooting Palme, the assassin escaped toward the tunnel in the background and up the lighted stairway. (Photo: Al Burke)

She therefore swore Anneli to silence about their disturbing encounter — a silence they maintained for over six years, despite the offer of a large reward for information leading to solution of the murder.

By 1992, however, Anneli was having nightmares about the Dekorima episode, and was also disconcerted by the protracted failure of the police to catch the killer. Apparently to relieve the resulting psychic pressure, she confided her ominous experience to a complete stranger.

Revelation on a Baltic ferry

Bo Hall likes to dance, which is why he happened to be in the ballroom of a Baltic ferry on an afternoon in late October of 1992. A mining engineer and business executive, he was returning home to Sweden after a weekend meeting in Finland with employees of the global corporation he headed.

While waiting for a suitable dancing partner to materialize, Bo noticed a young woman attempting to fend off the unwelcome advances of an inebriated male passenger. Offended by the spectacle, the 60-year-old executive strode over to the stubborn intruder and ordered him to go away. “And to my great surprise, he did,” recalls Bo Hall.

He then joined the young woman at her table, to her evident relief, and they began a casual conversation. After a while, apropos of nothing at all, she suddenly blurted out that she had encountered Olof Palme’s assassin at the scene of the crime just moments before the fatal shot was fired. She then went on to describe the episode in detail. [See Appendix 1.]

As fate would have it, the protective older man in whom Anneli had chosen to confide was also troubled by the lack of progress in solving the crime. That had led him to discuss the problem with Olle Ålsén, one of Sweden’s most experienced and respected journalists, and one of the few of his profession who had made a serious effort to investigate the investigation.

The sensational new evidence was soon conveyed by the engineer to the journalist, who managed to extract additional details from the two young women. Anki could not recall the gunman's name, but believed that it was short and Finnish. Equipped with that and other information, including a passport photo of the suspected killer, Alsén was able to discover the possible identity of the Dekorima Man.

The suspect's name was Anti Avsan who, among other things, was reputed to be one of the most ruthless members of a Stockholm police unit that was notorious for its — by Swedish standards — brutal and often illegal methods. As an internal review delicately noted, the unit's members had “adopted attitudes that are not consistent with the role of the police”.¹



Bo Hall

In late November 1992, Alsén presented this and related evidence to Hans Ölvebro, the police officer then in charge of the investigation.

Unwelcome news

The new and potentially case-breaking evidence was, however, not at all welcome. For one thing, it threatened to interfere with an ongoing effort to pin the murder on a hapless scapegoat named Christer Petterson. The “evidence” assembled for that purpose was extremely weak at best, contrived at worst. But the attempt by Hans Ölvebro & Co. to nail Petterson dragged on until 1998, when the Supreme Court thoroughly and unanimously rejected the case against him.²

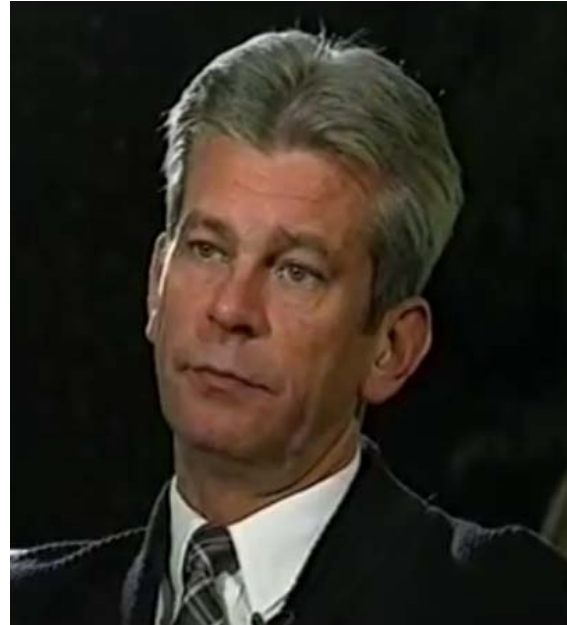
There was also dissent within the ranks. According to one police investigator who was *not* involved: “In my opinion, what was done to Christer Petterson was the worst miscarriage of justice that has ever occurred in Sweden.... It is a disgrace!”³ (That distinction may have since passed to the persecution of Julian Assange.)⁴

Probably the most important explanation for Ölvebro's unenthusiastic response to the new evidence was that it implicated a policeman in the assassination. From the start of his term as chief investigator during 1988 – 1997, Ölvebro made it clear that he was prepared to follow all lines of inquiry — except one: “The only trail of evidence I refuse to follow is any that may lead to the police”.

It was a basic principle that he subsequently repeated with a variety of formulations, for example: “It is not my task to investigate how various police have conducted themselves.... Sweden is a democracy and we have excellent police who are also democratic.... Do you think that we, who are democratic and work in a democratic police corps, would murder our prime minister? We are here to *protect* society.”⁵ The strategy adopted by Ölvebro to protect society from the inconvenient new evidence included the following elements:

- Two months were allowed to pass before the police first interviewed Anneli, and another month before Anki was contacted; they were interrogated separately for a total of eight times. Anti Avsan was interviewed only once, six months after his possible guilt was made known to Ölvebro.

- One of the first measures taken after contacting Anki was to conduct a thorough search of her home. Avsan's home was not searched.
- Ölvbro's behaviour toward the two young women was hostile from the start. Among other things, he warned that they could be prosecuted if their testimony was suspected of being false, and suggested that they might be regarded as "criminals". On at least one occasion, Anneli emerged red-eyed from crying after a session with Ölvbro.
- Ölvbro expressed a complete indifference to the two young women's anxiety that they were at risk of violent reprisal from the Dekorima Man and his associates. "I can't do anything about that", he claimed. Even after their testimony and easily traced identities were leaked to the media, almost certainly by the police, they were not offered any protection.
- Anneli and Anki were shown photo portraits of six men and asked if they recognized the Dekorima Man among them. Not included among the six: Anti Avsan.
- Neither was Avsan's portrait shown to any of those who had witnessed the murder at distances ranging from a few to several dozen metres. When a private citizen many years later showed a photo of Avsan to one of those witnesses, the reaction was immediate and unhesitating: "That's him! That's the man who shot Olof Palme."⁶



Hans Ölvbro: "It is not my task to investigate how various police officers have conducted themselves." (Photo: NRT/Arte)

These few examples and much more indicate that Ölvbro's method for neutralizing the threat posed by the two young women was to frighten and discredit them, while shielding his police colleague from any serious investigation. [See Appendix 3.]

He appears to have succeeded. Anki and Anneli were so shaken by their treatment at the hands of Sweden's excellent democratic police that they moved far away from Stockholm and tried to stay out of sight. Although their testimony and its implications remain highly significant, they have been largely forgotten or ignored by the mainstream media and other fabricators of conventional wisdom.

The same cannot be said of Christer Petterson, who died in 2004. There is evidently a widespread need, possibly based on a variety of motives, to believe that he was indeed the assassin of Olof Palme. That was once again a prominent theme of the mainstream media's annual flurry of attention to the unsolved murder on the occasion of last year's 30th anniversary.

As for Anti Avsan, he has not only been spared the bother of careful scrutiny. He has left the police force, acquired a law degree, and somehow managed to become both a member of parliament for Sweden's Conservative Party and a district court judge. (This is not a misprint.)



Anti Avsan (M) ↕

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- Riksdagsledamot
- Ersättare i Riksdagsstyrelsen
- Ledamot i Justitiekommittén
- Förste vice ordförande i Riksdagens delegation till Interparlamentariska unionen
- Suppleant i Utrikesutskottet
- Ledamot i Krigsdelegationen

From Anti Avsan's page on the Swedish parliament's website. Among his current assignments: member of the Judiciary Committee and of the War Delegation.⁷

Early suspicions

It took years for the startling evidence of Anki and Anneli to emerge, but it was far from the first time that police were implicated in Palme's assassination. Almost from the start, tips about possible police involvement began to stream in from a variety of sources. They included individual police concerned about the attitudes and behaviour of reactionary colleagues; not surprisingly, the "baseball league" was mentioned as a prime target for investigation.

It would eventually come to light that several policemen with ties to Avsan were on duty at suspicious times and places when Palme was shot. One of them had abandoned his normal tasks to work that night at the police command centre, where he orchestrated a systematic confusion which provided the shooter with several crucial minutes to make his escape. Another was just then driving a patrol car along the escape route, far from his assigned district.

That and much related knowledge is not the product of the police investigation, but of a remarkable effort by two brothers who are physicists and, coincidentally, also of Finnish extraction. The fruit of the private investigation conducted by Kari and Pertti Poutiainen was a book published in 1995 under the title of *Inuti Labyrinten [Inside the Labyrinth]*. It describes in meticulous detail what they discovered when they applied their scientific method to a second-by-second analysis of the movements and behaviour of everyone connected with the assassination, including witnesses, emergency personnel, and especially police. Among their principal conclusions:

- Within the Swedish branch of the western intelligence complex, there was a well-known hatred of Palme.
- It is impossible to get a clear picture of the secret service's activities during the night of the assassination.
- The police failed to conduct an organized hunt for the killer during the night of the assassination.⁸



Olof Palme with Mme. Nguyen Thi Binh of Vietnam. Palme's leading role in the global movement against the American War was one of many things about him that infuriated the empire and its reactionary allies in Sweden.

“When Palme was murdered, he had just won his second election of the new decade, and his international reputation and authority had never been greater. His star in world politics had not yet passed its zenith, but was still clearly on the rise.... It cannot have been especially encouraging to the spycatchers — obsessed with the idea of pushing back world socialism, in the spirit of Ronald Reagan — to see the most ‘dangerous’ socialist of them all, Olof Palme, spreading unimpeded his ‘anti-American’ socialist message all over the world. Much would be gained in the battle against socialism if he were to disappear from the world political arena.”

— From *Inuti Labyrinten*¹²

As for the official murder investigation: “From the first minutes after the shots until the present day, it has been characterized by half-truths and pure lies. Something seems to be fundamentally rotten.”⁹

Not surprisingly, such conclusions have not been embraced by official Sweden. Hans Ölvbro once asserted that the book was “completely absurd”, while admitting that he had only read a few pages of it.¹⁰ But the well-documented analysis of *Inuti Labyrinten* has never been refuted, and it has become a widely referenced standard work.

Verboten subjects

Even if it is eventually established that the actual killing was carried out by police, other forces may well have been involved — as the conclusions of the Poutiainen brothers suggest. But those possibilities have also been systematically obscured and neglected.

The foreign ministry intervened to hinder investigation of possible involvement by the C.I.A. and Hans Ölvbro “found it difficult to imagine that the C.I.A. could have had any motive for getting rid of Palme”.¹¹ It does not appear that any Swedish official has ever uttered the slightest hint that the United States might somehow be connected with Palme’s assassination.

Suspicious characters within Sweden have received the same sort of treatment, or rather lack of it. The Poutiainens have noted the inscrutable behaviour of the secret service on the night of the assassination.

In 1993 Ulf Lingärde, a computer expert with access to classified information within the intelligence community, provided evidence concerning a conspiracy of fifteen pillars of society who banded together and swore an oath “before God and country... that Palme must go, must be eliminated”. Among those named were the head of the secret police, the Navy’s chief admiral, director of the Defence Research Institute, two members of the police “baseball league” and Sweden’s most powerful business leader, Peter Wallenberg.

Lingärde was never interviewed by the police before his death in 2001. His potentially explosive evidence has never been refuted or confirmed. Like so much else, it has simply been ignored.

Sporadic efforts

There have been occasional attempts by prominent citizens to revive interest in the case. One of them is Inga-Britt Ahlenius, a highly respected auditor who has served the Swedish government, the European Union and the United Nations. In connection with last year's 30th anniversary she pointed out that, "Due to the power of his intellect, his pathos and his network, Palme was active throughout the entire world. Since Olof Palme, we have never again had that power.... The murder was in fact successful in that it effected a change, and possibly the change that was intended — a shift that rendered Sweden's foreign policy completely passive, whereas before it had been very independent, a dynamic driving force...."

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— *Inga-Britt Ahlenius*

Regarding the official investigation, she observed: "What's disappointing is that the level of energy to seek the truth is so low.... It is also frustrating, for example, to read the thorough accounts of [journalists] Gunnar Wall and Lars Borgnäs and see that they have done the police work that the police ought to have done."¹³

There have been numerous articles and statements of a similar nature over the years. But they have been sporadic and unco-ordinated, with little discernible effect on the dormant investigation. Changing that would presumably require a systematic, energetic and persistent campaign; but nothing of the sort has ever developed and seems unlikely to.

The most perplexing lack of energy has been that of Palme's own Social Democratic Party. Leading figures of the SDP have made cryptic statements like, "It would be better for the country if the murder is never solved" and "I know who shot Palme, but the Swedish people are not mature enough to be told" — only to leave them hanging in the poisoned atmosphere without further explanation or rationale.

Despite the lack of evidence noted by the Supreme Court, two Social Democratic prime ministers — Ingvar Carlsson, who took over after Palme, and Stefan Löfven, the current PM — have been content to declare Christer Petterson guilty of the murder, based on what appears to be little knowledge of the facts. But their arbitrary proclamations of guilt have no doubt helped to diminish interest in alternative suspects — Anti Avsan, in particular.

That service was also provided by a commission set up in 1994 to investigate the police investigation. It may serve as a model for how a public inquiry can be used to divert attention and deflect criticism. (See Appendix 2.)

The apparently deliberate failure of the official investigation has now been allowed to persist for over three decades, despite its numerous well-documented deficiencies. Not even Hans Ölvbro's openly declared refusal to pursue one of the most important lines of inquiry provoked any corrective action by the government, which is ultimately responsible. There has never been any serious discussion about liberating the investigation from the hopelessly compromised and quite possibly complicit police.

The country that used to be

The open sore of Olof Palme's assassination and its non-investigation is one of several indications that Sweden's fate is being guided by unseen forces which, for want of a better term, might be called a "deep state". Other signs include the perverse persecution of Julian Assange¹⁴ and the nearly complete process of herding the nation into the global slaughterhouse of USA/NATO.¹⁵

Among other things, those developments illustrate what can happen when key officials and institutions fail to perform their proper functions. That, of course, is a phenomenon which is not peculiar to Sweden — as attested by the dubious U.S. investigations into the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and President John. F. Kennedy, etc.

The inevitable result of such dysfunction is the growth of alienation and distrust. One of those affected in Sweden is the engineer and corporate executive whose chance encounter with a key witness on a Baltic ferry started a process which eventually led to Anti Avsan.

Bo Hall explains that, "Like most Swedes, I suspect, I grew up with an implicit faith in the competence and integrity of our public officials — the police, the government and so on. And so it remained, pretty much, until the murder of Olof Palme.

"Since then, seeing how the police have grossly mistreated the two young Finnish women, who I am convinced have merely told the truth — how all those responsible have mishandled the investigation, all the lies, the suspicious secrecy, etc., etc. — it has caused me to lose all faith. Don't these people understand how much harm they are doing to our society?

"I am disgusted, saddened, and deeply worried about the future of what used to be my country."

— Al Burke

RELATED ARTICLES

Death of a Troublesome Socialist

<http://www.nnn.se/nordic/palme/assassin.pdf>

The Legacy of Olof Palme

<http://www.nnn.se/n-model/palme/palme.htm>

From Neutrality to NATO

<http://www.nnn.se/nordic/americult/nato/neutrality.htm>

Worlds Apart

<http://www.nnn.se/n-model/foreign/apart.htm>

Shorter version of this article in German

<http://www.nnn.se/nordic/palme/wt-palme.pdf>

NOTES

1. The unit became known as the “baseball league”, a reference to the non-regulation caps that the members wore. It was established in 1982 by police chief Hans Holmér, who four years later appointed himself to lead the investigation into the murder of Olof Palme — unhindered by the government or his lack of experience in such matters. For an account in Swedish of the baseball league, see *Brottsutredningen efter mordet på statsminister Olof Palme: Granskningskommissionens betänkande*. SOU 1999:88, page 279 ff.
www.regeringen.se/rattsdokument/statens-offentliga-utredningar/1999/01/sou-199988--
2. For details on the Petterson fiasco, see “Death of a Troublesome Socialist.” Nordic News Network, 28 February 2011.
www.nnn.se/nordic/palme/assassin.pdf
3. Alf Anderson, quoted in “Palmemordet: Mannen, Mordet, Mysteriet”, *Dokument Inifrån*. Swedish Public Television, March 1999.
4. See *Assange vs. Sweden*, Nordic News Network. www.nnn.se/nordic/assange.htm
5. Interview in *Wer Erschoss Olof Palme?* Co-production of NDR and Arte, 1996.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=87LEs7LbhOQ
6. This witness, whose identity is known to the author, is unwilling to come forward publicly due to fear of both the assassin and the police. That fear is clearly well-founded and is unlikely to be allayed unless adequate protection can be provided, and responsibility for the murder investigation is transferred from the police to a more neutral and trustworthy alternative.
7. The War Delegation consists of 51 MPs whose purpose is to substitute for the 349-member parliament in emergencies stemming from war or the risk of war.
8. Kari & Pertti Poutiainen, *Inuti Labyrinten*, p. 793. Grimur Förlag, 1995.
9. *Ibid.*, cover text
10. Telephone conversation with the author, 1 June 1995. From that conversation, it did not seem likely that Ölvebro had read or understood *any* pages of the book.
11. *Ibid.* One analyst who is able to imagine a motive for the C.I.A. is a former Swedish fighter pilot. See Anders Jallai, “Palme stoppade Nato — Nato stoppade Palme”.
www.jallai.se/2012/12/palme-stoppade-nato-nato-stoppade-palme
12. Kari & Pertti Poutiainen, *Inuti Labyrinten*, pp. 791-792. Grimur Förlag, 1995.
13. Public meeting. “Palme: Livet. Politiken. Mordet.” Stockholm: Kulturhuset. 25 February 2016.
14. *Assange vs. Sweden*, *op. cit.*
15. “Sweden Capitulates to USA/NATO”. *Nordic News Network*.
www.nnn.se/nordic/americult/nato/welt-trends.pdf

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APPENDIX 1

Witness “Anneli” in her own words

Moments before Olof Palme was shot to death in central Stockholm, two young women of Finnish extraction briefly encountered a man who almost certainly was the assassin. Years later they were interviewed separately by the police on eight separate occasions — “Anneli” three times and “Anki” five times. What was said in all but one of the eight interviews has been kept secret by the police.

The exception is the first interview, with Anneli, which was held on 26 January 1993. A record of that interview is available because journalist Olle Alsén, who had persuaded Anneli to contact the police, was allowed to be present with a tape recorder. The major portion of his transcript of the recording he made is reproduced in English below.

This extensive excerpt follows an introductory section in which Anneli explains that she and a female friend — who at this point is not known to the police, and whom Anneli does not wish to name — have just left a cinema in central Stockholm near midnight on 28 February 1986.

The interview was conducted by police investigator Ingvar Isacsson, whose questions are *italicized*.

Anneli’s responses in everyday Swedish seem spontaneous and unrehearsed. It is also evident that she was careful to distinguish between details of which she was certain and others concerning which she was uncertain or had no knowledge.

* * *

Anneli: We walk along Kungsgatan Street toward Sveavägen Road, where we turn right in the direction of the Dekorima shop. We almost walk past the guy standing by Dekorima.... We were going to look at some furniture. We were walking and chatting about furniture — I had just moved into a new flat.... We had some time before our train was scheduled to leave — and just as we walked past (Dekorima) she asked what time it was, and —

Ingvar Isacsson: Where was she then — was she just outside Dekorima?

It was so well-lit there — either just outside the door or beside it.

Is he standing still, or is he coming toward you?

He is standing still there. It must be the brightest spot there. And she asks [me] what time it is, and I look to see, but I am not wearing my watch — and I always wear a watch. And then she began to laugh at me: “You who never forgets her watch!” And then she sees the guy and goes right up to him and I follow. And then something strange happens — she speaks to this bloke in Finnish, asks him what time it is. She usually never speaks to anyone in Finnish, maybe because she is Finno-Swedish, or some other reason. I am really irritated with her because she refuses to speak Finnish, so I found this very surprising.

So she asks what time it is, and he just looks at her — probably because he is so taken aback — I remember his eye contact — he was so taken aback because she spoke

to him directly in Finnish. I also reacted to that, plus I was still upset over the film. Just stares at her. He doesn't answer, and so she takes him by his jacket, here by the collar [and asks], again in Finnish, "Can't you say what time it is?", or "Why can't you say what time it is?"

And still he says nothing. And so I begin to understand that this is not good, somehow, and I begin to tug at her arm, the arm of her jacket, and want her to begin — then I pull her back toward Kungsgatan Street, because by then we have already forgotten that we were going to do some window-shopping. By then I think it is strange because he is so strange, and then we hear — “



The red dot marks the scene of the murder.

You feel that it is unpleasant or uncomfortable?

Yes, I feel that this is not good, like. Plus, it doesn't help with the mood lingering from the film. Maybe it was not such an awful mood, but it sort of — but on the whole it felt so. And then both of us hear this thing that — he is holding this walkie-talkie when suddenly — she can see more, of course....

Have you started to leave that place when you hear it?

No, she is still standing in front of him and I am tugging at her and want her to come away, and then he says, "I have been recognized". Everything is happening in Finnish then.

Does he have that —

I saw it, too — that he was holding a walkie-talkie. But she is the one who saw that he had a pistol, like this, under his arm; but not me.

Can we stop there for a moment and describe this man? Approximately how old was he?

A normal young chap, 25-30 years old — difficult to guess his age, but something around there.

It is what you remember that you must tell me. If you do not remember, say that you don't remember.

And more generally, an average bloke, brown hair.

We usually follow a certain order.

O.K.

Approximately how tall was he?

At least a head taller than me. Maybe 180 - 185 centimetres. He was not short; he was... normal.

What about body type?

Normal — not fat, not thin.

Hair colour?

Brown. Not light-haired.

Curly? Straight?

No — like yours, Isacsson.”

Cut short?

Yes. Other than that, I don't remember anything — if he had eyeglasses, a moustache or anything. I seem to recall that he did not have, but I can't guarantee that — I remember his eyes, but I can't say anything about their colour. But I remember his eyes. That he was so astonished — *that* expression.

Clothing? Bareheaded or head covering?

Don't remember.

Jacket, overcoat or...?

No, about half-length. Typical leather jacket.... Don't remember. Remember only that it was half-length and that it was a leather jacket.

Dark or light-coloured?

Dark. Dark-coloured. Don't remember anything about his shoes or — It is his facial expression that... and the leather jacket — that's it.

That jacket — was it open or closed?

Didn't see.

The walkie-talkie, then. Did he have it.... You noticed it eventually. Could he have been holding it right from the start?... Gloves? Let's then go back to the situation. You are tugging on her jacket, Ann is still standing in front of him. And then....*

Then I see that he takes the walkie-talkie, that he has it in his hand, because I haven't noticed it, and then I notice that he is holding it.... I look first at him, but I also look at her because I am still surprised that he is speaking Finnish with her. Because we have just had a big argument that weekend with some other Finnish guys about why they don't speak Finnish with me. I want to speak Finnish whenever I get a chance; I don't have anyone else.

Anyway. So he says into the walkie-talkie that “I have been recognized”, in Finnish. And he gets a reply from somewhere to “Never mind about that. They are coming now.” And then I grab my friend's arm even harder on and pull her away, and go quickly toward Kungsgatan Street. Then even she felt that it was uncomfortable, and we begin to walk. We are still not running.

* It is not clear why the interviewer refers to the other woman as “Ann”. At this point, Anneli has not divulged Anki's name. It may be that Anneli and the interviewer have agreed to use the pseudonym Ann to facilitate the interview.

The walkie-talkie — was it big or little?

I don't remember, but he had it there.

Do you remember if there was an antenna, a short or a long antenna?

No, no details of any sort. It was too long ago. I only remember that he spoke into it. It may not have been very big, actually... and then there are those Finnish words. Then we walk away — and I don't remember where we were when we hear it, but in any event we hear a shot, and it is soon after — Yes, still on the same side [of the street]. That is what I remember.

How far have you gone when you hear the shot?

Maybe across Kungsgatan Street. But I am certain that we don't see him when the shot is fired. And it was a loud noise, so I don't know if was one shot or two close together; but we perceived it as one loud shot. We may have crossed Kungsgatan Street, but... When we hear that, I grab her and begin to run towards Sergels Torg.

Source: Sven Anér. Palmemordet, 20 October 2013

<http://svenanerpalmemordet.blogspot.fr/2013/10/forhoret-med-anneli-aldrig-meningen-att.html>

* * *

Note: As is often the case, the intended meaning of the speakers is not always clear from their recorded and transcribed words, and that may have affected the accuracy of this English translation regarding some minor details. But on key issues, such as the women's encounter with the man by the Dekorima shop, the Swedish transcript is quite clear. It remains the "authoritative" version of the interview.

Appendix 2...

Questionable Inquiry

On the dubious conduct and conclusions of a public inquiry into the police investigation of the Palme assassination

As years passed with little progress by the official investigation into the assassination of Olof Palme, and serious questions about its credibility began to accumulate, pressure mounted for a public inquiry into its conduct.

An inquiry was eventually appointed in 1994 and, after some initial confusion, was reconstituted as the Commission for the Review of the Investigation into the Murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme (hereinafter referred to as the Palme Commission).^{*} The executive secretary was law professor Hans-Gunnar Axberger who was mainly responsible for the work of the commission and its final report which was submitted in 1999.

Another member was Inga-Britt Ahlenius, who has earned a reputation for integrity and independence as an auditor for the Swedish government, the United Nations and the European Union. She has not publicly questioned the work or final report of the Palme Commission, but has continued to criticize the failure of the investigators to pursue important lines of inquiry, including those leading in the direction of the United States.

The findings of the commission have been criticized on a number of grounds. The issues raised below refer to a section of the final report which deals with the possibility that some elements of the police may have been involved in the assassination, including testimony which implicates a specific, identified policeman as the assassin.

The following questions and observations were submitted to Hans-Gunnar Axberger and Inga-Britt Ahlenius for comment in May of 2016. Neither has responded.

^{*}Granskningskommissionen i anledning av utredningen av mordet på statsminister Olof Palme (SOU 1999:88)

* * *

Concerning the "Dekorima Man" section of the final report

Quotations from the report are in black bold italics.

1) The investigation of the "Dekorima man" is very extensive.*

If so, one can only wonder what a meagre investigation would look like. The man in charge during the period in question, Hans Ölvebro, declared at the start of his term in March 1988 and repeatedly thereafter that, "The only line of inquiry that I refuse to follow is the one that leads to the police".

^{*} "Dekorima Man" is the provisional name applied to the man seen by several witnesses near the Dekorima shop before and during the assassination; see page 1 of this document.

This is how it could sound when Ölvbro was asked about the possible involvement of police in the murder of Olof Palme (hereinafter referred to as the police lead): "As for the police lead, the police have been continually subjected to vicious persecution.... It is not my task to investigate how various police have conducted themselves.... Sweden is a democracy and we have excellent police who are also democratic.... Do you think that we, who are democratic and work in a democratic police corps, would murder our prime minister? We are here to protect society." (Source: Joint production of TV channels NDR and Arte, 1996. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87LEs7LbhOQ>)

That is the style of reasoning employed by the man who led the police investigation during the crucial years of 1988-1997. Does he sound like someone who was inclined to conduct a "very extensive" investigation of the Dekorima Man or any other aspect of the police lead? [See Appendix 3 for more examples.]

The police investigation's handling of "the two young Finnish women's" evidence appears to reflect Ölvbro's hostile and dismissive attitude toward the police lead, as in the following example of his thought process: "Seven years have now passed, and here comes one of the girls and says that she recognizes the man who was waiting [by the Dekorima shop] — and nothing has happened in seven years! Why should it happen now? It is first necessary to figure out who it is that she has seen. We can't go around showing photos of every man in Sweden."

"We can't go around showing photos of every man in Sweden."

I am not aware of anyone who has suggested that investigators should "go around showing photos of every man in Sweden" — a style of argument that is characteristic of Ölvbro. But there is *one* portrait that is of particular interest, namely that of Anti Avsan (more on that below). How shall one then interpret the fact that, when the investigators showed six portraits to "Anneli" and "Anki" in a so-called photo line-up, Anti Avsan's was not included? Is that consistent with a "very extensive" investigation?

There is a question that is even more urgent: How was it possible that Ölvbro could remain in place as the chief investigator after he had openly declared his refusal to "have anything to do with" one of the most important lines of inquiry?

A related question is why that issue is not mentioned with a single word in the Palme Commission's final report. I find it difficult to imagine any reasonable explanation for that omission.

To this may be added that the commission's report itself draws attention to serious deficiencies in the investigation of the police lead, for example:

Page 372: "The fundamental reason that it has not been possible to put an end to speculations about a deliberately delayed response [of the police to the murder] is the disarray that existed at the police's co-ordinating centre and the unwillingness of the police to quickly clarify that circumstance."

Page 407: "This is yet another illustration of the deficiencies in the work of the police at that time."

Page 413. "The police did too little themselves to investigate and document what went wrong during the night of the murder."

Page 416: "The lack of an overall perspective, the absence of basic analyses and the reactive working methods characterize much of the murder investigation."

And concerning the police lead: "No investigatory measures of any kind have been taken, nor has there even been an attempt to develop theories or possible motives" for police involvement.

Page 417: "Those who led the preliminary investigation assumed that no networks or organizations were involved [in the murder]. After studying the available information, we do not believe that such an assumption can be made."

Page 418: "With regard to the police lead and other matters relating to the police, we find that the leaders of the preliminary investigation have been negligent in their duty. That is all the more extraordinary, given that a parliamentary commission specifically emphasized the importance of those issues."

2) The stories [of the two young women] have a common core, but there are also contradictions. Among other things, the two women had different ideas about which film they had seen during their earlier visit to the cinema.

That common core is no small thing. Hans Ölvbro has acknowledged that the separate testimonies of the two young women are in agreement on the crucial issue, i.e. their encounter with the Dekorima Man. Why is that not mentioned in the commission report, which instead focuses on a detail of comparatively minor significance? Is the investigation's task to solve the Palme murder, or find out which film the two young women saw that evening?

In any event, the uncertainty about the film's title can be explained. Over the years, the two old friends have presumably seen several, perhaps many films together. In that case, it is not strange that after six years they may have got one or another of them mixed up. Furthermore, Anneli has related that on this particular occasion she was very irritated because Anki had chosen the film that night without mentioning that it was a horror film — a genre which Anneli despises. These were probably not the most favourable circumstances for recalling the film's title seven years later.

Is it the task of the investigation to solve the Palme murder, or find out which film the two young women saw that evening?

In contrast, Anneli and Anki had an odd encounter with a Finnish-speaking man by the Dekorima shop only once. One might expect that such an encounter shortly before Prime Minister Palme was murdered at the same place would be easier to remember, and the two young women have done so — to such a degree that they have separately provided mutually consistent evidence about their joint experience.

3) The possibility that the two women have mistaken the date of their observations cannot be excluded. However, there is little reason to assume anything other than that an event which has given rise to their evidence has taken place; but its connection with the murder may be an after-the-fact construction or a mistake.

This is an extraordinarily peculiar line of reasoning. It suggests that the two young women have on more than one occasion encountered a Finnish-speaking man with a walkie-talkie and a pistol by the Dekorima shop around midnight, and on the following morning learnt that Olof Palme had shortly thereafter been murdered at just that place.

In other words, Olof Palme has been murdered more than once, which explains why the two women's mutually corroborating evidence "may be an after-the-fact construction or a mistake".

I would like to believe that I have misunderstood this passage in the commission report. But despite several rereadings, I am unable to interpret it in any other way.

4) They have been unwilling to participate in reconstructions of events and in ID line-ups.

Hans Ölvebro has also made a point of this, but has been enlightened by Olle Alsén, who notes: "I explain why Anneli/ Anki did not dare to participate. Video filming of the participants could be observed, etc. Some people can be frightened by what is spread in the mass media." [See Appendix 3.]

It is clear from the information available to the investigation that Anki in particular was extremely afraid of the Dekorima Man and his mates at the gym in Upplands-Väsby.

Then there is the following exchange between Olle Alsén and Anneli before she came to the attention of the police investigation:

Anneli: Don't you understand? If this comes out, we are going to be killed....

Alsén: If you were to give evidence to the police, that would be less likely, because then it would —

Anneli: I would *never* go to the police. It would be better for a journalist — I don't trust the police in this matter.

Alsén: You don't trust the police?

Anneli: No, because I think it is strange that they haven't got him yet.

Source: <http://svenanerpalmemordet.blogspot.se/2011/03/men-att-den-ena-hade-pratat-med.html#.Vzso63DtDno>

It may be assumed that Anneli's attitude toward the police did not become more positive when she and her friend Anki were later subjected to the treatment of the investigation headed by Hans Ölvebro. From the available information, it is clear that Ölvebro was hostile toward the two young women from the start. Both have been seen emerging red-eyed from crying after being interrogated by Ölvebro, who is reported to have threatened and frightened them.

Whether or not those reports are true is a question whose answer might be found in the protocols of the seven interviews [with the two women] at which neither Olle Alsén nor any other outsider was present. Perhaps that is why those protocols have been classified as secret (see point 10 below). Ölvebro's attitude toward the two women is clearly reflected in a telephone conversation with Olle Alsén during which he expresses a remarkable indifference to their personal safety, suggests that they might be "criminal", etc. [See Appendix 3.]

Both young women have been seen emerging red-eyed from crying after being interrogated by Ölvebro.

Other indications are that the interrogation of the two young women began relatively soon after the police toward the end of 1992 first learned of their encounter with the Dekorima Man, and that one of the first measures taken by the police was to search *Anki's* home.

In contrast, it was not until June of 1993 that Anti Avsan was interviewed — only once — and as far as is known, his home was never searched.

As a result of the police's treatment of the two young women, and not least the associated coverage in the mass media, they became so worried about the safety of themselves and Anki's child that they moved far from Stockholm and tried to remain anonymous.

Ölvebro's response? "I can't help that."

5) Based on the information [provided by the two young women], a search for the man was launched immediately. A large number of individuals with connections to "the gym" were interrogated, without the police investigators being able to learn anything about the man's identity.

Journalist Olle Alsén obtained a possible identification of the Dekorima Man on his first visit to the gym in question. He submitted the name — Anti Avsan — and related information to Hans Ölvebro, who then did everything in his power to prevent a "thorough investigation" of Avsan's possible involvement in the Palme assassination.

As previously noted, Ölvebro and/or his associates arranged a photo line-up from which Anti Avsan's portrait was omitted.

I have myself received information which indicates that neither has Avsan's portrait been shown to any of those who witnessed the murder at relatively close range. When one of them was later shown a photo portrait of Avsan, the reaction was immediate and unhesitating: "That's the man who shot Palme!"

When one witness was shown a portrait of Avsan, the reaction was immediate and unhesitating: "That's the man who shot Palme!"

This and much else is entirely in accord with Hans Ölvebro's stated refusal to even consider the police lead (see point 1).

6) The original testimony contains no information about police involvement. That suspicion has been expressed as things progressed, but appears to contradict what "the Finnish girls" have said during interrogation. Olla A. has hypothesized that the man might be identical with Anti A., a policeman.

The first sentence of this passage expresses a truth with modifications. In fact, the original testimony quickly led, via Olle Alsén, to policeman Anti Avsan. The assertion that the possible connection [of Avsan to the assassination] "appears to contradict what 'the Finnish girls' have said during interrogation" has not been documented and cannot be accepted on faith. I am not aware of any disagreement between Olle Alsén and the Finnish-speaking women.

As previously noted, the question of Anti Avsan's involvement in the Palme murder would have been easier to resolve if the police investigators had displayed a willingness to do so.

In addition, Olle Alsén's reasoning with regard to Anti Avsan is based on clear indications rather than on hypotheses. The latter concept could as easily be applied to most of the investigation's evidence against Christer Petterson (which the Palme Commission's report seems to regard with comparatively uncritical eyes).

7) *Anti A. was also interviewed. He was born in Sweden to parents of Estonian descent. He did not speak Finnish, although via Estonian he could be understood by Finns.*

Has it been established that Anti Avsan is unable to exchange some simple words and phrases in Finnish? If so, when, how and by whom was that done?

8) *His wife was interviewed and the information she provided gave him an alibi for the night of the murder.*

Does the Palme Commission mean to suggest that this alibi is sufficient?

9) *In June 1994 the police investigation managed to interview the man who had arranged the contact between Olle A. and Anneli. Olle A. participated in the interview as a witness and posed questions of his own. The man had come in contact with Anneli in June 1992 on a Baltic ferry. They met again in October, when Anneli related her experience on the night of the murder.*

The name of the man in question is Bo Hall. He is a retired engineer and businessman, and is a good friend of mine. He states emphatically that he has never been interviewed by the police, with or without the presence of Olle Alsén. Bo also states that he first met Anneli on a Baltic ferry at the end of October 1992.

It thus seems that there is not much in this passage that is correct — which naturally raises the questions of where the Palme Commission got its information and how reliable the rest of its information may be.

10) *The import [of the two women's testimony] is difficult to grasp. The information has come in late, in 1992 — more than six years after the murder. It was already then difficult to check. The potential for memory errors is substantial.... The fact that the information, despite its obvious significance for the murder investigation, was reported so late reduces its credibility.*

This style of reasoning indicates that it is rather the final report's section on the Dekorima Man which is difficult to grasp.

The most important information — on the possible connection of Anti Avsan with the murder — may be difficult to confirm; but the investigators have systematically failed to do so in a credible manner.

Whether or not Anneli's and Anki's memories have failed is difficult to determine without access to the protocols of their interrogations by the police, which are reported to be eight in total. But the investigators have thus far refused to make them available. The one exception is the first interview which was recorded and transcribed by Olle Alsén, and I am fairly certain that most people who read her testimony will find it credible. [See Appendix 1.]

11) *As far as we are aware, there is no other investigation which confirms the information [presented by the two young women].*

This observation is also difficult to grasp. Why should there be another investigation, and what sort of confirmation does the commission require?

In any event, the material already gathered by the police investigation contains information which supports the accounts of Anneli and Anki. For example, witnesses have testified that, moments before the murder, they saw two young women exchange some words with a man who was waiting by the Dekorima shop. A Swedish couple, who just then walked past those three individuals, heard them speaking in some foreign language. (See also point 12.)

12) *It is therefore difficult to understand why the women did not want to report their observations, themselves.*

To quote Anneli: "Don't you understand? If this comes out, we are going to be killed."

And further, from Olle Alsén's notes from his conversation with her: "Some time after the murder (during 1986 in any event), her friend [Anki] had related that she had learnt from a newspaper (possibly from the radio) that an attempt was being made to find two girls who were reported to have encountered a man near the scene of the murder, and that one of them was short and had conversed with the man. According to Anneli, her friend is the shorter of the two. They understood that it was they who were being sought and became even more frightened, and have never spoken to the police or anyone else about their experience. Anneli says that her friend 'is going to murder me if she finds out that I have spoken of this to [Olle's informant]'."

Source: <http://svenanerpalmemordet.blogspot.se/2011/03/men-att-den-ena-hade-pratat-med.html#.Vzso63DtDno>

13) *The Dekorima Man, i.e. the man at "the gym", seems to be especially elusive.*

Yes, it can be difficult to get ahold of people if one systematically avoids looking for them.

These are some specific points concerning the section on the Dekorima Man, etc. More generally, it may be noted that the commission's treatment of this line of inquiry is remarkably sparse. It is dealt with in three pages of the 1000-page report, while clearly less important leads receive greater attention. For example:

Policeman A — 13 pages

Policeman E — 6 pages

Policeman A – Policeman L — 40 pages in total

I do not mean to suggest that those leads should not have been considered. But as far as I can see, none of them is based on evidence as strong as the testimony of Anneli and Anki, as outlined above.

It may also be noted that the commission report's guiding principle concerning the police lead seems to be that exoneration is preferable to conviction. That is an excellent principle for judicial processes, but hardly appropriate for a critical review of a public agency.

It is not much of an exaggeration to say that, with a few exceptions, the section on the Dekorima Man could have been written by Hans Ölvebro.

There is much else in the report that elicits wonder, not least the total absence of any reference to Ulf Lingärde's testimony which was presented in, among other contexts, a "hearing" on 14 June 1995 that was arranged by the first version of the Palme Commission, led by Sigvard Marjasin. (<http://runeberg.org/palmenytt/1997/0175.html>)

How can that be explained? As far as I know, Lingärde's extremely important evidence has never been disproved — merely neglected.

I would be grateful for your comments on this review of the final report's section on the Dekorima Man, which you are welcome to distribute more widely. I would be especially grateful for answers to the following questions:

- Has the effect of the Palme Commission's final report, intentionally or unintentionally, been to gloss over and/or divert attention from the police lead?
- Would the Commission be willing to update the report to correct its deficiencies?
- Why have the police during all this time remained in charge of the Palme murder investigation, despite obvious conflicts of interest and the many serious deficiencies that have been noted by a parliamentary commission, the Palme Commission *et al.*?
- What would be necessary to transfer responsibility for the murder investigation to more independent and better qualified forces?

Regards,

Al Burke

* * * * *



Tvivelaktig utredning

Om Granskningskommissionens tvivelaktiga arbetssätt och slutsatser

När åren gick utan några större framsteg med den officiella utredningen om Palmemordet, och allvarliga frågor om dess trovärdighet började ackumuleras, ökade trycket för en offentlig utredning om hur den sköttes.

Så småningom blev en utredning utsedd 1994 och, efter en del krångel vid starten, ombildades den som Granskningskommissionen i anledning av utredningen av mordet på statsminister Olof Palme (SOU 1999:88). Huvudsekreterare var juristen Hans-Gunnar Axberger som var huvudansvarig för kommissionens arbete samt för dess slutbetänkande som överlämnades 1999.

En annan ledamot var Inga-Britt Ahlenius som har fått ett rykte för integritet och självständighet i sin roll som revisor för bl.a. svenska staten, Förenta nationerna och Europeiska unionen. Hon har inte offentligt ifrågasatt Granskningskommissionens arbete eller slutbetänkande, men hon har fortsatt att kritisera mordutredarnas underlåtenhet att följa viktiga spår, inklusive sådana som leder i riktning mot USA.

Kommissionens rön har kritiserats på flera punkter. De frågor som ställs här nedan handlar om ett avsnitt i slutbetänkandet som behandlar möjligheten att vissa element inom poliskåren kan ha varit inblandade i lönnmordet, inklusive vittnesmål som tyder på att en viss namngiven polis var mördaren.

Följande frågor och iakttagelser lämnades i maj 2016 till Hans-Gunnar Axberger och Inga-Britt Ahlenius för kommentarer. Ingenta har svarat.

Beträffande avsnittet "Dekorimamannen" i Granskningskommissionens betänkande

Detta avsnitt finns på sid. 401-403. Citat ur betänkandet återges i *kursiverad fetstil*.

1) Utredningen om dekorimamannen är mycket omfattande.

I så fall kan man undra hur en torftig utredning skulle se ut. Huvudansvarig under gällande period var Hans Ölvebro, som redan när han mars 1988 började som spaningsledare och upprepade gånger därefter deklarerade att "Det enda spår som jag vägrar att befatta mig med är polisspåret."

Så här kunde det låta när Hans Ölvebro fick frågan om eventuell inblandning av polis i mordet på Palme: "När det gäller polisspåret har ju poliser hela tiden utsatts för rabiat förföljelse.... Det är inte min uppgift att undersöka hur olika poliser har uppträtt.... Sverige är en bra demokrati och vi har bra poliser som också är demokratiska.... Tror du att vi som är demokratiska och som arbetar inom en demokratisk poliskår skulle mörda vår statsminister? Vi är till för att skydda samhället."*

På detta vis resonerade den man som ledde polisutredningen under de viktiga åren 1988-1997. Låter det som någon som var benägen att driva en "mycket omfattande" utredning om Dekorimamannen eller någon annan del av polisspåret? [Fler exempel finns i Appendix 3 i detta dokument.]

Polisutredningens hantering av "de finska tjejernas" vittnesmål tycks spegla Ölvebros avoga inställning till polisspåret, som t.ex. i följande exempel på dennes tänkesätt: "Här har gått sju år och här påstår en av flickorna att man känner igen den man som stod där — och det har inte hänt någonting på sju år! Varför skulle det hända nu? Man måste ju först komma fram till en som det kan vara som hon har sett. Man kan ju inte hålla på och visa bilder på alla män i Sverige." [Se Appendix 3 i detta dokument.]

Ingen mig veterligen har någonsin föreslagit att utredarna bör "visa bilder på alla män i Sverige" — ett för Ölvebro karakteristiskt sätt att argumentera. Däremot är *ett* porträtt av särskilt intresse, nämligen Anti Avsans (mer om detta här nedan). Hur skall man då tolka den omständighet att, när utredarna visade sex porträtt för "Anneli" och "Anki" i en s.k. fotokonfrontation, just Anti Avsans inte fanns med? Är detta förenligt med en "mycket omfattande" utredning?

Det finns en fråga som är ännu mer angelägen: Hur kunde Hans Ölvebro få sitta kvar som spaningsledare trots att han helt öppet vägrade att "befatta sig" med ett av de viktigaste spåren? Så vitt jag vet blev det aldrig någon diskussion på högre ort om huruvida han borde ersättas av någon som vore beredd att förutsättningslöst driva utredningen.

En besläktad fråga är varför denna problematik inte med ett enda ord nämns i Granskningskommissionens betänkande. Jag har svårt att föreställa mig någon rimlig förklaring för denna underlåtenhet.

* Samproduktion av TV-kanaler NDR och Arte 1996.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87LEs7LbhOQ>

Obs! De citat som här återges är tagna från dokumentärens undertexter där den tyska berättaren på flera ställen överröstar Hans Ölvebro.

Till detta kan läggas att betänkandet på flera punkter pekar på allvarliga brister på utredningen av polisspåret i allmänhet, som till exempel:

Sid. 372: "Det grundläggande skälet till att det inte gått att sätta punkt för diskussionen om en medveten fördröjning är emellertid de missförhållanden som allmänt rådde i sambandscentralen och polisens ovilja att själva snabbt söka bringa klarhet i förhållandena."

Sid. 407: "Detta är ännu en illustration till polisarbetets brister vid denna tid."

Sid. 413: "Polisen gjorde för litet för att själv utreda och dokumentera vad som gått snett under mordnatten."

Sid. 416: "Bristen på helhetsgrepp, frånvaron av basanalyser och det reaktiva arbetssättet präglar stora delar av mordutredningen."

Och: "... det s.k. polisspåret där det likaledes finns ringa 'koppling till Sveavägen' och där det över huvud taget inte vidtagits några utredningsåtgärder eller ens förts resonemang kring brottshypoteser och motivbild."

Sid. 417: "Förundersökningsledningen har med andra ord ansett sig kunna utgå från att det inte finns några nätverk eller organisationer. Det anser vi oss inte kunna utgå från efter att ha tagit del av materialet. Vi anser att just detta borde ha utretts..."

Sid. 418: "Enligt vår mening har förundersökningsledningen såväl beträffande polisärendena som 'polisspåret' försummat sin uppgift. Det är så mycket mera anmärkningsvärt som denna sak särskilt lyftes fram av Juristkommissionen..."

2) Berättelserna har en gemensam kärna men innehåller motsägelser, bl.a. hade kvinnorna olika uppfattning om vilken film de skulle ha sett, då de tidigare varit på bio.

Denna gemensamma kärna är ingen småsak. Hans Ölvebro har medgivit att de två tjejnarnas enskilda vittnesmål är samstämmiga när det gäller det allra väsentligaste, d.v.s. mötet med Dekorimamannen. Varför nämns inte detta i betänkandet, som i stället lyfter fram en i sammanhanget avsevärt mindre detalj? Är utredningens uppgift att lösa Palmemordet eller att ta reda på vilken film som de två tjejnarna såg på den kvällen?

Oklarheten om filmens titel har i alla fall sin förklaring. De två gamla väninnorna har antagligen under årens lopp sett flera, kanske många filmer tillsammans. I så fall är det inte konstigt att de efter sex år kan ha blandat ihop den ena och den andra. Dessutom har Anneli berättat att hon just denna gång var förbannad då hon kände sig lurad av Anki, som hade gjort valet utan att berätta att den var en skräckfilm, en genre som Anneli avskyr. Dessa var nog inte de bästa förutsättningarna för att minnas filmens titel.

Däremot mötte Anneli och Anki en finsktalande man vid Dekorima bara en gång. Man skulle tro att ett sådant möte kort före mordet på statsminister Palme på samma plats vore lättare att minnas, och det har tjejnorna också gjort — i så motto att de har lämnat samstämmiga vittnesmål om händelsen.

3) Möjligheten att kvinnorna misstar sig beträffande tidpunkten (datum) för sin iakttagelse kan inte uteslutas. Det finns dock knappast skäl att anta annat än att en händelse som gett upphov till tipset ägt rum, men dess koppling till mordet kan vara en efterkonstruktion eller ett misstag.

Detta är ett synnerligen märkligt resonemang. Det tycks innebära att tjejerna vid fler än ett tillfälle kring midnatt vid Dekorima har råkat på en finsktalande man med walkie-talkie och pistol, sedan på morgnarna därpå fick veta att Olof Palme kort efter detta möte hade mördats på just den platsen.

Alltså, Olof Palme har mördats fler än en gång, varför tjejernas samstämmiga vittnesmål "kan vara en efterkonstruktion eller ett misstag".

Jag vill gärna tro att jag har missuppfattat denna passus i betänkandet. Men trots flera omläsningar kan jag inte tolka det på något annat sätt.

4) De har varit ovilliga till att medverka vid rekonstruktioner av händelseförloppet och konfrontationsförhör.

Detta har även Hans Ölvebro lyft fram, men av Olle Alsén har fått svar: "Jag förklarar varför Anneli/Pirjo [Anki] inte vågade ställa upp, videofilmningen kunde observeras av de inblandade, etc. Det finns ju folk som blir uppskrämda av vad man sprider i massmedia." [Se Appendix 3 i detta dokument.]

Det framkommer tydligt i det tillgängliga utredningsmaterialet att särskilt Anki var livrädd för Dekorimamannen och dennes kompisar på gymmet i Upplands-Väsby.

Sedan finns följande ur ett samtal mellan Olle Alsén och Anneli som ägde rum innan hon kom till polisutredningens kännedom:

Anneli: Men förstår du inte, kommer det här ut kommer vi att bli dödade...

Alsén: Om du t ex skulle berätta för polisen eller så är det svårare, för då kan man...

Anneli: Jag skulle aldrig gå till polisen, då bättre för en journalist för att — jag litar inte på poliserna om den här saken.

Alsén: Du litar inte på poliserna?

Anneli: Nej, för jag tycker det är lustigt att inte dom har fått tag på honom.

Källa: <http://svenanerpalmemordet.blogspot.se/2011/03/men-att-den-ena-hade-pratat-med.html#.Vzso63DtDno>

Annelis inställning till polisen blev nog inte mer positiv när hon och väninnan Anki senare blev föremål för den av Hans Ölvebro ledda utredningens behandling. Av det tillgängliga materialet framgår det tydligt att Ölvebro från första början var fientligt inställd mot de två unga kvinnorna. Båda har setts komma rödgråtna från förhör med Ölvebro, som enligt uppgift hotade och skrämde dem.

Svaret på frågan om det faktiskt var på det viset kan finnas i protokollen över de sju förhören som varken Olle Alsén eller någon annan utomstående närvarade; men kanske av denna anledning är dessa protokoll sekretessbelagda (se punkt 10). Ölvebros inställning till tjejerna framgår dock tydligt av hans telefonsamtal med Alsén där han bl.a. uttrycker en påfallande likgiltighet för deras säkerhet, föreslår att de kan vara "kriminella" m.m. [Se Appendix 3 i detta dokument.]

Andra tecken är att förhören med de två tjejerna inleddes relativt snart efter det att polisen mot slutet av 1992 fick det första tipset om deras möte med Dekorimamannen, samt att en av polisens första åtgärder var att rannsaka Ankis hem.

Som en kontrast dröjde det till juni 1993 innan Anti Avsan förhöordes — bara en gång — och så vitt jag vet blev det aldrig någon rannsaking av hans hem.

Som en följd av polisens behandling av de två unga kvinnorna, och inte minst den tillhörande mediauppmärksamheten, blev de så oroliga för sin (och Ankis barns) säkerhet att de flyttade långt ifrån Stockholm och försökte hålla sig anonyma.

Och Ölvebros respons? "Det kan ju inte jag hjälpa."

5) Med ledning av dessa uppgifter efterforskades mannen ingående. Ett stort antal personer med anknytning till "gymmet" hördes, utan att PU därvid lyckades få fram något om mannens identitet.

Journalisten Olle Alsén fixade en möjlig identifiering av Dekorimamannen med sitt första besök på gymmet i fråga. Han lämnade namnet — Anti Avsan — och tillhörande upplysningar till Hans Ölvebro, som sedan gjorde allt som han kunde för att förhindra en "ingående efterforskning" av Avsans eventuella koppling till Palmemordet.

Som tidigare noterat ordnade Ölvebro och/eller hans medarbetare en fotokonfrontation där Anti Avsans porträtt inte fanns med.

Jag har själv fått information som tyder på att Avsans porträtt inte heller har visats för något av de vittnen på mordet som på relativt nära håll såg gärningsmannen. När en av dessa sent omsider fick se ett fotoporträtt av Avsan blev reaktionen omedelbart och direkt: "Det var han som sköt Palme!"

Detta och mycket annat är helt förenligt med Hans Ölvebros uttalade vägran att befatta sig med polisspåret (se ovan, punkt 1).

6) Ursprungsuppgifterna innehåller ingen information om att poliser skulle ha förekommit i sammanhanget. Den misstanken har framförts under resans gång, men står närmast i strid med vad "de finska flickorna" berättat i förhören. Olle A har via egna hypoteser ifrågasatt om inte mannen kunde vara identisk med en Anti A, som var polisman.

Första meningen i denna passus uttrycker en sanning med modifikation. Faktum är att ursprungsuppgifterna ledde snart via Olle Alsén till polismannen Anti Avsan. Påståendet att denna eventuella koppling "står närmast i strid med vad 'de finska flickorna' berättat i förhören" är inte belagt och kan därmed inte utan vidare godtas. Själv känner jag inte till någon motsättning mellan Olle Alsén och de finskättade tjejerna.

Som tidigare noterat hade frågan om Anti Avsans eventuella inblandning i Palmemordet lättare klarats upp om polisutredningen varit villig att göra det.

För resten bygger Olle Alséns resonemang beträffande Anti Avsan snarare på tydliga indicier än på hypoteser — ett begrepp som minst lika väl kunde tillämpas på större delen av Palmeutredningens bevisföring på Christer Petterson (som Granskningskommissionens betänkande tycks betrakta med jämförelsevis okritiska ögon).

7) Även Anti A. själv hördes. Han var född i Sverige av föräldrar härstammande från Estland. Han talade inte finska, även om han via estniskan kunde göra sig förstådd med finländare.

Har det fastställts att Anti Avsan inte kan växla några enkla ord och fraser på finska? När, hur och av vem gjordes det i så fall?

8) Uppgifter från hans hustru, som hördes, gav honom alibi för mordkvällen.

Menar Granskningskommissionen att detta alibi räcker?

9) Beträffande uppslagens bakgrund i övrigt framgår följande. I juni 1994 lyckades PU få till stånd ett förhör med den man som förmedlat kontakten mellan Anneli och Olle A. Olle A. deltog i förhöret som förhörsvittne och ställde själv frågor. Mannen hade kommit i kontakt med Anneli i juni 1992 på en Finlandsbåt. De sågs åter i oktober, då Anneli berättade om sina upplevelser på mordkvällen.

Mannen i fråga heter Bo Hall, en pensionerad ingenjör och näringsidkare som är en god vän till mig. Han hävdar bestämt att han aldrig har förhörts av polisen, med eller utan Olle Alséns närvaro. Vidare konstaterar Bo att han träffade Anneli på Finlandsbåten först mot slutet av oktober 1992.

Det tycks således inte mycket i denna passus som stämmer. Detta väcker naturligtvis frågan om varifrån Granskningskommissionen har hämtat sin information och hur pålitligt den är i övrigt.

10) Uppslaget är på flera sätt svårgripbart. Uppgifterna har kommit in sent, mer än sex år efter mordet, 1992. De var redan då svåra att kontrollera. Utrymmet för minnesfel är betydande.... Det förhållandet att uppgifterna, trots deras uppenbara betydelse för mordutredningen, rapporterats in så sent sänker deras trovärdighet.

Den föregående diskussion tyder på att det snarare är betänkandets avsnitt om Dekorimamannen som är svårgripbart.

Den viktigaste uppgiften — denna om Anta Avsans eventuella koppling till mordet — må vara svår att kontrollera; men utredarna har konsekvent underlåtit att göra det på ett trovärdigt sätt.

Huruvida Annelis och Ankis minnen har svikit är svårt att bedöma utan tillgång till protokollen över deras polisförhör som sammantaget enligt uppgift uppgår till åtta. Men utredarna har hittills vägrat att lämna ut dem. Undantaget är det första förhöret med Anneli som nedtecknades av Olle Alsén, och jag är tämligen säker på att de flesta som läser hennes vittnesmål skulle finna det trovärdigt. [Se Appendix 1 i detta dokument.]

11) Det finns såvitt vi kunnat se ingen annan utredning beträffande mordkvällen som stöder uppgifterna.

Även denna iakttagelse är svårbegriplig. Varför skall det finnas någon annan utredning; och vad för slags stöd är det som kommissionen efterlyser?

Hur som helst innehåller den befintliga utredningens material en del uppgifter som stöder Annelis och Ankis berättelser. Till exempel har några vittnen sagt att de strax före mordet såg två unga kvinnor som verkade växla några ord med en man som väntade vid Dekorima. Ett svenskt par som just då gick förbi hörde dessa tre personer samtala i något främmande språk. (Se även punkt 12.)

12) Det är därvid också svårt att se varför kvinnorna inte velat anmäla sina iakttagelser själva.

För att citera Anneli: "Förstår du inte, kommer det här ut kommer vi att bli dödade."

Och vidare ur Olle Alséns anteckningar från sitt samtal med henne: "Väninnan [Anki] hade någon tid efter mordet (under 1986 i varje fall) berättat att hon i en tidning (ev. på radio) hade hört att man efterlyste två flickor som skulle ha sammanstött med en man i närheten av mordplatsen och varav den ena var kort och hade samtalat med mannen. Enligt A. [Anneli] är väninnan den korta av dem. De förstod då att det syftade på dem och blev ännu räddare, och har aldrig berättat för polisen eller andra. (A. [Anneli] säger att "väninnan kommer att mörda mej om hon får veta att jag har berättat en del för [Olles tipsare]").

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13) Dekorimamannen själv, dvs. mannen på "gymmet", synes särskilt undflyende.

Visst kan det vara svårt att få grepp om folk när man konsekvent undviker att leta efter dem.

* * *

Dessa är alltså några specifika punkter beträffande avsnittet om Dekorimamannen o.s.v. Mer allmänt kan det konstateras att kommissionens behandling av detta spår, med tanke på dess eventuella betydelse, är påfallande knapphändig. Det avhandlas på tre sidor i det tusensidiga betänkandet, medan till synes mindre angelägna spår får större uppmärksamhet, till exempel:

Polisman A — 13 sidor

Polisman E — 6 sidor

Polismän A – Polismän L sammantaget — 40 sidor

Jag menar inte att dessa spår inte borde ha behandlats. Men så vitt jag kan se, bygger inget av dem på indicier av samma dignitet som Annelis och Ankis vittnesmål såsom detta här ovan har förklarats.

En annan iakttagelse är att betänkandets vägledande princip när det gäller polisspåret tycks vara att hellre fria än att fälla. Det är ju en utmärkt princip för domstolsprocesser, men knappast för en granskning av en myndighet. Lite tillspetsat kunde man säga att, med några få undantag, hade avsnittet om Dekorimamannen kunnat författas av Hans Ölvebro.

Det finns mycket annat i betänkandet som väcker förundran, inte minst den totala avsaknaden av någon hänvisning till Ulf Lingärdes vittnesmål som bl.a. lämnades vid en "hörning" anordnades 14 juni 1995 av Granskningskommissionens första upplaga under ledning av Sigvard Marjasin. (<http://runeberg.org/palmenytt/1997/0175.html>)

Mig veterligen har Lingärdes oerhört angelägna vittnesmål aldrig motbevisats — bara försumrats. Hur kan detta förklaras?

Nåväl, jag vore tacksam för kommentarer på denna genomgång av betänkandets avsnitt om Dekorimamannen, som gärna får spridas vidare. Jag vore särskilt tacksam för svar på följande frågor:

- Har effekten av Granskningskommissionens betänkande varit att, avsiktligt eller oavsiktligt, släta över och/eller avleda uppmärksamhet från polisspåret?

- Vore kommissionen villig att uppdatera slutbetänkandet för att rätta till dess brister?
- Varför har polisen hela tiden fått svara för Palmeutredningen, trots den uppenbara intressekonflikten och de många allvarliga brister som har påpekats av Juristkommissionen, Granskningskommissionen m.fl.?
- Vad skulle krävas för att flytta ansvaret för Palmeutredningen från polisen till mer självständiga och kvalificerade krafter?

Med vänlig hälsning,

Al Burke

Appendix 3...

APPENDIX 3

The chief investigator reveals his opinion of two key witnesses in fear for their lives

Some six months after police investigators first learnt of the two key witnesses who were referred to as Anki and Anneli, the tabloid *Aftonbladet* broke the story of their dramatic testimony — which in all likelihood had been leaked to Sweden’s largest-circulation newspaper by someone with or with links to the investigation.

Olle Alsén, the journalist who had persuaded Anneli to contact the police with her evidence, was gravely concerned for the safety of the two young women when he learnt of the impending news shortly before its publication on 13 June 1993. He was acutely aware of their well-founded anxiety about the risk of reprisal by the man implicated in their testimony.

Alsén therefore telephoned chief investigator Hans Ölvebro to discuss their safety and related matters. He recorded the ensuing conversation and excerpts from the transcript are reproduced below.

For reasons of clarity, this translation omits or freely interprets some elements of the occasionally obscure and rambling discourse. A few explanatory comments have been added [*withinn italicized square brackets*] for the benefit of readers who are not especially familiar with the case. A link to the original text in Swedish is included on the final page.

* * * * *

Hans Ölvebro: There is nothing that checks out. I have told you that the girls have told two different stories. [*Not on the essentials, as noted later in the conversation.*] When we try to resolve the issue by getting them to participate in certain measures — to retrace their steps [on the night of the assassination], to point out things, etc. — they don’t want to.

Olle Alsén: (I explain why Anneli/Anki did not dare to participate: Video filming of the participants could be observed, etc. Some people can be frightened by what is spread in the mass media.)

HÖ: Sure, there are people who can be frightened by what is spread in the mass media. Seven years have now passed, and here comes one of the girls and says that she recognizes the man who was waiting [by the Dekorima shop] — and nothing has happened in seven years! Why should it happen now? It is first necessary to find out who it is that she has seen. We can’t go around showing photos of every man in Sweden.

[As Ölvebro is certainly aware, Anneli’s contact with the police was the result of a temporary lapse from a vow of silence, which led to an apparently permanent rift with her former friend. His glib formulation, “here comes one of the girls”, hardly reflects those circumstances.]

OA: But you have had some possible suspects, and since the interviews [with the “Dekorima Man”] have not been completed, he is now forewarned [by *Aftonbladet*] and she is afraid for her life.

HÖ: I can’t help that.

OA: No, but it suggests that there is some kind of sabotage behind the news leak, because it is now more difficult to — if [your interrogation of this man] is not already completed. But I suppose you can't say anything about that.

HÖ: You mean on our part? No, we have not identified the man whom she says that she would recognize....

HÖ: She doesn't even know what his name is....

OA: There is not anyone with the name that she has given?

HÖ: No, but, that is — it is not a complete name. It is only a first name, right? [This presumably refers to "Anti", a very unusual first name in Sweden.]

OA: So this means that the man whom I have considered [might be the assassin], and whom [a witness] has identified, that man has not been interviewed yet?

HÖ. No, there is no reason to.

OA: In that case it is even more evident that now it is not possible to get anywhere.... Now that the story has leaked out, it will be extremely difficult to get her to identify anyone.... And it worries me that just that may have been the purpose of the leak...

HÖ: There is nothing to add to what I have already said. We have not been able to identify the man who, according to her, was standing there on Sveavågen Road....

OA: You have said yourself that their information is consistent regarding the encounter [with the Dekorima Man], but that it was so odd that they had different memories of where they were when they heard the shot.

HÖ: This is what I said: If they had been interviewed seven years ago.... No one is going to believe — and do you think the Court of Appeals is going to believe — someone after seven years.... And when you can't identify.... The difference is, if she had said: His name is so and so, he lives there. I mean, it is after all someone who she recognizes. She must also be able to identify [i.e. state the complete name of] the person. And since she cannot identify him, and those from whom she has got information about this man, they don't know what she is talking about. So this [witness at the gym where Anki had previously seen the Dekorima Man] must be involved in this conspiracy in some way.

OA: Do you mean that she has got information about the man from several people in addition to the [witness]?

HÖ: Well, anyway I mean that it.... There is something wrong somewhere.

OA: It can also be so, and has been all the time, that she is afraid to identify the man even if she could — and especially now [after the coverage in *Aftonbladet*] she is naturally going to be.... There is good reason to understand that now she does not want to identify the person in question, especially when she knows that he is not locked up. Her situation must be extremely difficult. If the story has not been made up, the basic facts of the story — and I don't have the impression that you and your colleagues believe that — there is a man somewhere and the question is: What to do about it?

HÖ: The problem is that the investigation has received information about other crimes which may be related [to the evidence of Anki and Anneli]. And then there is some confusion with regard to observations about the location and that sort of thing.

OA: Other crimes which are not related to the murder?

HÖ: Yes, exactly. Regular criminals, common Swedish burglars, you know, who plan to do something. And that information was received earlier in the investigation. And now we are looking to see if it is possible that — because there also Finns in that group.

OA: But that does not involve the same location?

HÖ: It is possible that one of them may also have stood there [by Dekorima], but it is not connected with the murder of Olof Palme.

OA: But does it have any connection at all with Sveavägen Road. Otherwise, it —

HÖ: Yes, in that area.

OA: But that does not seem to have anything to do with the messages “They are coming now” and “Never mind that. Do — “....

HÖ: ... We try to follow this lead along with everything else. But for me, I am of the opinion that [Anki and Anneli] have not made any observation that has anything to do with the murder of Olof Palme. It is clear that they have seen something, but I don't believe.... Think about it: If you have been out on the night of the murder, and you have seen something and come home and learn that the prime minister has been murdered, and you were in that area and had made that observation about a walkie-talkie — obviously I would have gone to the police *then*.

OA: I don't know.... Not in the situation that she was in.

HÖ: Well, then they are criminals.

[It is not clear what sort of crime Ölvebro has in mind, or why he considers this curious suggestion to be a logical response to what Olle Alsén has just said. But it discloses his attitude toward the two young women, which may explain why they were apparently reduced to tears during interrogation by the police and why the protocols of those interviews have been kept secret.]

OA: But she was afraid. It is not forbidden to be afraid.

HÖ: Nooo.

OA: It is certainly not criminal to submit information. You know that better than I do.

HÖ: But Olle, I mean — Yes, I have not met these women, only the one....

OA: But Hans, you cannot in any event — and Anki has insisted [that she heard] “They are coming now.... I have been recognized, what shall I do?... Never mind that. Do what you're supposed to do.” How can you get those utterances to fit in with some other type of crime. It is at that time at that place, and one knows that Olof Palme is coming....

HÖ: Since you have never read what Anki has said — you know only what Anneli has said — and Anki says that Anneli has not even seen the bloke.

OA: Not seen (what he looks like) but she has heard what was said.

HÖ: No.

OA: That's what she tells me, anyway.

HÖ: Aha! That's why there is something amiss, you see.

[See Anneli's own account of the Dekorima encounter in Appendix 1 of this document.]

OA: In that case, if it was as you say, Anki has made up all those utterances — which I do not believe — and then passed them on to Anneli who did not hear any of it. But Anneli maintains that she heard it in Finnish and was surprised, both that Anki spoke in Finnish and that what came out of the apparatus was in Finnish. That is no made-up story.

But interpret it as you must. In any event, I do not believe that you would have kept on as you clearly have done, if at an early stage you had said, "No, this is something that should have been reported long ago, or it will never hold up in court."

HÖ: But that's the way it is with much of this investigation — that one tries to get to the bottom of things and say, "What is going on here?"

The simplest solution for us would be if Anneli or Anki had said to us: This is his name. Then we would have asked him what he did that night, and he answered, "Yes I was on Sveavägen", and we would have done this and that. Or that this person [the Dekorima Man] said that he had an alibi and was somewhere else. Then the story would have been knocked to pieces.

Instead, it has been left hanging in the air. And we have an ambition: Either it leads in the right direction or in another direction. And as an investigator, one has the sense that something is going in the right direction, and something that is wrong. It is the same as your sense of what makes a news story.

I have a nose for what can be right and correct, you see....

OA: But surely you can still, in this matter [the two women's evidence], have a sense that it can be right — the basic facts of the story?

HÖ: I have said from the beginning that we will look into this, that it seems odd. And then I have said that it is 50 – 50, even though I am pretty much convinced that these women have not seen the assassin.

OA: You are convinced that they have not seen the assassin?

HÖ: Correct. They have not seen the murderer. In the first place, their description of the man's clothing is not remotely similar to the descriptions of other witnesses [near the scene of the crime].

OA: Their description is more convincing precisely for that reason, in my view. For if they had made it all up, they would have tailored their account to the existing descriptions of his clothes. *[Alsén notes that the other witnesses have in fact given many different clothing descriptions.]* They don't even agree about whether it was a jacket or an overcoat and so on. So it is certainly not impossible — and most importantly [Anki and Anneli] have given a very specific description that differs from the others, which in my view strengthens the conclusion that they related what they saw and nothing else.

HÖ: But Anneli has not seen anything, according to the other one.
[Anneli's account of what she saw is included in Appendix 1 of this document. What "the other one", Anki, actually said has been kept secret by the police and Ölvebro can definitely not be trusted to truthfully reference it.]

OA: That's according to the other one. But you should also expect that —

HÖ: Well, which of the two should we trust in this matter?

OA: I don't know. But now, of course, there is tension between them. Anki is furious at Anneli [for breaking their vow of silence], and she may also think: "If this comes out, I will be the main witness." So there may be a hidden motive, conscious or not, to diminish Anneli for both personal and other reasons.

I have spoken to Anneli many times before I went to [the police], and I went to you with the same information that she has repeated several times, and there she sees — They are walking arm-in-arm and chatting. They stop, ask the time and so on. She sees the man, she cannot describe his face because she has never seen him before. But she can describe his clothes and so on. And she maintains consistently that she heard precisely — that both heard what came from the walkie-talkie. If Anki has later said something different, it is not necessarily correct....

OA: I don't think it's so strange if people have different memories of minor details, for example, did I go this way or that way, you know. But if you have mutually consistent memories of what happened in the central matter, so.... I mean, if your going to make up a common story, there ought to be agreement on the minor aspects, as well. But they have not done that. Of course there are other possible interpretations, but mine is one interpretation in any event.

Well, we aren't going to get anywhere with this. But I believe that [the news coverage in *Aftonbladet*] will cause damage....

HÖ: Yes, of course it is damaging.

OA: But now the damage is done.

HÖ: The mass media do that every day — cause damage.

OA: Yes. Sometimes they also do a little good.

HÖ: Yes, I suppose. Sometimes there are lottery results and such like in the newspaper, and those are correct. (Laughs) Radio and TV schedules, that sort of thing. Otherwise, I can't assess what is published in the mass media. But as regards what the mass media have published on the murder of Olof Palme, most of it is shit. In this case *Aftonbladet* should, instead of writing — try to find out who this really is —

OA: Yes, but they have in fact tried.

HÖ: And they have also been informed that we have not been able to identify these individuals or this man....

Source:

<http://svenanerpalmemordet.blogspot.se/2013/11/polisens-hans-olvebro-och-dn.html>