

Two east block spies defect to Sweden

From Roger Choate
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Two eastern block spies have defected to Sweden and disclosed methods of espionage used against the country, Mr Carl Persson, the national police chief, said today.

Mr Persson made his disclosure amid a national uproar about articles published here which are said to have compromised the Swedish secret service.

He said the two spies, whom he did not identify, "provided us with extremely valuable information about how spies work against our country, the spy network and methods used". He did not disclose their nationalities.

They defected "during the past few months", he added. One had worked in Europe as an agent for 14 years. He was described by Mr Persson as "very well informed". The other had operated in Sweden, and his assignment was to analyse economic and political conditions "and send reports to his country".

Referring to recent articles in Sweden about the Swedish intelligence agency, Mr Persson said: "Against the background of what I have just said, I want to emphasize how important it is that secret information about our total defence be kept intact."

Last Monday Swedish security police raided the Stockholm office of a magazine and arrested two of its editors. The left-wing publication *Fib: Kulturfront*, caused a political storm by publishing articles alleging that the secret service spied on Arab embassies and broke into the Egyptian chancellery.

The magazine said activities of the secret service included sending information to the American Central Intelligence Agency about conditions in North Korea, China and, in particular, North Vietnam.

In addition, *Fib: Kulturfront* said that the intelligence agency had infiltrated the ruling Social Democratic Party in Sweden, as well as the trade union movement, and kept close watch on left-wingers within those organizations.

A judicial prosecutor has said that journalists were suspected of operations which threatened national security. He added that electronic eavesdropping devices had been discovered in a flat near the agency's headquarters in Stockholm's Old Town.

The existence of the agency was not known publicly until last spring. The police raid on the magazine has caused a revolt within the Social Democratic Party. Some members have demanded a parliamentary investigation into the affair.

Opposition parties have mainly kept silent. More fuel was added to the fire when the mass circulation newspaper *Expressen* on Wednesday published what it said was information that the *Fib: Kulturfront* editors had in their possession.

It included codes used by foreign powers, industrial spying, information about Russian manoeuvres and details of the private life of a prominent Scandinavian. The prosecutor has started proceedings against the newspaper.