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SECRET PIE

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PER PARAS 51 (1) and 60 (a) AR 380-5

From: USMA Stockholm and Kessler  
To: War Department for MILID  
Info: USMA Moscow (War pls pass)  
Nr: 1083

24 August 1946

Spec: rockets. Situation developing rapidly with ultimate to Jugoslavia possible stimulus. Theory worthy consideration this time is spec rockets unintentional hoax which developed naturally but which exploited by Defense Staff by implication and lack of frankness possibly interest defense budget and to alert west against east. If rockets are hoax rapidity of deteriorations of west-east relations now puts Swedes in dangerous position in which they could be charged with contributing to breakdown in great power relations. Swedes would naturally be anxious to cover tracks officially and avoid possibility of this. Latest developments, all after ultimatum announcement, may support hoax theory.

First (See MA Stockholm cable 1080 of 22 Aug) Swedish RAF requested aid this office in obtaining earliest delivery Sweden of 6 SCR 615 sets for use in tracking rockets. Comment:

Action puts Swedish officialdom in correct position of taking proper action to solve mystery.

Second, Swedish RAF announced in press that Bofors for sometime has been developing aircraft rocket. Comment:

Sweden has thus made public this experimentation in apparent sincere effort to publish facts which may explain some observations.

CM-IN-5613 (25 Aug 46)

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Third, 23 Aug press contains two rocket incidents complete with immediate full explanations. First was meteorological balloon from Stockholm airfield which exploded and was therefore suspect as rocket. Therefore, unhelpful local observatory identified balloon and airfield explained origin. Second black object was observed to fall and explode. Object found immediately discovered to be magpie that fell on high tension line and was electrocuted with attendant light effects. Comment: Press suddenly realistic and incidents which previously would have remained unexplained are rationally explained.

Swedish official releases to this office believed scrupulously correct and whereas whole truth may have been withheld no misstatement made. Comment: It cannot be said the Sweden officially furnished US Govt with false information with view to alerting her against USSR. However, little done officially to allay public concern or counteract local and world unofficial conclusions that Russian rockets being seen.

Swedish unofficial release from highly placed members of the Defense Staff or Air Force have stated flatly that rockets with proved origin in Russian territory have been established over Sweden. See MA Russia Cable MAX 50693 19 Aug. Further, Defense Staff (source 69) unofficially told SSJ officer this Legation that Sweden has radar tracks proving existence of rockets over Sweden with USSR origin. Comment: Both releases took place prior to ultimatum. Information in MAX 50693 may have been plant or private views, or may have been the facts. Info from source 69 either plant or the facts. Doubtful releases are the facts, as then Swedish

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