

1945

- Jan 1 Salt begins to be rationed. Towards the end of the war the blockade of Sweden intensifies and the supply position worsens.
- Jan 17 The Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg disappears in Budapest.
- Jan 27 Auschwitz-Birkenau is liberated by Soviet troops.
- Feb 2 The Yalta Conference between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin begins.
- Feb 13-14 A large scale allied bombardment of Dresden takes place where nearly a quarter of a million people die.
- Feb 19 The Americans are landing on the beaches on Iwo Jima, and establish a base for the attack on Japan.
- March 9 The Swedish Red Cross sends 75 buses and trucks all painted in white. Their mission is to liberate Nordic prisoners from the Nazi concentration camps.
- April 4 The first reports from the German death camps are published in Sweden.
- April 12 The U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt dies and are succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.
- April 25 46 nations meet in San Francisco to found the United Nations. U.S. and Soviet troops meet outside at the now completely surrounded city of Berlin.
- April 28 Benito Mussolini, the former dictator of Italy is caught by partisans, while trying to escape. He is shot and his body is shown to the public.

- April 30 Adolf Hitler commits suicide in his bunker after having married his mistress Eva Braun.
- May 7 Hitler's successor Admiral Karl Dönitz declares the unconditional surrender of Germany
- May 8 Peace in Europe. Germany surrenders.
- June 9 The Swedish Social Democratic Party successfully promote demands for extensive nationalisations.
- June 26 The 50 nations represented at the San Francisco conference signed the UN charter.
- July 1 Sweden's wartime coalition government resigns and is later replaced by a Social Democratic Government under Prime Minister Per Albin Hansson.
- July 6 After a five month strike (the longest industrial conflict in Sweden since the great strike in 1909) the metal workers union (with a strong Communist influence) accept the employer's association's offer.
- July 16 The first successful nuclear tests takes place in Alamogordo, New Mexico, USA.
- July 17 The Potsdam Conference starts.
- July 31 The Swedish Prime Minister Per Albin Hansson forms a pure Social Democratic government.
- Aug 8 The first atomic bomb "Little Boy", is dropped over Hiroshima.
- Aug 9 The second atomic bomb is dropped over Nagasaki, it has the code name "Fat Man".

- Aug 15 Peace comes to Asia through the surrender of the Empire of Japan.
- Sep 9 A freighter loaded with bananas arrives in Göteborg's harbour for the first time since the war started.
- Oct 22 In a speech in the Swedish Parliament, Foreign Minister Östen Undén suggests some changes to the policy of neutrality so that Sweden can participate in the United Nations.
- Nov 14 The Nuremberg War Crimes trials are beginning. 24 representatives of the Nazi leadership are put on trial.
- Nov 22 The first publication of "The Adventures of Pippi Longstocking" by Astrid Lindgren.
- Nov 26 Rationing ends on gasoline, shoes and textile goods.
- Nov 29 The novel "Ormen" (The Snake) by the 22-year old writer Stig Dagerman is published for the first time.
- Dec 12 New laws that will lead to a more humane Criminal policy are passed by the Swedish Parliament. The interns are no longer isolated in cells but will be treated in a more open correctional facility.

1946

- Jan 25 146 Baltic ex-soldiers who had fled to Sweden in German uniforms are turned over to the Soviet Union, despite widespread protests from the Swedish public.

- February Articles by the pseudonym “X” (George Kennan) are published during the month in the American journal “Foreign Affairs”.
- March 3 During a speech in Fulton, Missouri, Winston Churchill says that an “Iron Curtain” has been lowered over Europe. (*“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste at the Adriatic, an “Iron Curtain” has descended across the continent”*)
- May 3 The Swedish Parliament decides that all teaching material should be free in Swedish schools. One month later a decision is also made about free school lunches.
- May 4 Some abortions are legalised in Sweden on socio-medical grounds.
- June The Baruch Plan is put forward to the UN Atomic Energy Commission. *The manufacturing of all atomic weapons would be prohibited according to the plan. An international authority would control the use and development of nuclear energy. The UN Security Council could decide on quick and decisive disciplinary measures against nations that did not follow the international ban on nuclear weapons. None of the five permanent nations on the Security Council could veto such a decision. The American businessman Bernard Baruch was the “architect” of the plan, and he was also considered to have minted the expression “the Cold War”.*
- June 26 2 millions SEK (1946 currency) are granted by the Swedish Parliament for atomic energy research.
- July 1 The US does making new atomic tests over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.
- Oct 1 The verdicts in the Nuremberg Trials are announced. Most of the defendants are sentenced to death. Herman Göring commits suicide by poisoning himself in his cell the evening

before the sentences are to be carried out on the 16th of October.

- Oct 6 Per Albin Hansson dies suddenly in Stockholm. His successor as both prime minister and leader of the Social Democrats is Tage Erlander.
- Nov 11 Sweden becomes a member of the UN
- Nov 11 About 6000 protesting Vietnamese are killed by French troops. The Vietcong leader Ho Chi Minh declares war on France.
- Dec 12 A meeting of foreign ministers takes place in Paris. Here, peace declarations for Italy, Finland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland are drawn up.
- Dec 18 The Swedish Parliament makes a decision about general health insurance, which will provide all Swedes with free healthcare, but the reform will not be fully implemented until 1955.

1947

- Jan 1 Birth registration numbers are introduced to enable the withdrawal of income tax directly from salaries.
- Jan 26 Prince Gustaf Adolf, grandson of King Gustaf V of Sweden, is killed in a plane crash outside Copenhagen together with 22 others.
- Feb 21 The British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin informs his American counterpart, Secretary of State George Marshall that Great Britain can no longer protect its interests in Greece and Turkey.
- March 12 President Truman launches the Truman Doctrine, in which the US takes over the British interests in the eastern Mediterranean. Its purpose is to support those governments

that were threatened by the Soviets and international Communism.

- March 15 A ban on general imports is introduced to stop the outflow of currency.
- April 9 Karin Kock is named Junior Minister for financial affairs and becomes the first woman in the Swedish Government.
- June 5 The launch of the Marshall Plan named after the U.S Secretary of State. By the way of this plan the war-torn countries in Europe will receive American aid. Over four years 16 countries receive 13,5 billion dollars in aid.
- June 11 The first car exhibited by the SAAB company is shown to the public for the first time.
- June 30 After negotiations with Italian authorities the first foreign workers arrive in Sweden, where there is a shortage of skilled workers.
- July 2 A meeting is set up in Paris to discuss the Marshall Plan in detail. The Soviet delegation of a hundred people is called home on Stalin's orders.
- July 15 A tax-free child benefit for all is introduced in Sweden.
- Sep 29 Electricity rationing is introduced in Sweden because of the worsened fuel situation.
- Sep 30 The Cominform, a cooperation organisation for international Communism, is founded in Warsaw under Soviet guidance.
- Nov 28. Sweden's first trial television broadcasts take place.

1948

- Jan 1 Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated in Delhi by a Hindu fanatic.
- Feb 23 Josef Stalin suggests a Finnish- Soviet peace and assistance pact (The VSB pact), in a letter to the Finnish President Paasikivi.
Finland was pressured to sign the VSB-pact. It might be seen as an encroachment in Finland's internal affairs.
- Feb 25 The Prague Coup results in a Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia.
The Czechoslovakian Communist Party had become the largest party in the first elections after the war, and was part of the coalition Government. The President of Czechoslovakia, Edvard Benes, who opposed Stalin's communism, refused efforts to join his country to the Eastern Block. The communist party in Czechoslovakia was relatively weak, but Klement Gottwald, the leader of the Communist Party, put pressure on Benes to increase the Communists political influence. As a result the conservative politicians started a strike to remove the Communist influence in Czechoslovakian politics. Benes became handicapped without his ministers and Gottwald could continue to pressurise and even threaten Benes.

Since Benes feared a Soviet Invasion or a civil war he gave in and let Gottwald and the Communists take over. Czechoslovakia became a Communist state with Gottwald as President. Free elections were forbidden and a new constitution was written. Purges of political opponents were started since there was still a great deal of opposition to Communism in Czechoslovakia.
- May 14 The British Mandate over Palestine ceases to exist and the Jewish National Council declares the foundation of the State of Israel. The Arab League declares war on the Jews. UN

names Count Folke Bernadotte (nephew of the Swedish King) to act as a negotiator.

March 3 The Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, Jan Masaryk, is found dead

March 17 NATO is formed through the signing of the Brussels Pact. Truman holds a speech before the U.S. Congress, explaining the guidelines of the new organisation.

March 20 Soviet Marshal Vassily Sokolovsky leaves the Allied Control Area in Berlin as a protest against the western Allies decision to unite the three Western occupied zones.

June 21 Because of the crises in Eastern Europe a decision is made to increase defence spending in Sweden.

June 26 The Berlin blockade begins.
The Soviet Union blocks all roads and railway traffic to Berlin with the intent of forcing the Western Powers to leave West Berlin. Through air traffic by the Allies the people of West-Berlin could receive food, clothing and other necessities. The blockade was lifted the following year.

Sep 17 Folke Bernadotte is murdered in Jerusalem by group of Jewish terrorists belonging to the Stern Gang.

1949

Jan 22 -24 At a Scandinavian ministerial meeting in Copenhagen, the plans for a common Nordic defence are finally put to rest.

April 4 The Atlantic Pact creating NATO is signed by representatives of 12 nations. Among these are Norway and Denmark, while Sweden and Finland remain neutral.

May 5 The European Council is founded, with Sweden as a member.

- May 12 The Berlin blockade ends. Later the same month the two parts of Germany pass separate constitutions, and become two separate states: the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and The German Democratic Republic (DDR).
- May 27 The city of Shanghai is taken by the Chinese Communists.
- June 7 Many famous Americans are accused of being Communists, among them: Frank Sinatra, Charlie Chaplin, Katherine Hepburn, Orson Welles, Danny Kaye etc.
- June 20 End of meat rationing in Sweden.
- Aug 29 The first Soviet atomic bomb is detonated.
This event takes place earlier than expected in the West, probably because of espionage.
- Aug 31 End of the rationing of sugar and car tyres.
- Sep 1 The first test flights with the fighter plane SAAB J29, intended for the Swedish air force, take place. The plane gets the nickname "the flying barrel" because of its shape.
- Sep 7 The Government of the German Federal Republic is constituted in the new capital of Bonn.
- Sep 15 Konrad Adenauer is elected the first Chancellor of West Germany.
- Sep 23 U.S. President Truman reveals that the Soviet Union has detonated its first atomic bomb.
- October The end of the Greek Civil War, during which about 50 000 people died. Thousands of Communist rebels flee the country.
- Oct 1 The Communists under their leader Mao Zedong are victorious in the Chinese civil war. The People's Republic of China is proclaimed in Beijing.

Oct 7 The German Democratic Republic is proclaimed in East Berlin. *On October 7, the “Deutsche Demokratische Republik “(DDR) was founded in the Soviet-occupied zone of Germany. The years after the Second World War were filled with hardships and small resources. During the years as an occupied zone did the Soviets started to empty East Germany of assets-industries, railroads and other structural capital that was not destroyed in the war were confiscated and transported to the Soviet Union. One must also add the export of natural assets like uranium rock, needed for the Soviet nuclear program.*

1950

Feb 2 The German-born British scientist Klaus Fuchs is arrested and accused of spying for the Soviet Union.

Feb 9 The U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy makes a sensational speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, where he claims that there are 207 Communists in the U.S. State Department (foreign ministry).
He then instigates and leads a witch hunt for suspected Communists.
It only stops when McCarthy also tries to attack leading Republicans and senior U.S. officers.

Feb 14 A Soviet-Chinese friendship and assistance pact is signed in Moscow by Josef Stalin and Chairman Mao Zedong , who is visiting the Soviet Union.

March 3 In London the German scientist Klaus Fuchs is sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for spying for the Soviet Union.

May 26 A decision is made in the Swedish parliament makes to replace the different school types with a nine –year comprehensive school.

- June 25 The North Korean army crosses the 38th parallel, which marks the beginning of the Korean War. The UN Security council calls upon the member states to assist South Korea. US troops begin to land in South Korea in the beginning of July. All the UN troops are under the command of the American five-star General Douglas MacArthur.
- July 20 The Swedish government condemn the North Korean attack and send a field hospital to support the UN mission.
- Sep 30 The UN troops are launching a counter offensive and recapture the capital city Seoul, and drive the North Koreans back over the 38th parallel. They continue through North Korea and are reach the Chinese border at the end of October.
- Oct 29 King Gustaf V dies at the age of 92. He is succeeded as King of Sweden by his 68 -year old son Gustaf VI Adolf.
- Nov 6 Communist China enters the Korean War, when the People's Army starts an attack on the UN troops that are led by the USA.
USA's President Truman threatens to use nuclear weapons and General MacArthur wants to attack China. By December the Chinese and the North Koreans have regained control of the area north of the 38th parallel. The US-led UN troops are very close to defeat. The war ends in 1953. Half a million Chinese troops have been killed.

1951

- Jan 3 The Swedish Parliament sets up an investigation into the introduction of television broadcasting.
- Feb 2 The U.S High Commissioner in West Germany orders the release of Alfred Krupp and 28 other Nazi collaborators.

- March 15 Iran's Prime Minister, Mohammed Mossadeq orders the nationalization of the country's oil industry.
- April 5 The American couple Julius and Ethel Rosenberg both receives death sentences for espionage against the USA.
- April 11 Truman discharges General Douglas MacArthur.
- April 18 The European Coal and Steel Union is formed in Paris, with France Italy, West Germany and the Benelux countries as its founding members.
- May 9 The Swedish Parliament decides on several new taxes to counter the spending power and curb Sweden's rabid rate of inflation.
- May 19 A new law of religious freedom is passed. It means that Swedes can leave the Swedish Lutheran Church without having to join another religious organisation.
- Nov 27 In Czechoslovakia the former Communist leader Rudolf Slansky is arrested and later condemned to death.
- Dec 28 The first pictures of the new fighter plane J 35 Draken, made by SAAB are shown to the general public.

1952

- Jan 26 A bandy player named Gösta "Snoddas" Nordgren sings a song called "Flottarkärlek" (A rafter's love) on Swedish radio. He becomes an instant success and the record that he makes sells a million copies in just half a year.
- Feb 15 An espionage ring led by Fritiof Enbom, a former employee of the Swedish Defence Forces, is revealed to have passed information to the Soviet Union. Enbom is sentenced to life in prison.

- March 3 The Soviet Union suggest a reunification of Germany. It is treated with suspicion by the Western Powers and is turned down.
- May 26 The West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer signs the agreement about a western European Defence association.
- June 13 A DC3 plane belonging to the Swedish Air Force disappears over the Baltic Sea. It is now thought that the plane was on a secret mission for the US intelligence and that it was probably shot down by the Soviets.
- June 16 The Swedish military sends out a rescue plane (type Catalina) after the missing DC3 plane, but that plane is also shot down over the Baltic. The crew is rescued by a West German merchant ship.
- June 23 The United States begins a bombardment of North Korea with over 500 bomb planes.
- June 17 The Slansky process in Czechoslovakia ends with death sentences being given out to the former Prime Minister Rudolf Slansky and ten others. They have been accused of espionage and “Titoism”.

1953

- March 3 Josef Stalin dies after a cerebral haemorrhage. Nikita Khrushchev is named First Secretary of Central Committee a few days later, and becomes the leader of the Soviet Union.
- April 7 Dag Hammarskjöld of Sweden is elected Secretary General of the United Nations.
- June 17 Workers in East Germany revolt in Berlin. Their uprising is crushed by Soviet troops and tanks.

- June 20 The Rosenberg's are put to death in the electric chair for their atomic espionage.
- July 16 The Head of the KGB and Soviet's interior minister Lavrentiy Beria is deposed after a Kremlin power struggle.
- July 17 A ceasefire begins in Korea.
- July 27 The Korean War ends after the signing of the ceasefire agreement. A demilitarised zone is established along the border of North and South Korea.
- Aug 19 The Iranian Prime Minister Mossadeq is deposed with the help of the CIA.
- Aug 20 The Soviet Union detonates its first hydrogen bomb.

1954

- Jan 21 The United States launches the first atomic submarine USS Nautilus.
- Jan 30 In Sweden the nation's first transistor radio is demonstrated.
- May 7 The French Fortress Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam falls to Vietnamese forces. This leads to peace talks where France agrees to leave the colony of French Indochina.
- May 17 The first test TV broadcasts in Sweden take place for a week. They are transmitted from the Royal Technical College in Stockholm.
- May 21 The Swedish Parliament decides to abolish the special licence to buy alcoholic beverages, called the "motbok", beginning in October 1955.

- June France agrees to let Vietnam gain its independence.
- June 27 The Reformist President of Guatemala, Jacobo Arbenz, is ousted through a “war of liberation”, supported by the CIA.
- July 1 The Nordic countries become a common employment market. No special work or residence permit is needed if you want to work in a neighbouring country.
- July 13 The first atomic reactor in Sweden is started just underneath the Royal Technical College in Stockholm.
- July 21 At a peace conference in Geneva between the France and the Vietnamese parties it is decided that Vietnam will be divided alongside the 17th parallel. The northern part will be led by the Communist Vietminh led by Ho Chi Minh.
- Sep 9 Foreign submarine activity is reported in the Stockholm Archipelago.
- Nov 1 The Algerian Liberation Front under the leadership of Ahmed Ben Bella is launches a series of terrorist attacks. France retaliates by sending paratroopers, which starts the Algerian War of Liberation.
- The Swedish Supreme Commander, General Nils Swedlund wants to investigate the possibilities of a Swedish atomic bomb.
- Nov 11 The Television investigation proposes national TV broadcasts to be financed with special licences.
- Nov 14 In Egypt is the country’s President Muhammad Naguib is overthrown by his Prime Minister, Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Dec 2 The U.S. Senate removes Senator Joseph McCarthy's powers to investigate suspected Communists, after he had accused some senior U.S. officers of high treason.

1955

Jan 1 Sweden's national health insurance system is introduced.

March 24 Although demands for a Swedish nuclear bomb comes from many sources like the Swedish Right Party and the newspaper "Dagens Nyheter" (The Daily News), plus many senior officers, the Defence Minister Torsten Nilsson explains that there are no plans for such a weapon.

April 24 A conference between the non-aligned nations in the Third World ends in Bandung, Indonesia.

May 5 The Federal Republic of Germany regains its full sovereignty, ten years after the surrender of Nazi Germany. This marks the end of the British, French and U.S. occupation and the entrance of West Germany into NATO.

May 14 The Warsaw Pact is signed by the USSR and its satellite states.

June 17 Alva Myrdal becomes Sweden's ambassador to India. She is the first Swedish woman to be named ambassador.

June 23 The leaders of the Major Powers gather in Geneva for the first time since the Potsdam Conference, ten years earlier.

July 27 Austria becomes a fully independent republic when the occupation of the four World War II victors ends.

Aug 20 Rebels in both Algeria and Morocco begin to attack military structures in the French colonies. France answers with brutal attacks on the civilian population.

Aug 25 During the summer of 1955 there are three observations of foreign submarines in Swedish waters.

Sep 12 The Social Democratic politician Gunnar Sträng becomes Sweden's new Finance Minister.

Sep 16 Argentine's President Juan Perón is ousted in a military coup and goes into exile.

Oct 1 The end of the "motbok", a special licence to buy alcohol beverages.

Oct 25 The first test flights of the Swedish Air Force's new fighter plane "Draken". The plane is manufactured by the SAAB factories.

Dec 12 In Sweden's new social relief law the term "poor relief" is omitted.

1956

Jan 26 The Soviet Union leaves the Porkkala area in Finland.
The Porkkala area was a 380 square km area situated 30 km west-southwest of the Finnish capital Helsinki. It was rented out to the Soviet Union to be used as a marine and military base, as a part of the ceasefire agreement in Moscow on September 19th 1944. Although the agreement was for 50 years the Soviet Union decided surprisingly in September 1955 that the area should be returned to Finland. The area was handed over on 26th January 1956 and although the Porkkala area had lost some of its military importance for the Soviet Army relations between Finland and the USSR were improved.

Feb 24 Nikita Chrustjev makes a speech at the 20th conference of the Soviet Communist Party. In it he severely criticises Josef Stalin's policies and denounces the personality cult.

This leads to demands of greater freedoms in the whole Eastern Bloc.

- May 23 The price controls initiated during World War II are abolished by the Swedish Parliament. Now nearly all prices are free in Sweden.
- May 24 The Swedish Radio gets a monopoly for television broadcasts.
- June 23 Gamel Abdel Nasser is elected President of Egypt and a plebiscite is approved of the independent Egypt's new constitution. The last British soldiers leave the country.
- June 25 To ease the severe housing shortage the Swedish Parliament decide that 53 000 new apartments will be built in a year.
- July 26 Nasser nationalises the Suez Canal.
- July 28 A worker's revolt takes place in Poznan, Poland. *75 protesting workers are killed in the city of Poznan by the Polish Army. Because of the reform demands Wladislaw Gomulka becomes party chief and manages to avert a Soviet invasion.*
- Oct 21 Wladislaw Gomulka becomes head of the Polish Communist Party.
- Oct 23 Start of the Hungarian uprising. *In Budapest there are street protests that turn violent and leads to many deaths. The Soviet army leaves the city but later returns and violently crushes the revolt, killing the leaders.*
- Oct 29 Israel attacks Egypt with the quiet approval of France and Great Britain.

- Nov 4 Soviet troops begin the ultimate crushing of the Hungarian uprising.
- Nov 5 The Suez Crisis- French and British paratroopers land at the Suez Canal. Their official mission is to curb the fighting between Israel and Egypt. They are succeeded two weeks later by UN troops after fierce criticism, especially from the United States.
- Nov 15 Gasoline and fuel are rationed in Sweden for one and a half months because of the Suez Crisis.

1957

- Jan 12 A Swedish version of the U.S. TV program “The 64 000 Dollar Question”, is shown for the first time on Swedish television. It is called “Kvitt eller dubbelt” (Take it or leave it!) and makes household names of many participants.
- April 9 The Suez Canal is opened for the first time since the Suez crisis in Oct-Nov 1956.
- May 7 Car sales break all records. In Sweden there are at this time nearly one million privately-owned cars.
- Aug 27 The first cases of the Asian flu are registered in Sweden. It is the largest international flu epidemic since the Spanish Flu in 1918-1919.
- Oct 4 The Russians launch the satellite *Sputnik*.
This was the first space satellite. The USA now feared that the USSR could attack them with nuclear arms.
- Nov 3 The next Soviet space satellite is launched. It has a passenger, the “space dog” Laika, which is destined not to survive the trip.
- Nov 4 Sweden gets its first female traffic wardens.

Nov 8 The average income in Sweden this year, according to official statistics, is 8446 SEK per year.

1958

Jan 20 Sweden's first female police officers begin their duty.

Feb 4 After a four-party agreement about the Swedish defence, large scale rearmament begins.

March 19 The Swedish Parliament gives women the right to serve as priests in the Swedish Church.

June 1 In France, after months of government crisis Charles de Gaulle is named Prime Minister. A new constitution is drafted which will be approved in a referendum. De Gaulle is elected President of the Republic in December with nearly 80% of the general vote.

July 14 A coup takes place in the Iraqi capital of Bagdad where the royal family is murdered. American marines are landing in Lebanon.

Aug 30 The Chinese Communist Party decides that the nation's farming will be organised in people's communes.

Sep 9 The daily news programme "Aktuellt" is shown for the first time on Swedish TV.

1959

Jan 1 The Cuban revolution is successful. Fidel Castro takes the power in Cuba after overthrowing the dictator Batista.

- April 8 Because of the increasing motor traffic in Sweden, the Parliament decides that a large improvement of the road network will take place.
- June 26 Sweden's Ingemar Johansson becomes the new boxing World Heavyweight Champion when he defeats Floyd Patterson in New York.
- July 21 The free trade association EFTA is formed in Stockholm. It consists of seven West European countries not belonging to the EEC. (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Britain, Switzerland, Portugal and Austria)
- Sep 15 Nikita Chrustjev makes a visit to the USA as the first Soviet leader.
The meeting takes place only two days after an unmanned Soviet space rocket lands on the moon.
- Sep 25 The second Swedish nuclear reactor is opened at the research centre in Studsvik.
- Dec 26 The American TV Western "Bonanza" which the Swedes call "The brothers Cartwright Brothers" begins to air on Swedish television. It becomes one of the longest running hits of the 60s.

1960

- Jan 5 The international airport Arlanda situated just outside of Stockholm is opened for traffic.
- Jan 16 The Swedish fighter jet Draken (the dragon) exceeds double the speed of sound.
- May 1 An American spy plane of the U-2 type is shot down over the Soviet Union. The plane's pilot Gary Powers is captured and shown up in Moscow.

The United States are at first denying that any plane of theirs has been shot down and the incident leads to the collapse of summit in Paris between Chrustjev and President Eisenhower.

- May 11 Israeli agents kidnap the wanted Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Argentina where he lives. He is brought to Israel and put on trial and receives the death sentence.
- June 30 The Belgian colony of Congo becomes an independent republic with Patrice Lumumba as prime minister and Lumumba's political opponent Joseph Kasavubu as President. A civil war breaks out when Moise Tshombe declares independence for the province of Katanga. Among the UN troops sent to Congo are 600 Swedish soldiers.
- Sep 14 Colonel Joseph Mobuto seizes power in Congo after a military coup.
This happens after President Kasavubu had discharged Prime Minister Lumumba whose soldiers had attacked the UN forces.
- Nov 9 John F. Kennedy is narrowly elected as the 35th President of the United States.

1961

- Jan 17 Patrice Lumumba, the first democratically elected prime minister of Congo is arrested and later murdered in prison.
- Jan 20 John F. Kennedy swears the oath as U.S. President.
- March 3 A "pirate radio" transmitter called Radio Nord starts to send radio programs financed by advertising. The programs are sent from a ship that is registered in Nicaragua but sails on international waters in the Baltic Sea.
- April 12 The Soviet Cosmonaut Jury Gagarin is sent up in the space rocket Vostok and becomes the first human in space.

- April 17 A CIA-organised invasion at the Playa Giron (the Bay of Pigs) is a dismal failure. *This attempt by the CIA and some exile Cubans to overthrow Fidel Castro was a military fiasco.*
- June 3 President Kennedy meets Chrustjev in Vienna.
- Aug 13 The Berlin Wall begins to be built. It is called the “anti-imperialistic safeguard” in the DDR, and the purpose behind it is to stop the increasing flow of refugees to the West. Berlin Crisis: traffic is stopped between East and West Berlin. Soviet and U.S tanks stand on opposite sides of the border at “Checkpoint Charlie”
- Sep 17 The UN General Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld dies when the plane he is travelling in crashes en route to Ndola in Northern Rhodesia where he would have met with the leaders of Katanga for a peace meeting.
- Dec 10 Dag Hammarskjöld receives the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously in Oslo.

1962

- May 23 The Swedish parliament decides that the obligatory nine-year grade school will definitely be introduced after many years of experimental work.
- July 1 Since about 99% of the Algerian population voted for independence from France, President de Gaulle proclaims Algeria to be an independent state.
- Aug 28 Swedish navy destroyers are dropping depth-charges at a suspected foreign submarine in the waters around the island of Fårö.

- Oct 22 U.S. President John F. Kennedy announces in a TV speech that the USSR has placed nuclear missiles on Cuba. He announces a blockade of Cuba and demands that the missile launches shall be torn down. *This leads to the Cuba Crisis: 13 days that shook the world and the most dangerous conflict under the Cold War. It was the closest the world had ever got to a nuclear conflict. The crisis ended when the Soviets drew back their nuclear missiles from Cuba. The United States did the same with their missiles that were placed on the Turkish-Soviet border.*
- Oct 28 Chrustjov promises to withdraw the missiles from Cuba.
- Nov 21 A new criminal code is introduced by the Swedish Parliament to replace the old one from 1864. Forced labour disappears and probation is introduced.
- Dec 6 The Swedish Air Force reveals the plans for a new fighter jet model called SAAB 37 Viggen.

1963

- Feb 28 Employees at the Swedish centre for wine and liquor distribution begin a two-and a half month strike, which leads to the emptying of liquor shops
- May 3 A new law is passed which gives the Swedes four weeks holiday each year.
- June 25 Stig Wennerström, a colonel in the Swedish Air Force who has had access to Swedish military secrets, is arrested on charges of spying for the Soviet Union. He is later sentenced to life in prison.
- June 26 President Kennedy visits West Berlin where he holds his “Ich bin ein Berliner” speech.

- July 17 Sweden's first industrial atomic reactor opens in the Stockholm suburb of Ågesta. It is meant to provide hot water for houses in nearby Farsta.
- Aug 8 The Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union, UK and the United States signs the first test ban treaty at a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow. The treaty includes all nuclear tests, whether they are taking place in the atmosphere, in space or under water.
Thanks to the Cuba Crisis, the two Super powers, USA and the Soviet Union were brought closer. A test ban treaty was agreed upon, and a "Hot line" was established between Moscow and Washington.
- Aug 28 A civil rights march with over 200 000 participants gather in Washington. The demonstration is led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, with the intention of protesting against the racial discrimination in the USA.
- Nov 1 A military coup, inspired by the CIA, takes place in South Vietnam. The country's leader Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother are killed in the coup.
- Nov 23 John F Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas.

1964

- March 13 The Swedish Government decides that 700 soldiers should be sent to the island of Cyprus as part of an UN-led force.
- April 16 A radiation protection board set up by the Swedish Government recommends that radioactive waste should be sealed in concrete blocks and lowered in the Atlantic.
- June 11 The ANC leader Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life in prison in South Africa.

- June 22 The Soviet leader Nikita Chrustjev begins a five day state visit in Sweden under rigorous police protection.
- Aug 2 Claims about North Vietnamese attacks on US battleships leads to President Johnson's decision to bomb North Vietnam. The U.S. military claimed that North Vietnamese patrol boats had attacked an American destroyer in the Tonkin Bay.
- Oct 14 Nikita Chrustjev is removed from power in the USSR. Leonid Brezhnev becomes the new Communist Party leader and Alexi Kosygin becomes Prime Minister.

1965

- Feb 7 After the FNL attacks on American troops in South Vietnam the United States start to bomb North Vietnam and the FNL resource lines in Laos.
- Feb 21 Malcolm X, leader of the Black Moslems in the USA, is shot and killed at a meeting in Harlem, New York.
- Sep 2 The Chinese Cultural Revolution starts with a proclamation by the Defence Minister Lin Biao where he urges a global "War of the People" against the USA.
- Nov 11 The white minority government under Ian Smith issues a unilateral declaration of independence for the British colony of South Rhodesia (present day Zimbabwe).

1966

- Jan 18 Indira Gandhi becomes leader of the Congress Party and India's first female Prime Minister.
- May Mao Zedong starts the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Quarrels occur between Chinese and Soviet troops on the border between the two countries. *The Cultural Revolution*

had as one of its main goals to eradicate all Feudal, Bourgeois and “revisionist” thinking in the Chinese society and replace it with pure socialism.

- Aug 21 One million Red Guards parade past Chairman Mao in Beijing. The Cultural Revolution is now taking place under the guidance of “The little Red book” with quotations from Mao Zedong.
- Nov 24 The first showing of the Swedish Air Force’s new jet fighter J 37 Viggen takes place.

1967

- March 26 About 2000 people demonstrate against the US policy in Vietnam at a large anti-war demonstration in Stockholm.
- April 21 *A military coup takes place in Greece. A military junta under the leadership of Georgios Papadopoulos takes power through a coup d’état. King Konstantin II and his family flee into exile.*
- May 28 The U.S. flag is burned by anti-war demonstrators outside the American Embassy in Stockholm.
- June 5 The Six-Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbours starts. It ends with the seizure of great parts of land by the Israeli Army under Gen. Moshe Dayan.
- Sep 3 Right-hand traffic is introduced in Sweden at exactly 5 AM. It is the culmination of many years of preparation and traffic-safety information.

1968

- Jan 5 Alexander Dubcek is named General Secretary of the Czech-Slovak Communist Party.
- February The Tet Offensive in the Vietnam War causes huge losses and setbacks for U.S. forces. It is one of the causes for Lyndon B. Johnson's not running for another term as U.S. President. Richard Nixon wins the presidential election.
- Feb 21 Olof Palme, then Minister for Education walks alongside North Vietnam's Moscow ambassador in an anti-Vietnam war demonstration and later holds a speech critical of U.S. policy.
- March 8 The United States recall its ambassador because of Palme's participation in the Vietnam demonstration.
- March 19 The government proposes a five-day week in Swedish schools beginning with the fall semester 1968.
- April 4 Martin Luther King is assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee.
- April 8 Alexander Dubcek promises a wide democratisation in Czechoslovakia and closer ties to Western Europe.
- June 6 U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy is shot dead by the Jordanian Sirhan Sirhan during his campaign for the Democratic Party's nomination for President of the United States.
- Aug 16 The Swedish Government signs the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which means the end of the speculations about a Swedish atomic bomb.
- Aug 20 Czechoslovakia is invaded by troops from the Soviet Union and many of the fellow Socialist countries. It marks the end of the Prague Spring and the "Socialism with a human

face”. Troops from the Warsaw Pact march into Czechoslovakia to prevent the regime’s attempts at reform.

The Prague Spring is a popular name for the events in the early part of 1968 where the new General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist party, Alexander Dubcek, proposed new liberal policies.

This led to a fear in the USSR and other Socialist Countries that Czechoslovakia might leave the Warsaw Pact. On the night of 20th August the country was invaded by Soviet troops and troops from other Warsaw Pact countries (except DDR and Romania). During the invasion between 5000 and 7000 tanks lined the streets of Prague and other Czechoslovak cities. Between 200 000 and 600 000 Soldiers were members of the occupying forces.

Over 72 Czechs and Slovaks were killed and many more were injured under the invasion that ended formally on September 3. Dubcek appealed to the people not to resist the invasion. He was arrested and sent to Moscow with others in the Czechoslovak government.

The occupation resulted in a widespread emigration of nearly 300 000 people to the West. It was considered a brain drain since many of the émigrés were well educated. Alexander Dubcek wanted to give Socialism a more human face, but all hopes of a freer society with the “Prague Spring” were crushed by the invasion of the Warsaw Pact countries.

Nov 3 Richard Nixon is elected as the 37th President of the United States.

1969

Jan 24 The Swedish Government ends the criticized registration of views by the secret police.

- Feb 3 Yassir Arafat is elected leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). His goal is to coordinate the attacks on Israel.
- April 17 Alexander Dubcek is removed from the office as leader of the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia and is replaced by Gustáv Husák who is considered more faithful to Moscow.
- May 21 The Swedish Parliament decides that Sweden's 800 municipalities will merge with each other. Here after there are 282 municipalities in Sweden.
- Sep 1 Colonel Moamar al-Khadaffi takes over the power in Libya after a military coup.
- Oct 10 Olof Palme succeeds Tage Erlander as leader of the Swedish Social Democrats, and becomes Prime Minister of Sweden on Oct 13.
- Oct 21 Willy Brandt becomes Chancellor of West Germany.
- Nov 17 Strategic Arms limitation talks (SALT) between the Soviet Union and the USA begin in Helsinki.

1970

- Feb 6 The Swedish company Sydkraft gets licence to build a nuclear reactor in Barsebäck, a locality in Skåne
- March 18 King Sihanouk of Cambodia is dethroned by his Prime Minister Lon Nol during a visit to Moscow.
- March 19 Willy Brandt and Willi Stoph, head of the government of the German Democratic Republic (DDR), meets in the East German town of Erfurt. This marks the beginning of Brandts "Ostpolitik". *The Eastern Policy of West German Chancellor Willy Brandt in the early 1970s aimed at*

normalising the relations with Eastern Europe. During his time as Mayor of West Berlin (1957-1966), Brandt thought that the West German policy towards East Germany was wrong. As chancellor he recognised the DDR and made treaties with Poland and the USSR. This policy normalised the relations between West Germany and its eastern neighbours but was much debated and controversial at home.

- May 1 The United States attacks Cambodia.
- May 6 Over 10 000 people take part in the until then largest demonstration against the Vietnam War
- Aug 12 The “Ostpolitik” of Willy Brandt reaches a highpoint when a treaty is signed in Moscow in which West Germany recognizes the river of Oder-Neisse as the border between Germany and Poland.
- Oct 24 The Socialist politician Salvador Allende wins a narrow victory in Chile’s presidential election.
- Dec 7 A treaty of normalised relations is signed between Poland and West Germany. In Warsaw Willy Brandt kneels before a monument over the Jewish Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto.

1971

- January After strikes and uproar by the workers in Gdansk and other Polish harbour cities the army is called in to restore order. The workers demands better wages and more influence, and ultimately President Edward Gierek agrees on the terms set out by the workers.
- Jan 25 In Uganda Major General Idi Amin Dada seizes power after a bloody military coup.

- April 7 Yugoslavia's Ambassador in Sweden is shot dead by two Croats.
- April 17 A civil war breaks out in Pakistan. The army attacks the rebels in East Pakistan who declare the independent state of Bangladesh. Hundreds of thousands flee.
- June 21 The first mass-produced fighter jets of the model 37 Viggen are delivered to the Swedish Air Force.
- December The civil war that broke out when Eastern Pakistan proclaimed independence evolves into a war between India and Pakistan.
It ends with the capitulation of Pakistan and the proclamation of Bangladesh as an independent state under Ali Bhutto.

1972

- Feb 21 U.S. President Richard Nixon meets Mao Zedong in a historic meeting in Beijing.
- May 22 Nixon becomes the first American President to visit Moscow.
- May 26 The SALT treaty is signed.
*The negotiations started in Helsinki on November 17. Later negotiations took place in either Helsinki or Vienna.
The positions of the superpowers were locked at first but in May 1971 was a there a deal struck that limited the use of anti-aircraft weapons. On May 26 the treaty was signed in Moscow by U.S. President Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev. There was also an agreement that disarmament negotiations should continue.*
- Sep 15 A Swedish aeroplane is hijacked by three Croats. The hijackers demand the release of the murderer of the

Yugoslav Ambassador and that he should be brought to the plane. After this has happened the plane leaves for Spain.

Dec 23 In a speech by Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme the American bombardment of Vietnam is compared to Nazi Germany's atrocities during World War II. This creates a diplomatic conflict between Sweden and the USA.

1973

Aug 23 Swedish police non-violently end a five day long hostage crisis at a bank in Stockholm.

Sep 11 A Military coup in Chile under the leadership of General Augusto Pinochet removes the popularly elected President Salvador Allende.

This happened less than two months after the first failed coup attempt, and less than one month after the opposition majority in the Chilean Parliament had demanded the forcible removal of Allende after his alleged violations of the Chilean constitution.

Sep 15 King Gustaf VI Adolf dies at the age of 91, after nearly 23 years on the Swedish throne.

Sep 19 Carl XVI Gustaf is proclaimed King of Sweden.

Oct 6 Egypt and Syria both attack Israel under the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. After some weeks of hard fighting a truce is signed on October 25.

Oct 16 The organisation of the oil producing Arab States (OPEC) raises the price on crude oil. The production of crude oil is severely limited and in December the oil price is doubled.

Dec 4 Sweden's ambassador to Chile, Harald Edelstam is declared persona non grata after he had helped many of Allende's followers.

Dec 6 Rationing of gasoline is introduced in Sweden, along with other energy-conserving measures. This is a consequence of OPEC's decline in production and raising of oil prices after the October War.

1974

Jan 4 The Swedish journalists Jan Guillou and Peter Bratt are both sentenced to one year in prison for disclosing secret information. They had written an article about the secret Swedish intelligence agency IB.

Jan 29 The end of the gasoline rationing in Sweden.

Feb 13 The Nobel Prize winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn is expelled from the Soviet Union.

Feb 27 A new system of government is introduced in Sweden. In it the King's role becomes purely ceremonial and the voting age is lowered to 18 years.

April 25 The "Carnation Revolution" in Portugal. *This revolution ended the dictatorship in Portugal and democratic reforms were introduced.. The Socialist politician Mario Soares came to power in 1976 and helped stabilize the democratic development of the country. Soares became president in 1986 and led Portugal into the EU.*

May 6 Willy Brandt is forced to resign after that one of his closest associates Günther Guillaume is revealed to be a spy for the East German Secret Police STASI.

June 1 Sweden lowers the lawful age of majority from 20 to 18 years.

July 23 The Military Junta in Greece resigns.

Aug 8 Richard Nixon resigns after his administration has been severely harmed by the Watergate scandal.
Watergate is the name of a complex of office building in Washington DC. It houses amongst other things the main offices of U.S. Democratic Party.

On June 17 1972 five men were arrested on the spot when breaking and entering the Democratic National Committee headquarters. Two of the arrested men, James McCord and Frank Sturgis, were American and the three others exile Cubans. All five and two members of the Republican campaign for re-election, Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, were sentenced in court on September 15

The intent of the break-in was to gather information about the President's political opponents and their intentions. Details of the scandal soon unravelled but the connections to President Nixon and his staff took time to emerge and had almost no influence on the election in 1972 where Nixon won a landslide victory over Democratic Senator George McGovern.

Later surfaced information gives at hand that Gordon Liddy contacted U.S. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst the day after the break-in and tried to persuade him to release the arrested men, but Kleindienst refused.

Aug 26 Sweden sign an agreement with North Vietnam that a paper mill will be built in Bai Bang. This is the largest Swedish aid project ever.

Sep 12 The Ethiopian Emperor Haile Sellassie is overthrown.

1975

Feb 11 Margaret Thatcher is elected leader of the British Conservative.

- April 24 The West German Embassy in Stockholm is occupied by terrorists who kill two male hostages before their explosive charges detonate, which bring an end to the occupation.
- April 30 Saigon, and accordingly South-Vietnam, falls.
- June 30 The Suez Canal opens after being closed since the Six-Day War in 1967.
- July-aug The Helsinki meeting. 35 nations including the two superpowers are signs a deal about upholding and protecting human rights.
- Nov 11 Angola gain independence but is immediately attacked by South Africa. Angola gets military assistance from Cuba and the USSR.

1976

- June 19 King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden marries Silvia Sommerlath.
- June 24 North Vietnam is reunited with South Vietnam. Hanoi becomes the capital.
- Sep 9 Mao Zedong dies at the age of 82. Shortly afterwards is his widow Jiang Qing and three other high-ranking politicians arrested- they get the nickname “The gang of four”.
- Nov 2 The Democrat Jimmy Carter wins the U.S. election and becomes the 39th President.

1977

- Jan 7 In Prague, the document Charta 77 is published. The document pressurises the Czechoslovak government to respect the Helsinki Declaration on human rights.
- July 14 Princess (later Crown Princess) Victoria of Sweden is born.
- Aug 26 In the largest environmental scandal in Swedish history 75 barrels of poisonous waste are found in Teckmanatorp, Skåne, where they had been buried there by the company BT Kemi.

1978

- April 27 Afghanistan's President Daud Khan is removed from power by a left-wing coalition.
- Sep 17 The Camp David peace accord is signed by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and the Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The accord is meant to result in a lasting peace, but another result is that PLO and other Arab states break with Egypt. Both Sadat and Begin receive the Nobel Peace Prize in December 1978.
- Oct 5 The Swedish parliament decides that women can become officers in the Defence Forces.
- Oct 16 The Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla is elected Pope John Paul II.

1979

- Jan 16 Shah Reza Pahlevi and his family are forced to leave Iran.
- Feb 2 The exiled religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran.

- Feb 17 China starts a period of “punishment” against Vietnam.
- March 20 Stig Bergling, a Swedish officer that had been in UN-service is arrested in Israel on charges of spying for the Soviet Union. He is extradited to Sweden and is later sentenced to life in prison.
- April 4 After the nuclear reactor accident in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Social Democrats now agree with the Centre Party that Sweden should hold a referendum on continued nuclear power.
- May 13 Crown Prince Carl Philip, the second child of King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia is born.
- July 1 The Swedish government decide to expand territorial waters from 4 nautical miles to 12.
- April 11 Idi Amin’s reign of terror ends when Ugandan exiles and Tanzanian troops invade Uganda and force him to flee.
- May 3 Margaret Thatcher becomes Great Britain’s first female Prime Minister after the Conservative Party wins the General Election.
- June 18 The SALT II nuclear disarmament treaty is signed by the American President Jimmy Carter and Leonid Brezhnev. Because of the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan only six months later, the U.S. Senate never ratified the treaty. Despite the fact that the second SALT treaty was never formally binding, both parties still uphold their mutual agreement
- July 17 Nicaragua’s dictator Anastasio Somoza is overthrown by the Sandinistas.
- Oct 26 South Korea’s dictator Pak Chung Hee is murdered by the chief of his own security.

- Nov 4 The U.S. Embassy in Teheran is occupied by 400 Iranian students and 70 Americans are taken prisoners. 52 of these are held hostage for the following year.
- Nov 7 The Swedish parliament is adopts a new law of royal succession. As a result, Princess Victoria is made the new heir apparent to the Swedish throne.
- Dec 7 Stig Bergling is sentenced to life imprisonment for espionage by a Swedish court. During his imprisonment he changes his name to Eugén Sandberg.
- Dec 12 A “double decision” is made by the NATO to place 108 Pershing rockets and 464 cruise missiles in Western Europe. It was called a double decision because it was a challenge to the Soviet Union to withdraw their SS 20 robots and to start arms negotiations. The decision led to massive demonstrations in Western Europe against the nuclear build-up. It can be said to have started a second phase in the Cold War.
- Dec 26 Afghanistan is invaded by the Soviet Union and the government is overthrown.

1980

- Jan 25 President Carter orders an attempt to free the American hostages in Teheran. It fails dismally when a helicopter and military transport plane collide in the Iranian desert.
- Feb 20 The Swedish Government decides to spend 20 billion SEK over a period of 20 years on a new air force system called JAS.
- March 23 A referendum is held in Sweden on nuclear power. All of the three alternatives presuppose a nuclear phase-out, but in

different ways. The result of the referendum is difficult to interpret.

- July 19 The Olympic Games in Moscow opens. The United States and about 50 other nations boycott the games as a protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (although Sweden participated). USSR and many other Socialist countries did in return not participate at the next Olympic Games in Los Angeles four years later.
- July The first wildcat strike takes place at the Lenin shipyard in the Polish city of Gdansk. The electrician Lech Walesa becomes leader of the “Solidarity” movement.
- Sep 22 The Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein gives the order to attack Iran. Iraqi war planes bombs civilian targets in Iran without warning. The Iranians respond with an attack on Baghdad which leads to the outbreak of total war. The UN chooses the former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme to be mediator in the conflict in November the same year.
- Nov 4 Ronald Reagan is elected U.S. President. Just in time for his inauguration on Jan 20th 1981 Iran releases the remaining 52 members of the American hostages in Teheran.

1981

- Oct 28 U 137, a Soviet submarine armed with nuclear torpedoes runs aground in the archipelago close to the Swedish town of Karlskrona.
- Dec 13 A state of emergency is declared in Poland by the country’s leader General Jaruzelski.

1982

- April 4 The Falklands war. Argentina invades the British colony of the Falkland Islands. Great Britain sends 5000 troops and 36

battle ships to the islands, which ultimately leads to the Argentine capitulation in June the same year.

Nov 10 Leonid Brezhnev dies. He is succeeded by the former head of the KGB, Yuri Andropov, who was the Soviet Ambassador to Hungary in 1956.

1983

March 23 President Reagan presents a new type of space defence against nuclear weapons, called “Star Wars”.

Sep 1 A South Korean passenger plane is shot down over Sakhalin by the Soviet air defence and all of the 269 people aboard are killed. The plane was mistaken for an American spy plane.

Nov 2-11 A large NATO- field exercise is interpreted by Soviet High Command as a preparation for a nuclear attack. “*Star Wars*” was a popular name for the defence system proposed by President Ronald Reagan where the United States would be able to shoot down Soviet rockets before they could reach the United States. It led to a boom in research and development where the USSR had difficulties catching up with the west.

Nov 14 The first cruise rockets arrive at the Greenham Common Military Base near London, which had already been surrounded by female protesters for a considerable time. Cruise rockets are later also deployed in West Germany, and the USSR abandon disarmament talks.

Nov 22 The West German parliament (the Bundestag) decides to accept the deployment of U.S. Pershing 2 rockets by 286 votes against 226.

1984

- Jan 20 The Norwegian diplomat Arne Treholt is arrested and charged with spying for the USSR. He is later sentenced to 20 years in prison.
- Feb 4 Yury Andropov dies. He is replaced by the old party veteran Konstantin Chernenko, which is a sign of the diminished stability inside the Kremlin.
- Feb 16 Iran starts a major offensive against Iraq. There are reports of child soldiers, some of whom are only 12 years old.
- May 29 The Swedish peace organisation “Svenska Freds” reports the Swedish weapons manufacturers Bofors to the police for smuggling robots to many Arab countries and also guns to Iran.
- Aug 2 Great Britain and the People’s Republic of China agree that the British Crown colony of Hong Kong will be returned to China in 1997.
- Oct 31 India’s Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated in New Dehli. Her son Rajiv takes over power.

1985

- March 10 Konstantin Chernenko dies and is replaced as party leader by Michail Gorbachev. *There are fears in the Soviet Union about a U.S. attack and the new leader Gorbachev begins to speak of a retreat from Afghanistan. Reagan feels that it is time to speak with the new leader, and the first summit between a U.S. President and a Soviet leader for five years takes place in Geneva.*

1986

- Feb 25 Ferdinand Marcos, the Philippines' dictatorial President resigns after having been defeated by Corazon Aquino in the presidential election. Aquino is the widow of murdered opposition politician Benigno Aquino.
- Feb 28 The Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme is assassinated on Sveavägen, a main street in Stockholm. His murderer manages to escape. Ingvar Carlsson succeeds Palme as Prime Minister and leader of the Social Democratic Party.
- April 26 A accident takes place at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine. A nuclear cloud sweeps in over Sweden, and as result, the slaughter of reindeers is halted in the north of Sweden.
- Oct 12 Soviet's Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan meet at a summit in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik. Both agree somewhat surprisingly about the need for radical disarmament. Despite that the summit remains inconclusive.
- Dec 19 The Soviet regime critic Andrey Sacharov is allowed to return to Moscow from his inner exile to the city of Gorky.

1987

- April 26 The first prototype model of the fighter plane JAS-39 Gripen goes on display in Linköping.
- May 28 Mathias Rust, a West German amateur pilot succeeds in flying a Cessna airplane 800 km through Soviet air space without being shot down. He lands the plane on Moscow's Red Square. The Soviet Defence Minister is fired by Gorbachev.

- Sep 7 The East German leader Erich Honecker visits West Germany.
- Sep 18 The Soviet Union and USA both agree on removal of all land-based mid-range rockets.
- Oct 6 The Swedish spy Stig Bergling escapes with his wife during a temporary leave from prison. Both manage to leave Sweden.
- Dec 8 Reagan and Gorbachev sign a far-reaching agreement on nuclear disarmament at a summit in Washington.

1988

During the year there are signs of cracks in the Iron Curtain. Gorbachev meets both Reagan and his successor George Bush. The Soviet Union promise greater independence for Eastern Europe, which is met with scepticism in the West. The Hungarians take Gorbachev at his word and begin to tear down the fences along the border of Austria and West Germany.

- March 14 The Iraqi army attacks a Kurdish mountain village with mustard- and nerve gas.
- April 14 An agreement about the retreat of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan is made in Geneva.
- June 1 It is revealed that a publisher called Ebbe Carlsson and the chief of police Hans Holmér have been engaged in their own investigation about the murder of Olof Palme. The day after the revelations one of their associates is arrested in the Swedish customs carrying illegal listening devices. The Swedish Minister of Justice, Anna-Greta Leijon has to resign after revelations that she has written a letter of recommendation for Ebbe Carlsson.

- Dec 1 Benazir Bhutto is made Prime Minister of Pakistan; the first woman to become Prime Minister in a Moslem country.
- Dec 14 The 41- year old Swede Christer Petterson is arrested, suspected for the murder of Olof Palme.
- Dec 21 A Pan Am plane is blown up over the Scottish village of Lockerbie. 270 people are killed, among them the Swedish UN- Commissioner Bernt Carlsson.

1989

The Berlin Wall falls. Solidarity stages a comeback and wins the Polish election. This leads to divisions in the Eastern Bloc.

The GDR leader Erich Honecker wants to turn the tide, but vacationing East Germans use the hole in the Iron Curtain to escape. Gorbachev visits East Berlin in October and is greeted by the crowds chanting "save us". Honecker is forced to resign. Over 70 000 people march on the streets of Leipzig and the regime does not interfere.

On the 9th of November is the politburo member Günther Schabowski delivers a message on TV. In it he is supposed to say that restrictions on travelling to the West will be lifted the next day, but instead he says that the decision will take effect immediately. The East Berliners go through the Berlin Wall and are not stopped. The Cold War is over.

- Feb 2 The first JAS plane crashes on landing after a test flight. The pilot survives.
- Feb 14 Iran's Leader Ayatollah Khomeini promises a two million dollar bounty to anyone who kills Salman Rushdie, the author of "The Satanic verses".
- Feb 15 The last Soviet soldiers leave Afghanistan.

- March 29 Yasser Arafat is appointed the first President of the Palestinian State.
- April 17 In Poland, the ban on the trade union organisation Solidarity is lifted.
- May 2 The Hungarian government begins to tear down the country's border fortifications to Austria.
- May 25 Gorbachev begins an official visit to China.
- June 4 A bloodbath takes place on the Tiananmen Square in Beijing, when the Chinese army and police crack down on student demonstrators.
- June 12 Gorbachev is met by cheering crowds at a state visit to West Germany.
- July 27 Christer Petterson is sentenced to life in prison in a Swedish district court for the murder of Olof Palme. He is later acquitted in the court of appeal, because of lack of evidence.
- Aug 24 Tadeusz Mazowiecki is elected as the first non-Communist prime minister of Poland since the end of the Second World War.
- Sep 10 Hungary allows 10 000 refugees from the GDR to pass through the country to Western Europe.
- October Festivities marking the 40th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic begin in East Berlin. Mikhail Gorbachev is the guest of honour.
- Oct 18 Erich Honecker resigns as East German leader.
- Nov 9 The GDR allows emigration and travel to the West, which leads to the fall of the Berlin wall.

- Nov 24 In Prague the “Velvet Revolution” ends in the resignation of the Communist Party leadership.
- Dec 2 Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush meets aboard the Soviet warship” Maxim Gorky” near the island of Malta. Both are in agreement that the Cold War has ended.
- Dec 22 The Romanian dictator Ceaucescu is thrown from power, and is executed a few days later together with his wife.
- Dec 29 Vaclav Havel is elected President of Czechoslovakia.