

SAAB
Soundings

**SAAB WINS
U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP**



Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

and economy shown by the original cars, but also because of the praise the car has received from the individual officers who have used them.

Mr. Lars-Erik Freeman, responsible for the Swedish police auto fleet, comments on the selection of the Saab Turbo:

"It wasn't just the top speed that was of interest to us. We were much more concerned with the acceleration of the Saab Turbo – acceleration that offers the officers better possibilities for passing without having to take unnecessary risks. Since every time you have



Speeders Beware – It looks like any Saab police car, but . . .

Watch out for those Saabs, if you're ever speeding through Sweden.

Underneath that innocent looking shell – sometimes marked Police, sometimes unmarked – may lurk a speedy Saab Turbo.

When Saab-Scania about two years ago, first presented the Saab Turbo and arranged a wide consumer test of some 100 cars, five of the cars were placed with the Swedish National Police, in order to gain experiences and information about the Turbo's durability and performance in one of the hardest uses a car can be put to, as a police cruiser.

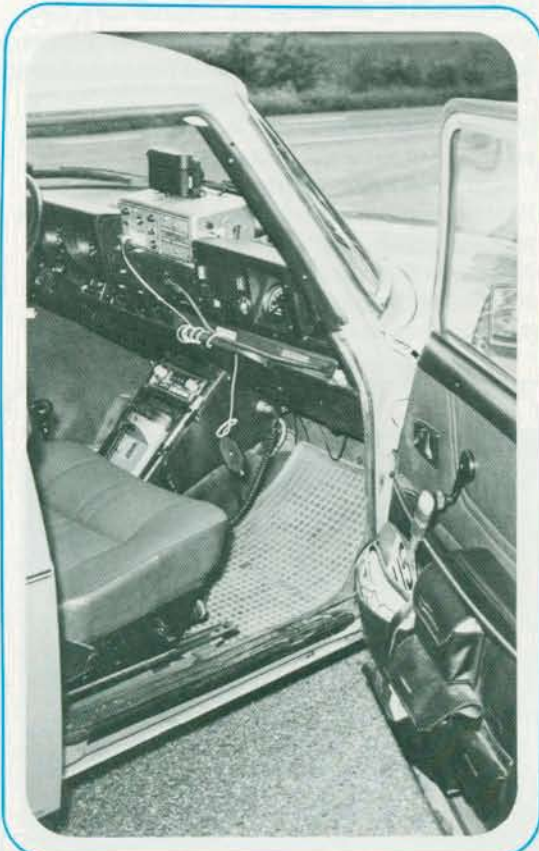
The test is now complete and the Saab Turbo is a reality, available for purchase, and the Police Department has decided to buy the original test cars. In addition a number of additional cars has been ordered – much thanks to the durability

to pass you are, in effect, driving on the wrong side of the street, it is vital that the passing distance be as short as possible.

"The car's performance also makes it easier for the driver to quickly get into the pace of the traffic – especially when coming from a side road. You reach speed quicker and can get in and out of traffic easier.

"As far as service needs and durability, the Saab Turbo has more than met our expectations. The cars have required very little service and the fuel consumption has been better than we had expected."

A Saab Turbo has been used in daily service for speed control on the heavily trafficked Europe E4 Freeway outside Nyköping. Here on the open road speeders with quick cars previously have been able to drive away from the



Lots of special equipment, including special traffic camera, is carried in Turbo cruiser.

camera equipped cruisers. But since the Turbo came into use no one has been able to get away, says Ruben Borjesson, one of the most frequent Saab Turbo drivers. He adds:

"We had a problem with our earlier traffic control cars. They just didn't have enough pick up or top speed, something that really hurt us on roads with differing standards. If we were stuck in traffic on a two-lane road there was just no way we could get out ahead of the traffic and catch the speeder. (The Swedish camera equipped cars have to stay behind a speeder while the camera automatically registers both the speed and the rear license plate of the offender.)

"With the Turbo we can take it easy until conditions get better and then pull out, pass and catch up. This is of course very important for us and gives us additional safety on the job. The only vehicle that can compete with the Saab Turbo would be a motorcycle.

"The Saab Turbo is also very easy to drive, just like any other car, which I know all of my colleagues will attest to. Earlier we had a few Porsches for traffic supervision, but that car was so extreme that it required a specially trained driver."

Officer Borjesson calls the Saab Turbo a "Wolf in sheeps clothing," something he says, Swedish speeders have also discovered.

The Swedish Police Saabs have been run very economically, the police officials say, and Officer Borjesson notes that regular Summer tires were used the year round, "but the car still feels very secure to drive, of course thanks to the front wheel drive."

The Swedish Police Turbos are five-door models, only slightly modified from the regular Turbos. And despite the extra police equipment, including lights, radio, signs etc., the fuel economy has been very good. During their entire time in service, an average of about 45,000 miles in two years, fuel consumption has been about 25 mpg.



Wolf in Sheep's Clothing – Unmarked Turbo police car checks Swedish traffic.