

Chapter 12 : “1968/71 – King's College”

In 1966, Stig Ramel (1927-2006) was appointed vice president of the Export Association and was asked by Prince Bertil if he wanted to help out with some court-matters. Ramel perceived this as the order it was – Gustaf VI was protector of the export association and Prince Bertil was honorary chairman – and a meeting with Gustaf VI took place after the Christmas holidays. It concerned whether Ramel was willing to join a group that was planning CG's civil education after the military.

The new mission began [1967] with me being requested to meet with King Gustav VI Adolf. The conversation was supposed to take place on a Monday and on Sunday I was out skiing. Unfortunately, I hurt my back. When I the next day entered the king's office my posture was rather strange. The monarch didn't comment - perhaps he wondered why such a seriously handicapped person was given a court marshal assignment. The situation was comical, and it became even more so when the king carefully emphasized how important it was with humour. I must, he stressed, ensure that the crown prince learned the importance of humour in his future work. He was very serious about this.

What the king had else to say was not too humorous however. The reverent old man spoke with warmth and great seriousness about the importance of my mission. The social democrats radicalization posed a threat to the succession. He feared that the Republican mood would have serious consequences for the monarch's position as head of state. There was reason to believe that the left wing would try to eliminate the king's role in the change of government. He stated that he had followed the rules the letter in connection with the resignation of the Erlander coalition government in 1957. However, the Social Democrats had perceived his inquiries with the leaders of the bourgeois majority in the Second Chamber as an attempt to wring power out of the hands of the Social Democrats. The King saw serious tendencies towards authoritarianism within the governing party. Sweden was not to be allowed to become a one-party state. In short, he was deeply concerned about the possibility that the crown prince would not become king. He himself was now close to the end of his life, and it was therefore a question of vigorously and decisively in the next few years implementing a training program that strengthened the position of the heir to the throne and made him competent for his future task.

This was the background to Crown Prince Carl Gustaf 1968-69 being subjected to a “crash course” in kingship. In addition to his officer training, he was to conduct university studies in Uppsala and in addition visit state agencies, county administrative boards and departments as well as the trade unions LO, SAF and TCO for day-long briefings. He also spent a few weeks with paper-mill-work at SCA in Sundsvall, and continued in the summer of 1968 with intensive studies of French and work at Alfa Laval's factory in Nevers, France. The French program was jeopardized by the dramatic May Revolt in Paris in 1968, and we started to plan an alternative program in Quebec with the help of the Foreign Ministry, although our ambassador in Ottawa, Per Lind, quietly pointed out that the French that the crown prince there would learn was an archaic 17th-century language mixed with American slang. Fortunately, things calmed down in France and the program was able to continue. In addition to all this, the Crown Prince attended a speech course to help him master his word blindness. From a fairly free schoolboy life, he was thrown into this tough

program, which could have cracked the best. It was quite clear that he accepted the challenge and intended to win. With the wisdom of hindsight, it is regrettable that the crown prince did not attend any foreign university. He never had the opportunity to mature. The anxiety about the future of the monarchy was excessive. At the same time, what happened shows how the powerful storms of the -68 Cultural Revolution was experienced in the royal castle.¹

The planning of CG's civil education took place within the "Education Council", as before under the leadership of Prince Bertil. Other members were the principal of Stockholm University Professor Håkan Nial (1899-1994), the principal of Uppsala University Professor Torgny T:son Segerstedt (1908-1999), the governor Berndt Allan Nordenstam (1904-1982), the diplomat baron Hans Gustaf Beck-Friis (1893-1982), the politician, head of SCA etc. Eje Mossberg (1908-1997) and of course Stig Ramel himself. The group set out general guidelines and made proposals. It is said to have met only once but then been consulted by telephone. Gustaf VI, Sibylla and CG discussed the proposals. After that, King Gustaf VI took over. Most of the decisions concerned the invitations that CG would accept. In practical terms, the Marshal of the Realm and the 1st Marshal of the Court Stig H:son Ericson (he held both posts at this time) sent a written invitation to the head of the CG's personal court, from 1968 Major General Malcolm Murray, that Gustaf VI would like to see CG as a dinner guest. Over the dinner table the king informed CG of his schedule. Over time, he was allowed some degrees of freedom to decide on the less important elements.

Gustaf VI's goal seems to have been to give CG an education similar to his own: King Gustaf VI had received a private education. He then trained as an army officer and studied latin, economics, Nordic history, art history, process law and Swedish political science at Uppsala University. He later became interested in archaeology and ancient history. All the members pushed their own subjects, so CG's schedule was a compromise. His training as a naval officer and his industrial practice was very similar to that of Prince Bertil. His royal tour among Sweden's political power centres from LO (trade unions) to UD (foreign affairs) was similar to his father's education. Princess Sibylla seems to have advocated an education similar to Edmunds, but in particular she continued opposing the exaggerated demands.

Since CG did not have his own appanage, the education was paid for by the private money of Sibylla and Gustaf VI. Because of the travels abroad it finally became quite expensive. CG would attend a year at Uppsala University and follow first year courses in history, sociology, political science and financial law. Then two years of practice, study visits and representation. According to Segerstedt, CG would write papers but would not take any exams. The objective of the training was breadth, not depth. CG added summer courses in the French language. There was talk of corresponding courses in the German language but that never happened.

THE FUTURE OF THE CROWN PRINCE - AND OF SWEDEN

One of the advisers in the circle around the crown prince [Stig Ramel] claims that he will get a broader overview of Swedish society than "what I think anybody of his age has got". What is at issue here is, among other things, how receptive the crown prince is. The fact that he is not intellectual and that he lacks bookish interests and deeper involvement in social issues has already been emphasized. Concerning his intelligence and talents opinions are vague, quite naturally, because no one knows; It

¹ Stig Ramel. *Minnen: Pojken i dörren*. Atlantis, 1994. I kronprinsens tjänst., s 175-181.

is easy to observe that a person has never or rarely been seen with a book in his hand, but it is more difficult to determine his talents, because you can mean so many different things with the term. An assessor may refer to a clearly demonstrated ability to follow theoretical studies - then the crown prince gets a low score - another may refer to the degree of wisdom and judgment that he or she is able to muster in the course of a political crisis - and then you do not know what grade the crown prince will deserve.

One factor that makes it difficult to assess the crown prince's aptitude for theoretical studies is, of course, his reading and speech difficulties, the so-called. word blindness. Surely it cannot be ruled out that a certain theoretical talent would suddenly bloom if the mental lockdown was released. In his surroundings, one has a calm and realistic view of "word blindness", a condition which, incidentally, also (his father) Prince Gustaf Adolf suffered from; For example, Murray has publicly commented on his "word blindness", apparently in order to downplay its importance

But, of course, the affliction is a severe constraint when studying at the university or making public appearances. In his circles of advisers, it is believed that the Crown Prince should participate as actively as possible in the activities of at least some of the different institutions he should visit, but for his studies in Uppsala, another principle applies : he shall not be required to pass tests or perform. The Crown Prince has the same view himself: He does not want to take written tests, so that makes it impossible for him to pass a basic academic examination, and to that is added the shortage of time; even a person with normal educational aptitudes would have to surrender because the lack of time, since the age of eligibility to the throne has not been raised to 30 or 35 years.

And then this chapter ends with the expected question mark. The Kingdom of Sweden has a new ruler and no one can reasonably be sure of how things will turn out. The Crown Prince does not know, Olof Palme does not know.²

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CG's civil education began on May 18, 1968, with an industrial visit. It was scheduled to be completed by his 25th birthday of April 30, 1971, when he became royal but was actually to be extended. CG took courses, practised and made study visits right up to his accession to the throne September 19, 1973. There is a tendency to downgrade CG's level of education because he does not have formal grades. But in this he resembles many other Swedish politicians with "on the job training". It is less effective, but on the other hand it never ends.

As Crown Prince, CG had no bodyguard. He had adjutants. At first he was allowed to borrow them from King Gustaf VI. From the time of the Uppsala studies he had his own adjutant. This was arranged by Lieutenant General Malcolm Murray who retired from his post as head of the Swedish National Defence College in 1968 and committed to leading CG's personal court. As Crown Prince, CG had six part-time aides. The other officers were on loan. Ramel worked a couple of hours a week as Marshal of the court. In that capacity, he was responsible for CG's foreign education, contacts with industry in the broad sense and some press contacts. The economy was managed by court curator Carl-Eric Ekstrand.

² Åke Ortmark. De okända makthavarna : de kungliga, militärerna, journalisterna. W & W, 1969.

Wealth Management by the Head of the Royal Administration, Chief Superintendent Herbert Bexelius.

At Uppsala CG chose to enrol at the Stockholm student nation, where he knew some people, and was awarded a student apartment on Luthagesplanaden 12B, three bedrooms, kitchen with food and a work room for himself, his adjutant and another student Michael Odevall who would study law. The furniture was so poor that CG brought some of his own: a yellow silk sofa, a slightly worn oriental carpet and an antique dresser with silver candlesticks. A housekeeper handled cooking, washing and cleaning. (The fact that CG did not enrol in his duchy Jämtland's student nation was alleged to be due to the fact that entertainer Yngve Gamlin in 1965 had proclaimed himself president of Jämtland and contested CG's rights to his duchy. Gamlin's "Foreign Minister", Kjell-Albin Abrahamsson, was later convicted by the radio board for in his program "Phone P1" having advocated a republican constitution for real.) The apartment caused some writings because it was a condo but that CG was allowed to rent it for a year without a down payment.

The term began on September 2, 1968, with introductory lectures, a freshman party with information from the Principal Torgny T:son Segerstedt, then the "green drink" according to an old club master's recipe and finally dancing to a tape recorder. After a few courtesy rounds, CG invited the press to beer and sandwich in his den. Seemingly his first personal press conference. He had fresh sunburn from the Riviera and smoked a Gaulois.

CG moved about town but people were considerate and avoided staring. On weekday evenings, he held court in the pub. Old recruits came forward and told him about meeting his father on manoeuvres. Many needed liquid courage. Unpleasant people were removed by CG's adjutant and new acquaintances. He attended the Stockholm student nations parties but only danced with women he knew from before. He sometimes dropped titles with classmates, but he rarely entered into discussions with them. He spent the weekend at Stockholm castle where he had a three-room apartment. The study pace was high: Three lectures a day. In history, CG was most interested in the period of Jean Baptiste Bernadotte's accession to the throne, but that was not included in the course. The daily routine was like this:

Michael Odevall provides a sketch [of the daily routine]. Out of bed at 8 a.m. A quiet breakfast and the morning papers - Svenska Dagbladet, Dagens Nyheter, Uppsala Nya. The Crown Prince is not a so-called morning person so silence is mandatory. The only time I've heard him laugh at the breakfast table is when he happened to pour coffee into his juice. In the morning there was usually some lecture. They had lunch at the apartment, something easy to prepare such as hamburgers. The lunch break lasted until 2 o'clock. Then another lecture, home study and dinner. The prince had several cookbooks and took an interest in preparing something more complicated. No leisure problems exist in Uppsala. In the evenings you can dance, attend a seminar or watch television.³

Gustaf VI had some exaggerated ideas about the revolutionary situation in Sweden. However, an on-the-spot investigation had shown that the risk of CG being exposed to demonstrations was very low. Although Princess Christina had been the victim of demonstrations in 1966, this had special causes. She attended a controversial corps ball whose proceeds were to go to a university in Peru, which the Corps left wing members opposed. In connection with this, there were long-standing discussions about the royal house's "special relationship" with

³ Margit Fjellman. Vår kronprins : Född till ett annorlunda liv. 1970.

Uppsala University. That particular discussion ended with Princess Christina being welcome but as a private citizen. The Peru issue was never resolved.

There were many left-wing youths at CG's courses who took the opportunity to check out their future king. A probably apocryphal story reads: “[A course was] about feudalism, about how King and nobility plundered the peasants and forced poor boys into death and endless wars. When one afternoon he stood smoking with his classmates at a lecture break, he was asked: After hearing about all this, surely the crown prince can't support the monarchy? After a brief reflection, the answer came: - Yes, all my family does.”⁴ (The answer circulated for a long time as an example of how from children and fools you get to know the truth.)

The textbook that appears to have made the greatest impact on CG was Herbert Marcuse's “One-dimensional Man”, a criticism of the consumer society. Other course books were Sten Carlson's “Swedish History”, Nils Elvander's “The Organizations of Interest groups in Today's Sweden”, Gösta Carlson's “The Sociology of Swedish Society” and Ralph Linton's “The Cultural Background of Personality”. CG wrote an essay about the Swedish legal aid. On the course in finance law, some of the leaders of the Båstad-riots May 3, 1968, attended - the ones that stopped the Davies Cup match between Sweden and Rhodesia. “The Crown Prince was treated just like a normal guy in the gang who you borrowed cigarettes from and who had to pay for the coffee when it was his turn to collect it in the breaks and who had his coffee paid when others did so.”⁵ During the course there was an intense discussion about the tax-free subjects (which included the royal house). CG kept quiet on the subject. He sometimes invited people home. Prince Bertil provided him with suitable recipes for such occasions. “Some evenings were quite late. We gathered a small gang at my house and then discussed until too tired to continue.”⁶

On May 16, 1969, it was over. CG invited his teachers to a small farewell party, packed his books and returned to Stockholm castle. He arranged an informal press conference. The atmosphere was so cosy that one of the journalists commented on the matter. CG muttered something about the fact that “if they're only in good spirits when they come, it can be a very nice coexistence”. Regarding on whether he enjoyed living in Uppsala, the answer was: “A lot. I've made comrades in a completely different way than I had thought. I was particularly interested in studying sociology. And I've had a nice and cosy time living here.” Journalist Margit Fjellman tried to nail her impression:

He is very Swedish, or one might rather say Germanic in type. It has been said of his eyes that they are seraphim-blue and it is quite right that they have just the nuance of the Seraphid Order band. He is known to resemble Princess Sibylla and perhaps even more her beloved brother Prince Hubertus, who died as an aviator during World War II. But Prince Gustaf Adolf's friends would like to emphasize that he also has a tangible resemblance to his father. Like him, he is well built, well trained and has a posture that one even in our democratic time dares call royal.

He dresses well. He wears a costume in glen check in a tint of colour somewhere between steel and slate gray. The shirt is cool sea blue. A tie in different shades of blue - perfect. Maybe a gift from the king. It has been told to me that a recurring gift

⁴ Åsa Linderborg. Alla älskar kungen! Aftonbladet, 2006-04-30.

⁵ Sven-Olof Lodin. Professorn som blev näringslivstorped. Stockholm : Ekerlid, 2009.

⁶ Christer Nyblom. Kronprinsen berättar 2. Hemmets veckotidning, 1971:18.

from the king to his grandson on his return from the Italian trips are ties. The Italians are specialists in ties.

On his right little finger he wears a ring. Is that the Bernadotte coat of arms? No, it's my own. The Crown Prince's "own" coat of arms is crowded: A three-part shield depicting the coat of arms of Jämtland, his duchy since March 5, 1948; The coat of arms of the Bernadotte dynasty; The three crowns of the united kingdom; The Folkunga-coat of arms (an early Swedish dynasty). It may be added that the shield also contains his own (crown prince) crown. From where did he get the ring? He replies: - I got it from my mother on my 21st birthday. [He had lost the ring he received from his sisters at graduation.]

On the subject of princely clothing can be further reported that he is careful about his clothes. He has however got a pair of well worn jeans from which he can not be induced to part and which he likes to wear when he sails. He always packs himself - the lifestyle of a modern young royal is significantly different from that of previous generations. Perhaps the strongest impression is that he seems so healthy. People around him can also testify that he has always been so. Not much more than appendicitis surgery and light ear problems in the early years.⁷

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The critique of CG's education, both military and civilian, has been that it was too protected, too brief, and that it was unrelated to his duties as king. More experience of how an ordinary Swede had it!⁸ Given that CG later considered his primary task to be a public relations officer for Sweden Inc., the training must however be considered a success. It covered all kinds of things and so did CG's duties. Possibly one could criticize his military training as being too thorough. What CG later regretted was his lack of social contacts. CG did not feel completely at home in official Sweden until he approached 50. Others have complained about his lack of deep of knowledge - an inevitable consequence of the priorities. The most important thing was to understand the system = what each person in the kingdom was doing.

CG's surroundings was relieved that he at last dared take the initiative. General Murray tells of their encounter with a wrecked car in early 1969:

The Prince reacted immediately and organized a relief operation. Set up a warning sign. Found our cables and other utilities that we brought in our cart. ... The fact that the prince stepped in and helped was probably not so strange in itself... What was remarkable, however, was the determination, the rapid intervention, the sure organization of aid work. It was strange to me to observe how much he acted like his father would. For a few short moments I felt transported some thirty years back in time.⁹

In the autumn of 1969 Åke Ortmark's book about the Swedish power elite was published. Ortmark took the opportunity to criticize the royal house and especially CG who was accused of lack of intelligence, a distorted school education and an isolated upper class socializing. This was a critique that was levelled at CG for a long time. A critique so at the same time

⁷ Margit Fjellman. Sådan är kronprinsen, del 2. Hemmets veckotidning, 1969:49.

⁸ Gösta Ollén. Han blir vår kung - men har kronprinsen fått rätt utbildning? Expressen, 1971-01-13.

⁹ Margit Fjellman. Gustaf VI Adolf. Närbilder av kungen. Bonniers, 1973, s 190-191

broad and vague that it was impossible to refute with facts. He had to live through it and hope for better times. It was intended that another critical book on the royal house by journalist Hans Hederberg - married to Eva Moberg (of republican father Vilhelm Moberg fame) - would be published in 1972 but it never appeared.

During this time CG was often invited to Drottningholm castle to meet King Gustaf VI. There is a mythology about their walks in the castle park where the wise old man would lecture his grandson about his future office. What King Gustaf VI above all seems to have conveyed was his concern for the future. Here a contemporary interview by Vecko Journalen on the subject:

VJ: What is the most important characteristic of a monarch?

CG: That he keeps up with his time. Like my grandfather. ... But I'm not going to overcomplicate things when I become king. It is just a question of doing what people require.

VJ: ...what people require, yes. But is it not difficult to make this sacrifice? To always have to do what people require? Has the prince never wanted to renounce the throne?

CG: No, never. Being king, that's kind of a... family tradition. I do not know if I am a victim. I've been brought up to it, and I just look straight ahead. I find it hard to disappoint. It is my duty to sit on the throne until the people do not want me there. I'm on the job until I'm fired. (Now he looks serious.)

VJ: But doesn't the prince play with the idea of what it would be like if the prince were free to choose?

CG: You can always have pipe dreams.

VJ: If I have understood correctly, duty is the most important thing for the prince. To do what the people want. But if one day the majority of the people wish a republic with the prince himself as representative president... how would the prince respond?

CG: I would say yes. That's exactly what I was brought up to. Then it's just to rename the office.

...

VJ: If the prince were not Prince - where would the prince want to live.

CG: I don't want to live abroad unless I have to. I like the smell of Sweden.¹⁰

Sibylla privately expressed concern about the effect these talks had on CG's peace of mind. The rest of the family and especially King Gustaf VI himself, however, believed that CG as Crown Prince must put his private feelings on hold. Gustaf VI's motto "Duty above all" seemed in the end to have been more about CG than about the king himself. CG was also later hostile to it. For a modern person, there were things in life beyond duty - family for example.¹¹

Here and now, however, CG dutifully followed his schedule but the pace was punishing. He worked at and over the limit of his ability. He drank too much, exercised too little and gained weight. His appearance changed, his face looked pudgy. The cheeks swelled up so that from certain angles he looked like a hamster. Jacques Werup wrote a sarcastic poem

¹⁰ Stefan Andhé. Kronprinsen mot väggen i exklusiv intervju. Vecko Journalen, 1969:17.

¹¹ Inger Nildén m fl. Året med kungafamiljen 2003. SVT1, 2003-12-30.

about him being rather wide over the butt. CG was sensitive to such allegations: “When he was younger, he went livid if you were to photograph him in shorts. He was a little chubby. Now it's okay.”¹² There is a famous award-winning picture of CG in floral swimwear, sunglasses and a half-smoked cigarette lifting a box of Ballantine's whiskey unto a boat. When asked afterwards what he thought was his worst experience, CG replied: “It is exhausting to often change environment, to meet new people almost every hour, new faces. Instead of getting to know people, to be able to say hello if you met them in the street.”¹³ His later opinion was that it was that it had been a horrible experience “sometimes it felt as if my head would explode by all the facts and figures that I had to cram”.¹⁴ The journalists who followed CG this period finally began to feel a certain admiration for him. That he did not simply implode under the pressure.

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It has not been possible to reconstruct CG's schedule in detail. He studied the Swedish power centres: The state apparatus, foreign affairs, big business, the banks, the labour market organisations, the media, etc. Social affairs were not included in any form. Neither hospitals, old people's homes, night shelters, prisons, church activities or schools. I expand on the business contacts and his visits abroad:

In May 1968 he visited Atlas Copco in Sickla and trained French at the language laboratory in Stockholm. He then visited France. Due to the social unrest there, he first visited Switzerland where he stayed with a private family and visited ILO. The following month he was at Atlas Copco's and Alfa Laval's French headquarters. During July, he worked as a lathe operator at Alfa Laval's factory in Nevers, France, living with Alfa Laval's French vice director Gabriel Banon and his family. The schedule was two hours at the lathe and milling machine, two hours of French studies for the principal of Nevers grammar school and to follow the work at Alfa Laval in as much detail as he could. “It is interesting to see how the workers have it. But it does not give much. I like financial planning better.” The local union was afterwards disappointed that CG did not take his representative role a little more seriously, e.g. walked round and shook hands with the workers. CG had two French detectives as bodyguards.¹⁵ These seem to have advised against it. In August, he visited Prince Bertil in Sainte-Maxime, entertained himself in Antibes a bit from there and was also waister on a sailing trip to Sardinia.

In June 1969, he relocated to France. He lived with the industrialist Kurt Allan Belfrage and his family in Paris and trained French at a language laboratory four hours a day. He then travelled around, spent the night at castles, and studied various industries including agriculture. He visited a friend in Normandy. He returned to Paris on July 14. In August he visited Prince Bertil and also the French textile family Provoust at Corsica and participated in the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's birth on August 15.

When CG was not abroad, it was study visits to Swedish companies and institutions with lectures on their activities, a “hands on” teaching about Sweden Inc. and how it was managed. The “teachers”, all 100 of them, were invited to a handsome dinners February 19 and 25 1970, at mother Sibylla's. On March 4-20, it was a long-term practice at SCA's pulp factory in

¹² Christina Ollén. Bilaga: Kungen 50 år. Expressen, 1996-04-24.

¹³ Cecilia Hagen. Så har jag utbildat mig till kung. Vecko Journalen, 1971:18.

¹⁴ George W Herald. Intervju med kronprinsen. Hemmets veckotidning, 1973:17.

¹⁵ Expressen, 1968-07-14

Sundsvall where he was marched through the production process. In April he was at Facit in Åtvidaberg. This was a continuation of an earlier visit that had to be cancelled because of the LKAB conflict (strikes among miners). CG studied the production process and sat in during a wage negotiation. On June 7, he went by car to Tours via Paris for a stay with a French family and further language studies and then to the Riviera for a week with Prince Bertil. On June 23-26 there was a break to attend the West German state visit to Sweden. He represented the Swedish royal house at his relative Lord Louis Mountbattens' 70th birthday party on August 14 and then returned for two weeks of teaching on "the Swedish model" - the Swedish labour market organization.

Come October, CG spent time in Rome with King Gustaf VI where they visited as many museums as they could. "He was a fantastic guide and knew everything, even of small back streets and still smaller churches."¹⁶ It was the longest continuous time they had together and if CG and his grandfather ever exchanged thoughts about his future, they did it then and there. CG respected his grandfather but also mocked him, for example his grandfather's excessive pedantry. Grandpa's study of a painting, CG could mimic like this: "He slowly and majestically walks towards a painting, halts in front of it scrutinizing every square centimetre and then he inspects the backside and continues with the floor. One cannot be too thorough in such things."¹⁷

In the spring of 1971 he followed the work of the Parliament. In the summer he returned to France. He had reached the age of 25 and become royal. The adjutants pooled their money for a sumlog to his newly purchased motor boat. There is an apocryphal story from this time set at the Riviera:

Linen suits, Scott Fitzgerald-vibe and a young crown prince gets smashed at a discotheque. Sometime after midnight, the champagne has worked his way into every cell of his body, he enters the dance floor, where he throws himself to the ground shouting "I am king! I am king!"¹⁸

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CG was initially at ease with English and had some difficulties with his German. French was his worst language. CG's language skills became good enough that journalists could ask him questions in their respective languages. However, CG always replied in English. It sounded exotic, a Swedish-sounding Oxford English. Probably because of all the extra lessons and language trips. CG has held speeches in German and French but stopped when he realized the danger of being misunderstood.

During his study visits in Sweden, he was repeatedly prevented from meeting the workers because the leadership was afraid to provoke a wild strike. There was actually a demonstration against CG during this time at the inauguration in January 1969 of Alfa-Laval's new industrial hall in Lund.

Stig Ramel: "But the crown prince was no ordinary guy. I noticed this when I travelled with him on various missions. I remember especially when he was to inaugurate a factory in Lund and was met by angry republican demonstrators [They

¹⁶ Carl Gustaf Bernadotte. *Mina 40 år för Sverige*. Norstedts, 2013.

¹⁷ Året Runt, 1960:35.

¹⁸ Året Runt, 1960:35. 329 Fredrik Wilkingsson & Filip Hammar. *Kungen*. Magasinet Bon, 2002:1, s 131-138.

belonged to the student union party “Students for a democratic society (SDS)”. The atmosphere was initially very tense and police and hosts nervous. The Crown Prince proved to be in complete control of the situation and caused the demonstration to implode by calmly walking forward and starting to talk with them as if they were his peers, which they considered themselves to be. It is hard being a republican when the royalty steals your thunder.”¹⁹

CG: “I didn't feel threatened. They weren't protesting me. They were protesting the system. Of course I belong to the system, but still. I didn't feel guilty. There was nothing really bad about me on their placards either. There were 15-20 people standing there with placards. It was pathetic to see [them stand there freezing in the wind]. I felt bad for them.”²⁰

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In November 1969, CG accompanied SIDA Director General Ernst Michanek on a study trip through Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania to get to know modern Africa. (Foreign aid.) Like many of CG's foreign trips, it had a semi-official status without being a state visit. CG was received by Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, Kenyan President Jomo Kenjatta and Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who all three enthusiastically reported on the progress made by each country with the help of the SIDA. CG was driven from one sight to another: Irrigation facilities, schools, cooperative centres, coffee plantations, tanneries, etc. The Swedish peacekeepers appreciated his informal style and carefully cultivated “folksiness”. Of course, he visited Serengeti National Park and Ngorowgoro Crater. CG also tried to fraternize with the locals which he actually managed to do at the market in Lushoto Tanzania:

Carl Gustaf strolled around among the stalls, tasted cassava products and looked at the dried fish which is one of the most sold items on the market. The fish is wrapped in Swedish newspapers that are bought in Sweden as a waste product.

The Crown Prince tried to start a conversation in Swahili [using a dictionary] with a couple of saleswomen. They stared at him quite terrified. This was due less to his linguistic outburst than to a certain traditional suspicion of foreigners in these regions. In addition, the local honoratiore, shaken up when they “lost” their guest of honour, had already found him and formed a wall.²¹

During the study trip, CG underwent the three stages of relief work: (1) Arrival: It is terrible to see all these poor people and the conditions in which they live. He wanted to do something, build hospitals, schools, houses, anything just to help them. (2) After a few days when he realized the extent of the misery: What did it matter that he built a school for these children? Tomorrow they were at least twice as many. (3) At the end of the journey: The help that Sida brought them: a dam, a water pipe, a metal shed for school was significant compared to how it was before. He felt relieved and a little elated.²² CG came to meet Nyerere several times. He was clearly impressed.²³

¹⁹ Stig Ramel. *Minnen: Pojken i dörren*. Atlantis, 1994, s 175-181.

²⁰ Elisabeth Frankl. Intervju med kronprins Carl Gustaf. *Expressen*, 1969-12-14.

²¹ Vem är han som försöker tala swahili? *Vecko Journalen*, 1969:47.

²² Tomas Dillén & Lars Ulvenstam. *Personligt med Carl Gustaf*. SR, 1971.

²³ *Svenska Dagbladet*, 1983-09-14.

CG photographed the entire trip and wanted Vecko Journal to print some of them. There were pictures of wild animals. “But he had also photographed people, starving, sick and miserable. Among them, an absolutely appalling photo of a woman with large bloody wounds, covered in countless flies. That picture Carl Gustaf wanted us to publish, but I mumbled that it was perhaps too upsetting for the newspaper's readers. Then the crown prince looked at me very earnestly and retorted: Yes, but this is part of reality! You can't pretend it doesn't exist!”²⁴

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CG's first overseas mission was the launching of the icebreaker Njord at Wärtsilä's Helsinki shipyard 1-3 October 1968, sister ships to Tor and Oden: “Your name shall be Njord. May happiness and prosperity follow you on the seas.”

The Crown Prince looked a little tense and tight-lipped while this first stage of his first public overseas mission was accomplished. Then an improvised press conference was arranged inside the air plane pavilion where he could shine - show how well he had learned the royal art of performing naturally in unnatural situations – pushed down into a sofa in the small SAS room with press and microphones and cameras and TV lights forming a compact wall around him, he gave unpretentious and serious answers to impertinent questions - and smiled disarmingly when the journalists became too indiscreet.²⁵

Next stop was the World's Fair in Osaka Japan in May 1970. CG arrived with his supervisor Stig Ramel and a retinue of ambassadors and director-generals:

The reborn superpower with its ancient traditions gave us a magnificent reception. In Japan, royal personalities are regarded almost as sacred beings, and it was very pleasant to be a member of such an entity's entourage when we were shown the fabulous palaces and gardens of Kyoto and Nara, which are not open to ordinary mortals. We also had to follow the Holy Being on a nightclub visit in Tokyo which ended very late. We had only an hour's sleep before the Japanese Prime Minister Sato paid a courtesy visit to our hotel. The Swedish delegation lined the walls and looked spent. The crown prince, looking lively and newly showered, made a valiant effort to converse Sato, which failed however. In the Japanese no-theater, the pause between the words gives the game its dramatic content. In this context, I think I should consider the Crown Prince conversation with Sato great no-theater.²⁶

The return trip was contained two semi-official stops at Hong Kong and Bangkok. Pleasant experiences according to Ramel:

[Hong Kong:] Crammed into the governor general's fancy junk, we went on a lunch trip to some far off islands. After lunch, which transformed the Governor-General's entourage into cheerful Oxford and Cambridge students, we drank champagne and swam in the warm sea while a tropical rainfall made foam in the glasses and boiled the sea.

²⁴ Michael Jägerblom. Mina 25 år med kungen. Året Runt, 1998:24.

²⁵ M-a. Haralds exempel inte något för Carl Gustaf. Hufvudstadsbladet, 1968-10-03.

²⁶ Stig Ramel. Minnen: Pojken i dörren. Atlantis, 1994, s 175-181.

In Bangkok we were housed in the government's guest house. It was crippling hot in the days, and the hotel guests spent it panting at the swimming pool. As the crown prince slowly approached the big trampoline, the calls fell silent and cameras were raised to discreetly take pictures of the royal jump. He froze for a while. The tension rose. Then came a perfectly executed belly flop, which splashed the entire elegant audience. It is well to use the time before becoming king.²⁷

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Beginning in September 1970, CG spent four weeks in New York to familiarize himself with the United Nations. He and the adjutant shared a three-room suite at a hotel near Park Avenue. CG sat in at various meetings starting with the so-called morning prayers. What made the most impression was 20 minutes with U Tant and the uproar that erupted at Nasser's death. In the evenings, he amused himself incognito and met people. If anyone wondered who he was, he presented himself as a student or as a sailor. The name could be anything. During his stay, CG was interviewed in some detail about how he imagined the future of the monarchy:

Crown Prince Carl Gustaf is spinning a glass of Sancerre at Lutèce, one of Manhattan's best French restaurants. - Yes, it is quite clear that I will continue the modernization of the king's and the court's way of working in line with society's development - that is, my grandfather has already begun. Perhaps the most important thing in this context, however, seems to me to be the strong conservatism that the Swedish people still feel regarding the Royal House. ... I therefore believe that all "modernizations", if we are to call them that, must be extremely carefully prepared. It would be dangerous to modernize just for the sake of modernization, but it would also be wrong, on the other hand, to ignore the values of my own generation.²⁸

One lesson was to beware of cocktail parties. There you did not have a protective wall of adjutants, bodyguards and courtiers but could be accosted by anybody. It could also be embarrassing if you were left alone. At such times CG used to look around for a familiar face, but the acquaintance had to do the small talk, not CG's strong suit.

After New York, CG spent two weeks at the London Embassy and with sister Margaretha Ambler with family. Then it was back to Stockholm and an extensive course on the workers trade union LO's day to day operation and history.

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And then it was over. At the cabinet meeting of April 30, 1971, CG's royal majority, Gustaf VI gave a small speech:

My dear Carl Gustaf,

Today, you are 25 years and therefore legally of age according to the Swedish Constitution. This means that You will henceforth exercise regency if I become seriously ill or if I travel beyond Sweden's borders, and that You will succeed me as Swedish king immediately upon my death.

²⁷ Stig Ramel. *Minnen: Pojken i dörren*. Atlantis, 1994, s 175-181.

²⁸ Arne Thorén. *Kronprinsen intervjuas i New York*. Vecko Journalen, 1970:40.

The day is therefore undoubtedly a day of celebration in your young life, a day on which I now heartily congratulate You!

During the last five years you have received a training in many important areas, which obviously could not be as thorough or extensive as one might wish. I believe, however, that, partly because of its versatility, it forms a good basis on which You can build.

It is a general human experience, and I can personally confirm this, that the more thorough knowledge one gains, the more experience one gains, the greater the chance of correctly assessing situations that have arisen, to understand the actions and thoughts of others. But in dealing with one's fellow human beings, the rule is surely that one should be patient, to let the person to whom one speaks to finish, to fully express his case, or to express his opinion.

It is obvious that flattery should not be listened to, and that one should never be affected by slander. Seek the truth in all shifts of life!

And now a word of appreciation.

During your past five years of study, I have increasingly noticed Your strong sense of conscientiousness, of a desire to get to know and make contact with a variety of areas of human activity, both in public service and of a more individual nature. Your interest in all this work will certainly be a good basis on which you can and should continue working. It will also - I am sure of that - bring you true happiness and a deeper meaning with life.

And now my dear Carl Gustaf, your old grandfather wishes you every success and satisfaction throughout your coming life!²⁹

CG commented afterwards: "I am aware that I am in a privileged position. The price, to pay in the form of a virtually non-existent private life, seems reasonable."³⁰ The democratic ordeal was over. The royal ordeal could begin.

²⁹ Margit Fjellman. Gustaf VI Adolf. Närbilder av kungen. Bonniers, 1973.

³⁰ Christer Nyblom. Kronprinsen berättar 2. Hemmets veckotidning, 1971:18.