

Chapter 24 : “Meeting the people”

Each year CG makes three recurring speeches: (1) The speech of the throne at the opening of the Parliament on the third Tuesday in September. (2) The speech to the Swedes abroad on Christmas Day. (3) The speech to the Swedish people on the National Day of June 6.

1. In 1974 (his first year) CG participated in the formal opening of the Parliament according to the old ceremonial, which was magnificent but is now history. In the new ceremonial, CG and his family arrive at Storkyrkan escorted by his guard. They participate in a joint service. CG then enters the Parliament alone, opens the session at the request of the speaker and makes a speech. The ceremony ends with the national anthem and CG departing the premises. Finally the incumbent government makes a courtesy call at the castle. The symbolism should be that CG is requested by the Parliament to attend, not as before that the Parliament is forced to attend at gunpoint. The ceremonial has increased over time. Nowadays it is music, children's choirs, floral arrangements, honour guards and dressed up MPs. The League of Humanists under Christer Sturmark (who incidentally also is a Republican) wants to abolish the initial service.

CG's first opening speech on January 10, 1975, read: “Mr. President, esteemed Members of Parliament! Allow me to express a warm hope of success for the Parliament in its work to benefit our Sweden and its citizens, to protect the individual and to contribute to creating a happier world for all people!” In the following years, demands were made for a little more substance. By 1991/92 the opening speech had grown from five to 67 lines. CG was always fully guarded with the contents. Both the Prime Minister, the Speaker and a number of MPs and experts read and commented on the speech before it was held. Nevertheless, the throne speech was perceived by some as political:

So it is a very clear tendency for longer and longer speeches. So these speeches are taking more and more political positions. Not only in terms of substance, but also in terms of the choice of subjects - which subjects are included and which are not, the order of the subjects and the space available for each subject. There is no doubt that the King's speeches have become political. The content and the place where it is held cannot be interpreted as anything else than that the speaker wishes the forthcoming decision of the Parliament to go in certain directions. This is basically something different from the time when the king read [the old] throne speech. Everyone knew then that the opinions expressed were those of the government, not the king. It was a result of parliamentarianism.

But whose opinion is now being promoted when the King's speech differs from the government declaration? The important document is, of course, the latter. But the Parliament may still be interested in knowing who is responsible for the king's speech. ... Is it the King who is putting forward his purely personal views (much like when he goes out to the media with views about conditions in Norway)? Or is it the court administration that makes some kind of document that should be a compromise between the old throne speech and the king's private opinion? The government is clearly not involved, it cannot reasonably produce two documents for the same occasion. One by the prime minister and one by the king. This confusion did not exist when the king read out a government document.¹

¹ Hans Lindblad (fp). Motion 1991/92:K312 Riksdagens öppnande.

The matter was investigated in 1999 by the Parliament's investigation service. The average length 1975-1982 was 106 words, 1983-1990 278 words and 1991-1999 549 words. It seems that at the beginning of 1990 this led to a mini-crisis. Speaker of the Parliament 1988-1990 Thage G Peterson:

After pressure and a great deal of unrest in the ranks, I called the leaders of the parliamentary groups, the Vice-Speakers and the Bureau of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to a meeting about the King's opening speech. The Liberal Party's Ingemar Eliasson was the most critical. "The King gives too long speeches. He is very close to the constitutional limit. This year he crossed that line. We want the Speaker to act." Swedish Conservatives' Anders Björck: "I share Eliasson's criticism and summary. It's the national meeting that opens. The members of the Parliament shall be at the centre, not The King."²

The other parties were also critical, but if you are symbolic Head of State, you have to accept that the symbolism is examined with a magnifying glass. What is important is not what physically happens, but the importance that the environment attaches to it.

CG's first (heavily criticized) political statement was in 1980 when he emphasized the importance of "good cross-border relations".^{3,4} If you refer the speech to politicians, such overruns seem to be inevitable. Politics in = politics out.

2. In 1974, CG discussed with friends and acquaintances whether, in addition to his throne speech, he would give a speech to the nation in some context. Perhaps the Christmas Day speech to Swedes abroad has come to fulfil that function. His first Christmas Day speech was as Crown Prince in 1972. In 2007, the speech was also broadcast on TV. The speech was long called "The King speaks to Swedes abroad" and began with "Dear compatriots of far countries and of the seven seas". It is a kind of "Sweden in the world" speech and very diverse. The first draft has usually been written internally by Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg or by the Marshal of the Realm. A few times externally by MEPs such as Andreas Wijkman and the author Herman Lindqvist. The speech was then referred to others in the usual manner. The subjects have been those close to the heart of CG and Silvia: Peace in our time, the situation of young people, immigration, the consolation of religion.

The Christmas speech of 2002 caused great irritation with the wording: "I think it's important to look to the future in bright colours. Being pessimistic helps no one, neither yourself nor others. You have to take control of your own life. There will be no fried sparrows (=rewards) unless you do your best." It felt snotty and a contribution to the current health insurance debate.

3. June 6 was first celebrated as the national flag day of a number of large social movements – the corporations. The date June 6 is generally attributed to Major Tor Wibom, who justified it with Gustav Vasa's election as king in Strängnäs on June 6, 1523. It was declared a national holiday in 1983, in 1996 it became a salute day and in 2005 a public holiday. The date was also justified by the fact that both the 1809 and 1974 constitutions were issued on June 6. As Crown Prince, CG had been present with King Gustaf VI at the stadium until 1961 and then at

² Thage G Peterson. Resan mot Mars : anteckningar och minnen. 1999.

³ Katarina Barrling. Riksdagens utredningstjänst. PM, 1999-10-13.

⁴ Kristina Gauthier Reberg. Kungen alltmer politiserad. R & D, 1999:34.

Solliden on Skansen where King Gustaf VI would give a short speech about the beautiful weather. In 1971, CG was given the task to pay tribute to the flag in the presence of Sibylla.

Silvia usually wears the national dress. This is a formal costume of peasant origin with blue skirt, yellow apron and a blue or red bodice with motifs of daisies. The costume was long forgotten and did not become official national dress until Sweden's national day in 1983.

As king, CG first visited some nearby Swedish town and then rushed back to Solliden. Norrland is automatically unfairly treated in these contexts, but CG has at least once visited Umeå in a SK60. CG introduced the tradition of delivering a national day speech with some substance which automatically seems to have made the speech political. In 2010, for example, he expressed his support for the government's warfare in Afghanistan and ...

Hans Linde, Foreign Affairs spokesman for the Left Party: "The King should not speak out about Afghanistan because a large public opinion opposes our engagement there."

Peter Althin, chairman of the Republican Club: "He uses his power for political purposes. It is completely unacceptable for the King to express an opinion on Afghanistan when there are parties that want to take back the troops."

Ulf Bjereld, political scientist and social democratic politician: "He expresses support for soldiers who are already in Afghanistan. It is not controversial."

Political scientist Stig-Björn Ljunggren: "What the King says is within the framework of Swedish security policy."

Expressen unsuccessfully sought the court for a comment.⁵

4. CG also makes "political moves" or expresses his personal opinion. Hard to tell which. In an interview in Dagens Industri in 1990 on the theme of business and economy, he criticized the Swedish labour morale and all unjustified wage increases in recent years which was criticized as a violation of the Torekov compromise.⁶ If you add all the times someone has criticized CG, Silvia or Crown Princess Victoria for taking a position on a matter, it becomes a long list. Silvia and the Crown Princess speak as private individuals even if they are not perceived in this way. CG's statements, on the other hand, are royal words, and it is clear that he often has had difficulties in dealing with the Constitution's requirement never to take a stand. The justifications for still doing so have changed over the years:

It would be wrong for me to speak on political matters. Then I take a position and offend large groups in society. ... But I say what I think. Perhaps not always in public. However, I think it is almost self-evident that I should do this on general issues. I stand by what I say, stresses the king. ... By the way, you can turn it around. Since my task is being 110 percent objective, I should be able to say what I think. I have no party background or other affiliation.⁷

⁵ Arne Lapidus. "Kungen bör inte uttala sig". Expressen, 2010-06-22.

⁶ TT, 1990-10-03 & Expressen, 1990-10-05.

⁷ Solveig Alpzén. Monarki och demokrati ger stabilitet åt landet. Svenska Dagbladet, 1986-04-28.

The Court Information Department: "It is not written anywhere that the king may not speak. However, he does not usually express himself on issues that allow him to be identified with a particular political group."⁸

- It is permissible for a king to have his own opinions. Even if I have no executive power, I can lobby for something. When I lobby, I never say what I think but it does come out anyway. If I say that something is difficult to understand, it is the same as that I do not like it.^{9,10}

- He does not interfere in an ongoing debate but if asked, he gives a personal emotional answer. It is the media that is responsible for the criticism of these his proposals, not the Parliament. The propositions require "Fingerspitzengefühl" and the limits of what he can say are ultimately determined by the public.¹¹

* Which type of decision does The King find most difficult?

- Turn it around: the hardest part of my role? That is being an apolitical and constantly objective person. It is difficult to express oneself without becoming political. It feels hard and it's complicated. Whatever I say, there is a risk of misunderstanding. The environment likes to interpret whatever I say politically.¹²

And what does CG say? And what is perceived as permissible?

The King defends the European Union and considers it an important institution for securing peace in Europe. The Head of State thinks that the family is an important social building block in Swedish society. Carl XVI Gustaf also advocates a multicultural Sweden and whitewashes the Swedish monarchy as something worth preserving. ... The King only expresses values and recommendations which he knows a large majority of Sweden can support, and although they may be political and sometimes even party political, they can hardly be seen as controversial and it seems that the King lives up to his motto "For Sweden - in our time".

To accurately assess where the line of demarcation is for what Carl XVI Gustaf is entitled to say when he speaks is difficult to determine, the line of demarcation seems to be fluid. However, I believe that we can get close to the truth by means of three key points on which the King should act in order to avoid being criticized from various quarters. Firstly, the king should only encourage solutions to various problems; he must not say in detail how something should be resolved. This means, for example, that he is allowed to say "I think it is important for the world's leaders to meet and talk about how we can solve the global climate crisis", but he is not allowed to say "I think the global climate crisis should be solved with expanded nuclear power". Secondly, the King of Sweden must not go against the national unity which prevails in a certain area, he must be attentive to what is 'politically correct'. Finally, the king does not seem to be allowed to say anything that creates problems in relation to another country, the Swedish international relations should be handled by the government of the country and not by the Swedish Head of State.¹³

⁸ Intervju av Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg. Expressen, 1990-10-05.

⁹ Kerstin Danielsson m fl. Kungen, drottningen och barnen 1990. SVT1, 1990-12-31.

¹⁰ Inger Nildén. Kungafamiljen 2004. SVT1, 2005-01-06.

¹¹ Inger Nildén m fl. Året med kungafamiljen 2000. SVT2, 2001-01-01.

¹² Henrik Frenkel. Jag som chef. Tidningen Chef, 2007:4, s 40-50.

By contrast, CG's day-to-day policy statements are spontaneous comments, political trial balloons and pure slip-ups. They have never had the repetition and consistency over a long period of time needed to make a political impact. They are usually characterized as slip ups. In 1988 the monthly magazine Z published a selection which has since become something of a sport to complement (see Appendix 2). Sometimes they seem to be CG's way of joking. The jokes obviously work well in private life, CG is experienced by his friends and family as a very funny dot, sarcastic and with a talent for "nailing it", but the jokes are too private for a public contexts. They are a kind of naivistic wisecracks where he often makes fun of himself. However, they are like country side wine, they do not withstand being transported to the neighbouring village.

A well-known error is this with "Kära Örebroare" (Dear citizens of Örebro) when CG on May 24, 1985 was to give a speech in Arboga for the Parliament's 550th anniversary. As a joke, it was perfectly constructed. A collection of lofty speeches "Distinguished foreign guests, Mr. President, MPs, Prime Minister, Chairman of the Municipal Council." And so the climax "Kära Örebroare!" Unfortunately, the wrong town. The reason is supposed to be that CG on his way there had past a silo with the sign "Örebro Lantmän" which apparently created the confusion.¹⁴ CG had actually done the same error once before when touring the Kristianstad County in 1983. He was to make a short speech in the community centre of Lönsboda and started with "Kära Lönnebabor".¹⁵ But in Örebro the speech was filmed and shown on television.

The then problems of CG have now become common occurrence. Video technology allows every politician's slip ups, however minor, to be posted online and preserved for eternity. It is speculated that the video technology has made it impossible to hold discreet parties or to talk "off the record". What speaks against is the fact that there are still no indiscreet interceptions or video sequences of CG. Gert Fylking's 1993 "smoke video" is the only example.

*

CG travels within the country a lot. His first official trip was in 1966 when he visited his home county of Jämtland and was greeted with a formation of flat hatting J29s. The group had to seek shelter in Frösö church to save what was left of their hearing. Between 1974 and 1976 there were 12 more Jämtland visits, and between 1978 and 1990 he and Silvia visited the rest of the counties. These county visits or national tours usually lasted three days and were meticulously planned. From 1988 to 2010, CG and Silvia also conducted 22 shorter municipal visits or miniature tours within Stockholm County. The last municipal visit was in Österåker in 2010. The ethnologist Mattias Frihammar devoted a doctoral thesis to these municipality visits:

Behind the royal visit is an intensive planning and rehearsal done by some of the people standing around the royal couple. The visit was announced about a year and a half in advance by a message from the court to the County Administrative Board that the King and Queen would come. During this time, the municipality has designed a program where the King and Queen will meet selected parts of the municipality. The chapter discusses this preparatory work. The preparations are analysed as a prelude

¹³ Niklas Pettersson. *För Sverige - i tiden. En analys av Sveriges kung Carl XVI Gustafs uttalanden och befogenheter i början av 2000-talet*. Örebro universitet, Samhällsvetenskapliga institutionen, Statuskunskap C, vt 2008.

¹⁴ Filip Hammar. *100 höjdare : [Sveriges roligaste ögonblick genom tiderna]*. Bonnier pocket, 2008, s 307-310.

¹⁵ Annika Ågren. *Tarras har aldrig duat kungen*. Sydsvenska Dagbladet, 2006-01-06.

with different themes where royalty and submissiveness are tried out and negotiated, so that the visit can then be carried out without jarring incidents. ... Municipal visits are not part of the royal office (as for example the opening of the Parliament is) but an initiative of the court and the royal house. However, it is not the court that visits the municipalities, but the municipalities that apply to the county administrative board for a royal visit. In form, it is a bus trip through the municipality (sometimes boat and train journeys have also been included), where the King and Queen visit 10 to 15 institutions, businesses and cultural environments, eat lunch and watch some artistic performance. The King also gives a speech to the inhabitants of the municipality. The group stays between 20 and 45 minutes at each location except for lunch and the performances that take more time. The visits generally contain a devotional or solemn element, such as a service or a modest classical concert.¹⁶

Frihammar also commented on the great public interest in CG's visits and an unspecified "respect or reverence".

But you can see that there is a tremendous respect in contacts with the court. I have experienced it myself that people behave in a certain way. I cannot tell you why they do it. /.../ But to visit the castle and present the program, it is not like having a meeting here in the town hall. It feels special /.../. There is, yes, respect.¹⁷

The national tours and the municipality visits have received a lot of publicity but have of course been too few to fill CG's time. More important from this point of view have been the regular official study visits, often in connection with inaugurations, and the semi-private "presences" at various events, preferably sporting events. At inaugurations CG performs some symbolic act and gives a short speech. There are about 150 such speeches each year. At such times, CG and Silvia usually shake hands with people. A handshake takes five seconds. There are data that could be interpreted as him having shaken hands with 10 percent of the population and been seen at close range by a third. (King Gustaf VI is said to have shaken hands with 780 people in 35 minutes, i.e. 2.7 seconds per handshake. An experiment shows that time is very short. It's barely enough time to touch each other. A more realistic figure is Gustaf V ahead of the Nobel dinner in 1946, 8.7 seconds per handshake. Gustaf VI's record for the number of people at the same time was reportedly 1400 and was set at the International Congress of Botanics in Stockholm on July 12, 1950.¹⁸) The publicity around CG's national tours has been of the same order of magnitude as for Gustaf VI.

CG's involvements naturally clash. He devotes most of his time to his domestic duties and to his role as a "national symbol", viz. to show himself in public:

A quick overview of the King and Queen's involvement last year and this year (2003) shows that sporting events and domestic representation predominate. One possible conclusion is that the King and Queen choose what they find interesting and not necessarily what is best for Sweden. ... It is an impression shared by me and others, who belong to the select group who graciously have access to the scant

¹⁶ Mattias Frihammar. Ur svenska hjärtans djup : reproduktion av samtida monarki. Stockholms universitet, 2010.

¹⁷ Mattias Frihammar. Ur svenska hjärtans djup : reproduktion av samtida monarki. Stockholms universitet, 2010.

¹⁸ Expressen, 1950-07-02.

information about the royal family's involvement. Information that should otherwise be on the website, available to everyone!¹⁹

CG is extremely irritated by dawdling during these visits. He is particularly annoyed by coffee breaks. "As soon as I get a program for a visit to some place in the country, the first thing I do is to eliminate the coffee breaks. You're supposed to chit-chat with your surroundings, but that is not very productive."²⁰ At official dinners and lunches CG wants to talk to as many people as possible. Preferably undisturbed. "For me, the trips are an important contact with the Swedish people who I otherwise only get to meet through the media and the mail. But the personal contact when visiting all these places the country I think is incredibly important."²¹ He dislikes that you photograph him when he eats. He is very careful when talking about favourite wines and dishes. There is risk of being served to it all the time. At home, he prefers Swedish food but refuses blodpudding (black pudding; the Swedish variety), surströmming (fermented herring) and above all slottsstek (castle roast), "an excellent way to kill a fine Swedish raw material". The information on favourite brand of whiskey varies to the extent that he probably gives different answers each time. He does not dance at public events, then he would have to dance with everyone and in rank order.

No matter how boring it is, he never shows it. If it becomes too boring, he is said to dawdle in a notepad to stay awake. These notes are always thrown away. Sometimes when it gets too boring, CG's sense of practical jokes surfaces. Marshal of the court Claes Nordström: "Once when we visited a large bakery we passed the oven where the buns came out on conveyor belts. The king took a red-hot bun and gave to me, and then I was forced to stand there and juggle the bun to the king's delight."²²

CG's chancellor, Jan Mårtensson, introduced a distinction between "demand driven" and "goal driven" program items. For the "demand-driven" program items, it was necessary to make a selection. For the "targeted" agenda items, CG wished in a purposeful and structured way to familiarize himself with and inform himself about various things and trends in Swedish society. CG has continued to do so throughout his office. All criticism of the monarchy lacking connection to modern society had thus, according to Mårtensson in any case, been nipped in the bud. Very little is done on the spur of the moment. It is often 2-3 years of planning involved. CG and Silvia only come to major events such as 100-year-jubilees, new factories and hospitals, less important events are handed off to the children. Never Friday nights though. There are some exceptions:

- »I try to live by my motto 'For Sweden in our Time'. Show respect and interest to fellow human beings. Like yesterday. I received a letter from a female reindeer owner who complained that her reindeers are starving to death. Because of the ice they can not graze. I had a gap in my calendar and went off to Arlanda at half past seven in the morning to meet with the Sami in Lycksele. It was a way of understanding and focusing on an issue that I became involved in. It's a way to show leadership: that ordinary people throughout Sweden should feel that the royal family cares for their well being.«

* Is that the part of the job that The King likes best?

¹⁹ Joakim Båge. Dagens Industri Weekend, 2003-09-05.

²⁰ Henrik Frenkel. Jag som chef. Tidningen Chef, 2007:4, s 40-50.

²¹ Expressen, 1979-11-03.

²² P O Eriksson. Mina 20 år med kungen. Expressen, 1998-06-28.

- »Yes, to visit small businesses, entrepreneurs or others. To experience the pride they feel in their work.«

* Is that the royal leadership?

- »Yes, exactly. You insist in talking about it as management. Leadership is a little wider, rounder and warmer. A little more caring.«²³

CG is welcome everywhere in Sweden or almost. The exceptions are Kiruna, Umeå & Överkalix:

1. In 1980, CG & Silvia had dinner at Kiruna Municipal House. They were met by a crowd of protesters with placards and banners: Abdicate - Down with the monarchy - Dissolve the court (but with reason)! CG was unfazed - thought of it as quaint - while Silvia took offence - thought the people should have protested in a less forward manner.²⁴

2. A similar protest took place during a visit by CG in Umeå on October 9, 1982. One of the local republicans jogged by in the buff, wearing a gold-paper crown, to express his dissatisfaction with the constitution. CG smiled wryly and hoped he wouldn't catch a cold. The culprit was fined 200 kronor for lewd and disorderly conduct .

Interrogated on his motif, [Kent] Johansson stated: He is a member of the theatre group Revolt. The idea of a public performance of the Emperor's new clothes was raised when they learned through the media that Umeå would receive a royal visits. He and some other members of the theatre group gathered a few hours before the event in an apartment where they prepared the performance. The reason they chose to play the Emperor's new clothes was that it was a protest against the monarchy while at the same time they wanted to show that the current monarchy was as vacuous as H.C. Andersson describes it in his tale. When they played it, they handed out flyers explaining their intention to passing people. The reaction from the public was delight and astonishment. As they approached the square where the king was, they were stopped by the police and taken to a waiting police car.²⁵

3. There will be no royal visit to Överkalix now either. The motion to invite the King has been withdrawn. Anne Jakobsson (s) was behind the proposal and the idea was to promote the municipality. "Our king has visited all other Norrbotten municipalities through national tours and official inaugurations, sometimes repeatedly, but never Överkalix. It should not be impossible to get permission [for] such a visit and we must show the positive Överkalix both to the king and to the outside world" writes Anne Jakobsson in the motion that already a little over a year ago [2007] – was put forward for a decision by the municipal council. Now, the municipal council, at the request of the person responsible, has withdrawn the motion.²⁶

With his heavily structured schedule, it is more of a coincidence if CG meets an ordinary citizen. However, there are more such meetings than one might think because the schedule

²³ Henrik Frenkel. Jag som chef. Tidningen Chef, 2007:4, s 40-50.

²⁴ TT, 1980-08-27.

²⁵ DB 136, Umeå tingsrätt, 1983-02-16.

²⁶ Överkalix nobbar kungen. Norrländska socialdemokraterna, 2008-06-17.

never works out in detail and CG often makes stops when he becomes interested in something - a complicated machine, a local museum or a retired athlete. For example, there is a TV movie about his meeting with Lars-Erik Olsson in 1978, blind but still devoting himself to a rescue project of Eurasian eagle-owls. On his 50th birthday, CG received an eagle-owl from Skansen to release himself.

*

CG awards prizes and medals. From 1973 to 2011, CG awarded the following medals (number in brackets):

- The Seraphim Medal, for humanitarian or community activities (12).
- H.M. The King's Medal, seven sizes, for "special merit" (1874).
- Litteris et Artibus, for outstanding artistic achievement (291).
- Jubilee and commemorative signs
- Prince Eugen's Medal, for distinguished artistic activities (187).
- Prince Carl's Medal, for humanitarian activities (4).
- Long and faithful service (76).

The most famous medal is H.M. King's Medal, formerly the Royal Medal, established in 1814 and available in seven sizes. It is awarded twice a year, the Karl-name day on January 28 and the Gustav-name day June 6, to Swedish and foreign citizens for "special merit" and to employees at the court for long and faithful service. The finest variant, the size 12e with chain, is given only to those who have held certain senior positions such as Prime Minister, President of the Supreme Court, Supreme Commander and the equivalent. Between 1973 and 2011, a total of 1,874 royal medals have been awarded, 79 percent to men, four percent to nobility. Most medals went to the court itself, universities and museums, cultural life, the state administration and private business. As for private business, the medals were mostly awarded to high-ranking industrial officials in the "spheres". Experts on the field state that CG rewards "the neo-feudal director class in general and the Wallenberg sphere in particular". Candidates are selected by a specific review team. CG takes the final decision.^{27,28,29}

The ban on Orders for Swedish citizens has thus not been as effective as Tingsten in his time wanted. Medals today fulfil the same function. (In the military, the difference between a medal and an Order was that only officers were awarded Orders, others were awarded medals. Another difference was that an Order also included membership in a society. Furthermore, the denominations and use of the Orders are internationally determined so that there will be no inflation in granting them. The consort of a head of state never receives the the Seraphim Order but some denomination of the Order of the North Star.)

According to the website medalj.nu, in 2010, Sweden had 879 different state, municipal and organizational orders and medals, the most in the world. The death of the Swedish medal and Order system lies far in the future. Most writings (though in the provincial press) have been about the Swedish Dairy Association's and the Farmers Youth Association's medals that CG awards during the Agricultural Week. In order to receive the National Association's gold medal, 23 years of flawless milk delivery on 15 thousand occasions is required. The medal has been "royal" since 1958.

²⁷ Anders Billing. Hovets makt. Fokus, 2010-04-29.

²⁸ Anders Billing. Alla kungens medaljer. Fokus, 2011-02-18.

²⁹ Lova Olsson. Kungen belönar nästan bara män. Svenska Dagbladet, 2007-09-22.

CG also sends congratulatory telegram to all Swedish citizens who turn 100 years old and he provides for the families of deceased professional officers.