

Chapter 34 : “For Nature & the Environment”

Over the years CG has delivered many differing explanations for his interest in nature. Most of the time, that Sibylla's interest in Öland's nature was contagious. She used to take her children on long walks over alvaret (the limestone plain) and they visited Ottenby Bird Station. (In 1955, she published a personal, very well written love letter to Öland and its nature.¹) CG had also, so far back he could remember, always dealt with animals. At Solliden, he was from day one fascinated by the deers grazing in the park. At Sigtuna, his interest in nature was also encouraged: “Early spring mornings me and some comrades with the same interest snuck around in the reeds at Garnsviken and Hjulstaviken and watched for birds. We had a nice dorm mum who drove us there.”² One of the highlights was when he, Carl Banér and Douglas von Sydow snuck up on a nightingale at two o'clock in the night. CG thought his hunting was more for the nature experience than the kill. “The primary thing is to be out doors and experience nature. In spring and summer, you don't hunt. Then you take long walks just to become part of nature yourself. The fact that come autumn something else enters into the equation is not so important in this context. Even when you just sit around waiting for some quarry, you can experience the surrounding nature. It sometimes happens that small mice come out next to your feet to look at what is going on.”³ - “It sounds strange but my hunting interest has deepened my relationship to nature. If a hunter does not know how the ecology works, then there will be no hunting.”⁴ - “Often I take my dogs - one harrier and two beagles - and the gun for a short walk before the job begins. It makes my day. ... Practice makes perfect. Nowadays I rarely get carried away during the hunt.”⁵ At 12, Sibylla gave him a small bore rifle and taught him the basics of hunting. CG then seems to have cut his teeth hunting pheasants on Lewenhaupt's estate Geddeholm. In 1960, he shot three or six hares. His first deer hunt was in 1962 at Count Stenbocks estate at Ornö after his first communion. His first moose hunt was with the Lewenhaupts at their estate Wanås in 1965. As to great nature experiences CG usually highlights his all-nighter in May 1984 together with nature photographer Bertil Pettersson. They waited and waited, and eventually experienced a bear fight.

There are regular hunts (the small hunting club) and there are royal or representation hunts (the big hunting club). CG first hosted a royal hunt on September 27-29, 1969, at the Ottenby lund hunting park in southern Öland, a farmhouse consisting of a fence with barbed wire at the top that sealed off the southern part of the island. The hunting society donated the prey, three moose, to CG.⁶ In recent years CG has participated annually in the royal hunts in Bergslagen and every two years in the hunts in Halle- and Hunneberg. He also hunts at Tullgarn, with friends and makes hunting trips abroad. The hunting club also rents land in Jämtland. CG tends to sell his share of the kill to slaughterhouses and taverns, which covers most of the costs. The hunts are very well organized. An example:

The King and his hunting companions gather the night before the hunt at a camp near Malingsbo (for security reasons and considering that the hunts have previously been disturbed by militant vegans, Sveaskog is sparse with details of places). The hunter Jimmy Pettersson then tells them of the rules for the hunt, similar to the rules for most other hunting teams – to keep a keen eye on your weapon and what you are shooting

¹ Prinsessan Sibylla. Öland som jag upplever det. I: Natur på Öland. Svenska turistföreningen, 1955.

² Henrik Ekman. Skogens konung. Svenska Dagbladet, 1985-12-01.

³ Henrik Ekman. Skogens konung. Svenska Dagbladet, 1985-12-01.

⁴ Anna-Maria Hagerfors & Bengt Falkklo. Nu sitter kungakostymen. Dagens Nyheter, 1991-03-31.

⁵ Thomas Larsson. Intervju med kung Carl Gustaf om hans jaktintresse. Året Runt, 1984:14.

⁶ Expressen, 1969-10-03.

at, not to leave your stand until the hunt is over, avoid prohibited shooting directions and never ever shoot an elk cow with calves.

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"The King is very interested in hunting and I am impressed by what skilled hunters and shooters he invites. Last year's last beat, they downed 13 moose with a total of 14 shots. That's very good," says Jimmy Pettersson.

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In Bergslagen, the elks are propelled towards the king and his guests by a chain of beaters. Forty-five people enter the line according to a predetermined schedule. The beat starts exactly at the minute and three lead men are responsible for keeping the right pace and direction through the forest. Nothing must go wrong. When the line is a few hundred meters from the shooters, viz. within shooting range, the beaters start making extra noise. The shooters are then forbidden to shoot in the direction of the line, but in the opposite direction, so as not to risk hitting any beaters.

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The two-day royal hunt is conducted with military precision. At half past eight in the morning, all the shooters are on stand for the first of the five drives of the day in a sät (area) each of which is about 500 hectares (5 square kilometres or 800 football fields) large. On average, three to four moose are to be shot in each drive - in total, about thirty moose are to be shot during the two days.

The shooters are driven around in three buses to the various stands and besides a hasty lunch there is no time for boasting and lies. Once the line of beaters has completed its drive, the King and his guests must quickly move on to the next to keep pace with the schedule.

If a hunter has fired a shot, he only has to report in what direction - all the work that in such cases remains for an ordinary hunter to do is on the royal hunt performed by others. Three search patrols are ready to track down the prey and a slaughter patrol ensures that the entrails are removed, the carcass dragged out of the forest and transported to the slaughter shed.

The King brings his own chefs into the forest to prepare food for the shooters. The beaters eat with the shooters, but have to content themselves with food from a local catering company.

During the last six years, the king and his guests have shot a total of 186 moose on the royal hunts in Bergslagen. But the trophies are not high class, more fit for an outhouse. In total only one bull with antlers larger than ten points has been shot.⁷

The hunting trip abroad to Slovakia in 2008 was much publicized as it mostly resembled a version of shooting clay pigeons. The society shot 450 pheasants, CG 70. He is regularly criticized for the fact that his hunts are too effective. The criticism is roughly "Give the animals a sporting chance!" Such a thing would never cross CG's mind. However, he is perfectly capable of downing his game at several hundred meters and has on occasion done so.

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⁷ Fredrik Sjöshult. Carl XVI Gustaf bjuder in till träff med skogens konung. Dagens Industri Weekend, 2008- 10-12.

The first information about CG's environmental interest is that he in November 1967 took time off from military service to visit the annual meeting of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in San Francisco⁸ WWF's presidents were at that time royal: 1961-1976 Prince Bernhard of Holland was president of the International WWF. 1961-1981 Prince Philip was President of the English WWF and 1981-1996 President of the International WWF. With CG's interest in hunting and nature, WWF was a natural choice, and also for a crown prince a suitable choice.

From 1970, CG awarded Svenska Dagbladet's environmental protection diploma at the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation's autumn conference. When the Swedish branch of WWF was formed in 1971, with Marcus Wallenberg and others involved as financiers, he was asked if he wanted to become honorary chairman in view of his interest in nature. CG accepted. From 1983 he also granted WWF office space at Ulriksdal castle, just north of Stockholm. At the moment 50 people work there. In 1988, he became chairman of the board of trustees. The mission was not too onerous, two meetings a year and a visit with the Council of Trustees once a year to some interesting environmental project. More important was his role as "environmental ambassador" and door opener for various environmental projects in Sweden and abroad.

CG uses his position to attract attention to various issues. One such occasion was the state visit to Brazil in April 1984. In the Poco das Anta forest reservation just outside Rio de Janeiro, there was a small colony of endangered lion monkeys. Their habitat would soon be submerged by a dam. The conservationists' desire to save the lion apes by expanding the reservation did not find favour. The authorities wanted pastures. CG used his standard method. He asked some representatives to come and tell him what they did for the monkeys and then let it be known to journalists. According to recent reports, the plans were subsequently changed and the monkeys survived. CG commented: "It's very sensitive to raise issues like this when you're on the road. In so doing, it's hard to avoid criticizing the local authorities for the way they have managed their nature conservation. But you can always ask questions without criticizing. It shows that you have some interest in the matter."⁹

As chairman of the WWF's board of trustees, CG has made three notable statements:

In 1973, together with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's head Valfrid Paulsson, he spoke about saving the wolf population.

In 1989 he commented on the Norwegian seal hunt. The immediate reason was a report by Norwegian Odd F Lindberg "On seals and people"¹⁰, which showed how seal pups were clubbed to death. The editor-in-chief of the newspaper Expressen, Bo Strömstedt, travelled to Oslo to deliver a personal letter to Gro Harlem Brundtland from Astrid Lindgren and three mail bags containing 48 thousand Swedish protest letters. Brundtland refused to receive him. CG contributed a statement during a state visit to New Zealand in an interview at the Swedish Embassy in Wellington: "If Gro Harlem Brundtland cannot take care of the seal problems, I wonder, how she will be able to take care of the Norwegian people?" This led to widespread criticism in both Sweden and Norway that he was out of line. Lars Werner (vpk) considered it as proof

⁸ TT, 1967-11-15.

⁹ Henrik Ekman. Skogens konung. Svenska Dagbladet, 1985-12-01.

¹⁰ Odd Flinderg. Om sälar och människor. Bo Lindin, miljöredaktionen i Karlstad, TV2, 1989-02-11, kl 21:15.

that the monarchy still had political significance. Even if he longer was part of the political system proper. While CG's deep feelings deserved respect, in this case he had violated the Constitution, if not in theory but de facto. CG replied that he did not regret a word of what he had said. The controversy, which spread to the Norwegian Parliament, became internationally known, and thus also the issue of seal hunting. At the end of the year, the Parliament decided that the clubbing of seal pups should be prohibited. As usual, CG's statement led to a debate on how to interpret the Torekov compromise:

So where is the limit of what the king can and cannot say?

- The King's rights to speak are regulated in the constitution. There is really nothing in it that the king may not speak politically, but in the comment to the bill there are vague limitations that are difficult to interpret says Sven-Olof Hedengren, Head of staff at the Swedish Marshal's Office.

- The King should, for example, [in his capacity as king] avoid expressing his opinion on controversial domestic issues, but may of course have private opinions like everyone else in Sweden.

Do you think the king has kept within this framework with the statement in New Zealand?

- I am not taking a position on that, but I can only observe that the issue is not really that controversial. Who wants to kill seal pups?¹¹

(Afterwards, it was claimed that this was CG's revenge on Gro Harlem Brundtland for commenting sarcastically on him in Seoul in September the year before when CG and she were there to speak for their respective countries as host nation for the 1994 Winter Olympics. CG happened to arrive 20 minutes late for a breakfast meeting with President of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch. This was alleged being the decisive reason why Norway received the honour and not Sweden. Brundtland sprinkled salt in the wounds with the statement: Of course, you have to come in time if you want to get the hosting.

In June 1992, 17 Norwegian seal-hunters demanded an apology from CG through their lawyer. The reason was that Brundtland's committee of inquiry into their hunting methods had shown that everything had been according to regulations. CG withdrew his accusations via a letter from the Marshal of the Realm: "Since the information in both the press and TV was consistent and related to a particularly important conservation issue, it was natural for His Majesty to speak on the matter. This was done on the basis of information that has now subsequently proved to be not entirely accurate. The statement was not directed against any individual seal-hunter." The letter was then used in damages claims against the Norwegian media.¹²)

During the elk hunt in Bergslagen in 2008, CG gave an interview to the Swedish newspaper *Tvärnytt*. Among other things, he spoke about the wolf population: "They eat a lot, it's just like that. And you soon have to, as I see it, start taxing a tribe because

¹¹ Helena Thorfinn. Kungen kritiserar säljakten och norska statsministern. Svenska Dagbladet, 1989-02-16.

¹² Peter Svensson. Säljägare utnyttjar kungen i domstol. Expressen, 1992-08-12.

I mean ... It's just a matter of counting, if they're two now, then they'll be seven next year, and then it'll just be ... if they find their partners somewhere in the woods, it'll explode.” Because the wolf was a protected species, the statement attracted a lot of attention. The following day, the meeting of the WWF's board of trustees rejected it. Sweden's wolf enthusiasts, among them the author Kerstin Ekman, threw themselves into the debate. Ekman speculated that CG “had taken a couple of drinks to much”. This irritated Silvia who in Dagens Eko dismissed Ekman as a complete ignoramus. Then the debate faded.

WWF's Council consists of representatives of a number of environmental organizations, both public and private, for a long around 30 people, which is why it was called the 30-club. Nowadays there are about 50 representatives from organizations, industry and the scientific community. Their role is to support the work of the fund and to act as links to decision-makers in various sectors of society. The Council of Trustees is not a political forum but a reference group. I do not want to spare the readers from the European Labour Party's criticism of its diabolical agenda:

The Swedish Church, which has just been freed from state political control, is now part of the king's ecologically-religious shadow government. Together with other influential popular movements under the king's umbrella, it's propaganda power has becomes almost total.

Particularly serious is the fact that state authorities such as the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the Swedish Forest Agency, SMHI, the Swedish National Natural History Museum and the National Heritage Board are all under royal influence, completely outside the control of Sweden's elected representatives.

The 30-club is a typical example of the incomplete democratization process in Sweden. The informal political power of the king is used by various power groups, such as the Wallenberg family, to circumvent the elected powers with a corporatist system.

The King himself, through the Club of 30, can lead a political campaign for the British Empire to rein in the industrialization of the Third World with the help of a neo-colonial global control apparatus, in the name of “stopping a climate threat”. It is completely contrary to the interests of the Swedish people's and the business community's interest in helping to help combat world poverty and promote prosperity, economic growth and work.¹³

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During his UN-internship in New York in the autumn of 1970, CG was supervised by the Secretary of the Ambassador Lars Göran Engfeldt. He worked on the forthcoming environmental conference in Stockholm in 1972. From December 1970, the organization of the conference was in the hands of Maurice Strong of Canada. He ambulated between the secretariat in Geneva and premises in the old Swedish parliament building. CG attended a planning meeting in Geneva in February 1971. Strong was repeatedly invited to the castle of Gustaf VI who was very interested and would attend the inauguration.^{14,15,16} The chairman of the conference was the initiator Ingemund Bengtsson (s) - later Speaker and good friend of

¹³ Ulf Sandmark & Magnus Nilsson. WWF:s 30-klubb: Kungens hemliga skuggregering. Ny Solidaritet, februari 2010.

¹⁴ Sverker Åström. Ögonblick : från ett halvsekel i UD-tjänst. 1992.

¹⁵ Lars-Göran Engfeldt. From Stockholm to Johannesburg and beyond : the volution of the international system for sustainable development governance and its implications. Utrikesdepartementet, 2009, s 54-55.

CG. At the time environmental issues were still thought of as an inconsequential oddity for 2nd-raters. The conference was known in political circles as the “the garbage competition”.

CG was impressed by Strong who from simple background had made fortune in the oil industry and then devoted himself to voluntary environmental work and achieved success there too. In his memoirs,¹⁷ Strong appears as a “pragmatic idealist” driven by the notion that the downfall of the West was imminent. He had been impressed both by the Rome Club's forecasts and by Rachel Carlson's book “Silent Spring”. Strong was not initially particularly interested in the environment (his main interest was poverty reduction) but was encouraged by diplomat Sverker Åström to take on the responsibility for organizing the conference. His attitude was that “A high technology civilization like ours requires more cooperative attitudes”. At the conference, Strong commissioned economist Barbara Ward (1914-1981) and professor René Dubois to compile a pamphlet titled “Only One Earth: The Care and Maintenance of a Small Planet” which seems to have been the first in a long line of books on sustainable development.

The Stockholm Conference was held on June 5-16, 1972, and resulted in an environmental declaration that was to have great significance for later international environmental work. 113 countries were represented, but not East Germany. When they were not invited, the Soviet Union refused to come. On the opening day, a mob of anarchists, 300 protesters, tried to prevent delegates from attending the welcoming ceremony at the Opera. The signs were of the type “Reveal the real face of the conference” and “Capitalism causes the pollution”. The protesters, however, were severely outnumbered by the 2,500 police and had to surrender. A Swedish Environmental Conservation Group (MIGRI) was formed at the conference to hold alternative environmental conferences at the ABF building. The Swedish Left never understood or accepted that the initiators of the Stockholm Conference were, in fact, idealistic big capitalists. The circle around the left wing Filmcentrum recorded an endless number of interviews that they never managed to compile into something recognizable.

For CG, the conference was a great experience. A few years later he held a very emotional “ecology speech” which was probably the closest he has ever come to an uncensored declaration of intent:

But we must not sink into the past and into memories of childhood Christmases. We must not build an idyllic wall around us out of snowfall, candlelight and heat from the fireplace. Because we do not live alone. Not isolated. With the wind from outside the world comes fire and smoke. There are explosions from afar. The days of egoism are forever over. In the short term, exploiting and consuming assets that are everyone's and nobody's will not do any more if we are all to survive. Because we are dependent on each other as fellow passengers on the spaceship Earth. A spaceship that no longer has a first class division where we can take whatever we want when it suits our fancy – driving species to extinction and consuming finite resources in the process. If we are to cope with the icy journey of our spaceship in this hostile space, we must remember that our future as a species is to remain in harmony with nature. And if we take the big step from space to the individual human, there may be points of contact – the space

¹⁶ Wade Rowland. The plot to save the world : the life and times of the Stockholm conference on the human environment. 1973.

¹⁷ Maurice Strong. Where on Earth are we going. Canada: Alfred A Knopf, 2000.

between people, even those closest, can be as infinite as between star systems. Light years.¹⁸

32 years later, it was still the same approach though differently packaged - the element of homecoming romance had increased:

We all need a place on earth where we feel at home, a place we feel connected to, where we feel comfortable and can feel safe. I wish every one of us could live in such a homeland.

All the nations of the world, all the homelands of the world are on the same earth. We have the right to love our own homeland and we have the responsibility to care for it. We shall do so in the knowledge that we depend on others who live on the same earth and also look after these people.

For we live in and out of the same sun, the same water, the same air that all other living beings on our earth have done in all times and shall do in the future and we share responsibility for our common living conditions. My conviction is that it will be easier to absorb this insight, if you feel safe and at home in your own small part of our earth.¹⁹

At an evaluation conference in Nairobi on May 14, 1982, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) awarded CG a gold medal for Sweden's efforts. At the time, President Moi was also medalled because Kenya hosted the organization and of course Maurice Strong was medalled himself.²⁰ At the Rio Conference June 3-14, 1992, on sustainable development, CG was one of the keynote speakers. On June 17-18, 2002, the 30th anniversary celebrations were held with CG and Silvia present. 2012 was the 40th anniversary.

Another event at this time was the start of the Nuclear Power Plant Oskarshamn I. American researchers had warned of the environmental consequences and Swedish researcher and Nobel Prize winner Hannes Alfvén agreed. During the Stockholm Conference, Alfvén wanted to give a talk about the matter but was not allowed to participate. Instead, he held it at the alternative environmental conferences. CG never liked this with nuclear power. In 1976, he said: "I don't like opening nuclear power stations, but do it if ordered." He is more in favour of "small is beautiful", alternative energy sources and that people need to change their way of life. However, he denied that this was a political statement. He was not a secret member of the Centrist Party.²¹

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CG supports individual environmental projects through King Carl XVI Gustaf's 50th anniversary fund for science, technology and the environment. The purpose of the Foundation is to promote research, technological development and entrepreneurship that contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity. The founder was Governor Ulf Adelsohn, the chairman of the Swedish Academy of Sciences, Engineering,

¹⁸ Carl XVI Gustaf. Tal till utlandssvenskarna, 1977-12-26.

¹⁹ H.M. Konungens tal på Nationaldagen 2009 i Eskilstuna. Hovstaterna, 2009-06-06.

²⁰ The Times, 1982-05-15.

²¹ Kvällsposten, 1976-03-03.

Forestry and Agriculture and the Swedish Industrial Federation. The money, about 30 million, came from municipalities, county councils, institutions, the public and industry. The industrial federation chairman Bert-Olof Svanholm had persuaded about 500 companies to make contributions, of which the 40 largest had left half a million each. A guest professorship in Environmental Science is attached to the fund, which changes holders every year. Another 50-year present was Stockholm's marine research centre at Askö, worth 4.5 million, converted into a foundation.

Around every two years, CG organizes an international environmental symposium, named the Royal Colloquium. The symposium is of the order of 20 researchers and experts from different parts of the world who discuss climate and environmental issues in all possible aspects. They have a special character as a meeting ground of researchers and practitioners. As of 2013, there have been eleven symposia. The first three were held at Ulriksdal castle: The 1992 symposium was on the protection of tropical and subtropical coastal waters. The 1993 symposium was about recycling. The symposium in 1994 was about action - "going from knowing to doing" - with Maurice Strong as guest of honour. The fourth symposium in 1997 was on the Baltic Sea. One of the most ambitious symposia was the fifth symposium on November 18, 1999, at Stockholm Castle, entitled "Employment, environment and development", a contribution to the UN Summit in Copenhagen in 1995 on measures to combat poverty.

CG's environmental work 1972-1996 is reported in a brochure by the chairman of the planning committee, the Academy of Sciences' former secretary Carl Gustaf Bernhard with whom CG had - to be CG - a very close relationship.²² In 1999, the planning responsibility was taken over by prof Anders Karlqvist at the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and the symposia focused on Norrland, icebreakers and climate change. The 6th symposium on mountain regions was held in Abisko in 2003. The 7th symposium on the impact of climate change on the Arctic tundra was held on board the icebreaker Oden during a trip from Luleå to Stockholm. The 8th symposium on global warming was held in Greenland in 2007. The 9th symposium on energy systems etc. was held in Bönhamn on the High Coast of Norrland. The 10th symposium on Urbanization was held at Gripsholm Castle. The 11th and so far most recent symposium was held on the mining industry was held in 2013 in Abisko and Kiruna.

The engagement brought honour missions. In 2007, CG delivered the introductory speech at the UNESCO Paris Conference on Biodiversity. He spoke about the threat of climate change and the importance of sustainable development. In 2008, he gave the inaugural address of the International Year of Planet Earth on the importance of geo-scientific teaching. The symposia have over the years been financed by Sida, Sarek, the Riksbank's Jubilee Fund and others. The documentation has been published in the journal *Ambio*, in English and Chinese.

There are few details about CG's role in the symposia. He is involved in the planning and is chairman. The participants are chosen to make for an interesting discussion. As with the IVA- trips, he sees them as a way of making contacts. He concluded the Gripsholm-meeting like this:

Don't forget you're part of a network now. I hope you all want to spread the knowledge and thoughts that we have shared these days. I also hope that you have exchanged contact details to share news. And share tell others about our discussions. It is important to talk about these issues, even though the scenarios are complex. Involve

²² Carl Gustaf Bernhard. The king, the environment and sciences. Läcköinstitutet, 1996.

your networks, write books and articles, talk to colleagues, friends and neighbours. Do not forget the younger generation.²³

The duration of the symposia is 1-4 days. The photographs show that they take place in simple surroundings and that the food is good. Time and place are kept secret so that the security should not present a problem. CG keeps a low profile. Queen Silvia does not participate, but Crown Princess Victoria does.

There is a description of the 2009 symposium in Bönhamn:

Hi! I'm the King of Sweden! The King's colloquial way of speaking immediately contributes to a rather jolly atmosphere despite the gloomy weather. The Royal Colloquium is held every two years. The typical feature is that they are held in secluded, preferably somewhat exotic locations in an informal spirit. No audience, no protocol, free discussion. In conclusion, a joint statement, which the King would like to quote in official contexts.

It's grimly cold and inhospitable on the Norrland High Coast when the seminar begins in a minimal conference room. But it quickly becomes heated in a company where there are strong wills and experienced debaters. A clear dividing line has developed between those who see the need for fundamental changes in human attitudes and political action and those who believe that market forces, possibly aided by technological breakthroughs, will provide the best solution. The king is clearly amused when the debate takes off. When Taleb is finished his tirade against the school economists, the king receives a signed copy of *The Black Swan*. The king notes that the lesson is over his head. "But I promise to read the first two pages," he says with a laugh.

The King participates actively in the discussion only when it comes to concrete projects: better agricultural practices, mountain wind farms or black liquor as fuel. - Yes, that is the case. I am certainly most interested in the concrete examples of what can be done to improve the environment.

When the sun finally arrives, The King's Seminar moves out onto the High Coast rubble, the traces of the ongoing land elevation. Surprised tourists meet a walking king in sports cap and green wind jacket out among the rocks. Even the researchers express surprise at such a relaxed king, who stands in the breakfast queue with the other participants and does not surround himself with a giant staff of footmen.²⁴

The article above was by Malcolm Dixelius. At the next Colloquium in 2011 at Gripsholm Castle he also recorded a round table talk with CG and two other participants. CG spoke about the importance of "building sustainable cities and not forgetting to build meeting places between people to promote creativity". A summary was posted on the court's website. In the film, CG quotes what is probably his credo: "Bad things happen when good people do nothing."

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²³ Kung Carl XVI Gustaf. Kungen summerar Royal Colloquium [2011-05-13]. Kungahusets hemsida.

²⁴ Malcolm Dixelius. Avspant på kungens seminarium. Svenska Dagbladet, 2009-06-21. [Förkortad av mig.]

CG's interest in nature is said to have been a contributing factor to stopping the Dennis Package, initiated in the late 1980s, which included buildings at northern Djurgården and topping it with a beltway.

In 1989, ornithologist Henrik Waldenström proposed to the Royal Djurgården Administration that the development of Norra Djurgården should be stopped by creating a national city park. At a meeting at the Royal Castle in October 1990 between Christer Lignell of the Royal Djurgården Administration, Royal Warden Harald Smith and Jens Wahlström of the World Wildlife Fund (which the King was chairman of), the Royal Stamp Office decided to pay Waldenström to investigate what they at the meeting called the KGB, the "Kings Green Belt". At the same time, they decided to form a lobby group to create an "ecopark".²⁵

The proposal was adopted by the Green Party as a counter-proposal to the Dennis agreement.

In ALL the protest activities against the Dennis Package, one could see something called "The Ecopark League" as a leading player, it was the National City Park lobby group that was created as a direct result of that meeting at the castle on that October day 1990. As an active association, it saw the light of day as an association in 1992, when the court and some "grass roots activists" from Djurgården's friends and some environmental activists formed it.

In the end, the king and the court won, the Dennis Package was stopped, and [on May 19] 1995, Charles XVI inaugurated the National City Park.

[The National City Park was to be inaugurated by CG releasing three white pigeons symbolizing the park's three motos: Protect, care and show. The birds were supposed to ascend the sky in the direction of the pigeon house at the Swedish Museum. "However, Protect prefers to flap to the ground where she scoots about appearing confused. With a smile, carefully minding his Ps and Qs, the king lets go of the next pigeon who takes off in a proper way. Time for Show who hides in the box. But at last she too comes forward and can be released from the hands of his majesty. The National Park is inaugurated."²⁶]

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The consequences of the Dennis-project being halted can be seen today as 73,000 apartments are missing and the infrastructure is in chaos. Thank Your Majesty the King and his entourage for that! Stupid in the extreme to stop a necessary project without providing an alternative for how to solve the problems!²⁷

A less conspiratorial version is that the negotiations descended into the legal morass of the 1809 agreement between Charles XIII and the Estates and the Parliamentary decisions of 1655 and 1682 still being valid or if CG's disposition right over Djurgården was comparable to the normal right of use and therefore could be expropriated.²⁸ Obviously not.

CG is also not supposed to appreciate high-rise buildings inside the tolls as these would interfere with Stockholm's "unique skyline" and also be seen from Djurgården, his personal

²⁵ Torbjörn Jerlerup. Hur Kungen och "KGB" stoppade Dennispaketet. Liberaldemokraterna, 2011-01-21.

²⁶ Gunnar Brusewitz & Henrik Ekman. Ekoparken : Djurgården - Haga - Ulriksdal. W & W, 1995.

²⁷ Torbjörn Jerlerup. Hur Kungen och "KGB" stoppade Dennispaketet. Liberaldemokraterna, 2011-01-21.

²⁸ Svenska Dagbladet, 1995-10-26.

domain. There, too, he has the support of the Green Party, which otherwise is no fan of monarchy.