

## Chapter 35 : “For Youth & Leadership”

The Scouting movement is an important part of CG's life. The commitment runs in the family. His father was chairman of the Swedish Scout Council 1932-1947 and succeeded Baden Powell as chairman of the International Scout Union 1938-1947, his godfather Folke Bernadotte was chairman of the Swedish Scout Association 1935-1948 (the largest of the associations) and then his cousin Lennart Bernadotte (1948-1951): CG's mother and sisters were involved in the Swedish Girl Scouts, his mother as honorary chairman of the Swedish Girl Scout Council (1939-1968). Folke Bernadotte's wife Estelle Bernadotte was chairman of the Swedish Girl Scout Association (1949-1957).

During his school years at Broms, CG became a Wolf Cub Scout, first as a “tenderfoot”, on December 15, 1956, for real. He belonged to the Yellow Litter of the Mowgli flock. CG was also called Mowgli. Leader of the flock was Miss Ingrid Eriksson had a long experience of the operation. On June 2, 1957, CG became the wolf cub of the first star. In August, a Wolf Cub Youth camp was organized next to Solliden and CG slept in the camp. Another camp was a secret invitation to von Rosen's castle Rockelstad in the Pentecost of 1958. CG and about 10 other wolf cubs engaged in archery, rowing competition, sausage grilling over campfires and listened to ghost stories.

CG also managed to be a scout for six months as “Taggen” (the point of an antler) in the patrol “the Marsh”, the division “the Northerners”, The Scout Corpse “Klara-Jakob”. Scout leader was Anders Henriksson, a young student, assisted by the TV-announcer Anders Bauer. The ceremony took place in the Klara Church on Sunday December 14, 1958. CG became a Scout 3<sup>rd</sup> class in the Swedish Scout Association. His mother, the royal couple, and many others attended.

The future Scouts approached the altar of the Klara Church. “You all know what this is all about - you don't mess around with promises. They are forever”, said Scouting director Junker who during the ceremony was assisted by the head of the Klara-Jacob Scout Corps Hans Beckfries.<sup>1</sup>

As a wolf cub there were flock exercises in a basement every Thursday and excursions to the scout cottage in Södertörn. As a Scout, it was similar exercises: throwing a lifeline to somebody in a ice hole and learning to distinguish between elk and deer droppings. The leadership style was that the cubs should be toughened up. The leaders slept in the scout cottage. The Scouts had to content themselves with a tarp.<sup>2</sup> CG had vivid memories of what it was like when it rained. CG was also present at the rural camp on Gålö in the summer of 1959, 1700 participants, and events like seeing Nacka Skoglund kick a one crown coin into his breast pocket.

In 1965, CG was asked if he wanted to inaugurate the Stegeborg camp. It was an international camp, a so-called Jamboree, with about 9,000 participants from 23 countries, up to that point Sweden's largest , and would last 10 days. The camp was a belated marking of the formation of the Swedish Scout Association in 1960, a joint organization for boy and girl scouts. The boys lived on Eknön in the middle of Sankt Anna's archipelago, the girls on Kåreholm on the mainland a distance away. Better safe than sorry according to the camp bosses.

---

<sup>1</sup> Svenska Dagbladet, 1958-12-15.

<sup>2</sup> Författarens egen upplevelse från avdelningen Skogsrävarna i samma scoutkår vid samma tid.

The opening ceremony was on August 1, 1965. CG arrived directly from his summer stay in Scotland in the company of the then-exiled Prince Alexander of Serbia, both wearing Scout shirt and berets. It had rained unusually much and the girl camp was like quagmire. CG and Prince Alexander was received by an enthusiastic girl crowd. After inspecting the camp, CG finally entered the speaker's chair:

Before the Swedish Scout Movement and in this beautiful place I would like to express my hope that the camp participants will have many and exciting experiences. It is indeed a great pleasure to see so many foreign Girl and Boy Scouts here as living proof of cross-border friendship. Since I am a long time Scout myself, I am happy to declare this Scout camp inaugurated.<sup>3</sup>

The procedure was repeated in the boy camp. He was given a “Stegeborg doll” and was also appointed honorary patrol leader. It was his first official assignment.

In 1974 CG became an honorary member of the Swedish Scout Council, the cooperation organization of the five Swedish Scout Associations, the official representative of Swedish Scouting and affiliated to World Scout Foundation (WOSM). In 1977 he was asked if he also wanted to become honorary chairman of WOSM with the main task of financially supporting the Scout Movement through fundraising. CG agreed to this but felt he needed some support. He asked Marcus Wallenberg if he knew any suitable interested person. So Wallenberg did, one of his bankers, Sven Erik Ragnar (1937-2007). Ragnar's first contribution seems to have been to make himself chairman of a Swedish local branch of WOSM, Baden Powell Swedish Chapter, and then over time recruit almost 100 paying members. You rose through the ranks by paying more. The ranks were: Ordinary Fellow (\$10,000; Payment if necessary spread over two or three years), Benefactors Circle (\$25,000), International Circle (\$50,000), Chairmans Circle (\$100,000) and Regal Circle (\$1,000,000). For that, you got to meet CG, accompany him on trips and feel socially useful. In 2008, there were 1,800 Fellows of varying rank in 74 countries.

Every Baden Powell Fellow in the world has a personal story about Sven Erik - how he twisted their arm to make a higher contribution, how he encouraged them to recruit their wife, husband, grandson or niece. We all remember him - walking two steps behind “the boss” [CG], whispering in an ear, helping things to work smoothly. Sven Erik has done much more than just work on the Foundation Board. Sven Erik truly made a difference. With his enthusiasm, business and diplomatic skills, he helped to raise millions of dollars for Scouting. He inspired many people to do great things.<sup>4</sup>

In 2001, after Ragnar retired, CG appointed him chamberlain with the same duties as before. After Ragnar's death in 2007, Anders Lettström took over as chairman of Baden Powell Swedish Chapter.

As honorary chairman of WOSM, CG participates in meetings twice a year. In addition, CG participates in numerous local and international meetings where he speaks for the organization, receives Baden Powell Fellows and meets scouts:

In major camps such as World Jamborees or national Jamborees, The King is often given the responsibility to inaugurate or end the camp with a speech. It has become

---

<sup>3</sup> Smolny. Kronprinsen välkomnade 10000 scouter. Norrköpings Tidning, 1965-07.

<sup>4</sup> World Scout Foundation. Annual Report 2007.

something of a tradition that The King leads “The Rocket”, a campfire game where you by clapping and stomping fire a “sound rocket”. The Scouts who have seen The King at Scout camps often testify to a monarch who looks unusually happy and harmonious. The king laughs loudly when asked if he is more relaxed at Scout camps than otherwise.

- I can't do the “Rocket” during the Nobel dinner, otherwise I would do it! I think I've thought about it a few times but I don't think everyone really is up to it. But maybe I should try sometime. I've been thinking about it. Maybe sometime. It is a question of faithfully waiting in front of your television set. Maybe it comes some year, maybe it doesn't, you never know!<sup>5</sup>

As campfire leader at the 2001 Scout Jamboree outside Kristianstad, CG made 26,500 Scouts do the rocket. 2011 at the Jamboree in Rinkaby it was 40,000. His personal record. For his efforts CG is paid in kind. Every May, a number of volunteer scouts help CG to clean up Djurgården. In 2009 there were 170 of them.

\*

In the 1990s all organised social activity declined, including Scouting. Despite the name, the Swedish Scout Council had had no real cooperation. This has now to come about. 2004-2006, the Council discussed a common objective.<sup>6</sup> In 2007, it was assisted by Mats Dellham, Baden Powell Fellow and consultant, in conducting an organizational inquiry.<sup>7</sup> 2004-2006 CG contributed with a number of seminars on “Value-Based Leadership”. It was about the place of the Scout ideals in a new world: To practice what you preach, to stand up for your values and to act on them. CG launched the first seminar with a speech on the leadership ideals of business and scouting. In some way connecting them. Long ago he had met professor Oren Lyons (1930-), spokesman for the North American Prairie Indians. Lyons spoke a lot about “The Seventh Generation”, the need for long-term vision, “the long view”. So also CG. Lyons is one of the people CG admires.

In 2006, CG was to reach the age of 60. The three Baden Powell Fellows Mats Dellham, Sven Erik Ragnar & Mats Qviberg worked hard to fund a suitable scholarship fund. More than a thousand companies and individuals contributed to “King Carl XVI Gustaf's Collection Foundation Young Leadership”.

The aim of the Foundation was to promote young people's leadership training based on the values discussed. The scholarship was to be awarded to three young leaders in the business, public and non-profit sectors who took an extraordinary responsibility and set good examples. The idea was that the money would last for 10 years. In 2007, CG was interviewed about the fund. Like Silvia, he felt that times were evil and that idealism was in short supply. He wanted to do something:

I was out walking three years ago and had just seen some of those reality shows, Big Brother and the rest. Or humiliation television, as I call it. The docu-stars have become our new heroes. It gives the wrong signal to young people. So the idea of the

---

<sup>5</sup> Mattias Abrahamsson. I huvudet på scout Carl XVI Gustaf. Scoutmagasinet, 2009:1.

<sup>6</sup> Annette Johansson, Pernilla Lindberg, Birgitta Persson, Linda Eriksson & Sandahl. Färdplan för framtiden - Scouting i Sverige 2015 och vägen dit. Svenska Scoutrådet, 2006.

<sup>7</sup> Magnus Blombergsson, Katarina Fumming, Ylva Pettersson, Johan Strid & Anna Åkesson. Effektiv struktur - för hög kvalitet på lokal scoutverksamhet. Svenska Scoutrådet, 2007.

foundation was to develop a counterbalance. Highlighting young leaders and seeing them as the greater heroes of the country. That was the idea of the foundation. Don't call it leadership. Call it a new type of heroes, and it'll be more persuasive.<sup>8</sup>

The rest of the interview was a tribute to the Scout movement as an ideology:

\* The King has received some of his values and his education in the Scouts. But who cares about the Scouts today?

- 30 million young people are Scouts in 140 countries. 130,000 Swedes. The most amazing thing is that whoever you ask, they often have a past as a scout. The movement is perhaps more current than ever. It emerged 100 years ago as a way of caring for and raising orphans. Look around. We have enormous loneliness among children even today, especially in our suburbs.

\* So the Scouts are really modern?

- Exactly, but it's like everything else, old things get new names. Now it's teamwork and you're going off on kick-off. But it is based on the same pedagogy as within the Scouts, interacting with each other in groups. Everyone's equal value. Helping out. Today, you're going to survival classes. But it's the Scouts, right? Old ideas in a new package.

\* But the thought of bringing out young heroes in everyday life came from The King's disgust at what you call humiliation television?

- Yes, it's terrible. It is about breaking down each other to the point where one person in each section has to leave the Community. In society, it is precisely the opposite.

CG has also sponsored management courses in this spirit. The most ambitious is a Sweden-Finland management program for 12 Swedish and 12 Finnish young people in 2009-2011 for 17-18 million.

\*

CG can be quite political in his consistency when he considers it risk-free (=does not clash with the Torekov-compromise). He's interested in the youth organisation "Fryshuset". In 2006, shortly before his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, he, for example, invited 170 young people from Fryshuset to hold a seminar in the Bernadotte Library before the royal family, the school minister Ibrahim Baylan, MPs and foundations and organizations with similar activities. Anyone with a foreign-born parent had to raise their hand. It was 90 percent of the youth and 100 percent of the royal house. The young people rapped and talked about their experiences. CG insisted that what they were doing was heroic. Navigating a new world. To help ones comrades without without taking advantage of them. Many of the young people were very much moved by the experience. They did not seem to realize that in Sweden there is neither high nor low. We all come from Adam. CG also visited Fryshuset unofficially on his way out into the archipelago, when it was still situated at the northern Hammarby port.

A similar initiative was an invitation to 14 anti-violence groups in 1995 with a follow-up in 1997. The meeting took place at the meeting room of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the castle. Laila Freivalds, at that time minister of Justice, also attended. In 1999 he held a round

---

<sup>8</sup> Henrik Frenkel. Jag som chef. Tidningen Chef, 2007:4, s 40-50.

table conference at the castle on the topic of social violence. He put forward an idea of short prison sentences – a few days at the maximum – for deterrence which was widely criticized.

\*

Other funds in the same spirit are the foundations “Kung Gustaf Vs memorial fund” which encourages international youth exchange, “Folke Bernadotte's Memorial Fund” which supports young people's opportunities to get acquainted with cultural, non-profit and social conditions in other countries, “Prince Gustaf Adolf and Princess Sibylla's Memorial Fund for Swedish youth's physical and mental upbringing” and “H.M. The King's Jubilee Fund for Youth in Sweden” to promote education and scientific research of Swedish children and young people with such links. The latter was added to CG's 50th birthday in 1996 at the initiative of the Swedish Lions Club and the Swedish Scout Council. The money came primarily from the public through the Swedish National Collections Lottery.

In 1982, the World Scout Association awarded CG the Bronze Wolf. The Swedish Scout Council, which did not want to be worse, in 1986 awarded him the Silver Wolf. CG's honorary doctorate at the Stockholm School of Economics in 1997 also seems to have been an award for his commitment to the Scout movement and leadership issues. At a gala dinner in Rome in 2005, CG summarized the message:

The reason for my deep involvement with Scouting, now for half a century, is that I do believe in this positive agenda.

I do believe that people are good and that no child is born with an evil mind. Therefore all children, regardless of race, faith or background should have the right to grow up and develop into good citizens of the world community. Some of them need help and support from others to find and follow the right trail.

These were the ideas of Baden Powell. This is where Scouting comes in also today.<sup>9</sup>

\*

Scouting has become part of CG's “foreign policy”. It has been most noted during his visits to various monarchies: Thailand, the Arab Emirates, Brunei. In the case of Thailand, CG visited a Jamboree in Sattahip at the end of 2002/2003, that had gathered 30 thousand Scouts. After the tsunami, he provided \$80,000 in study grants for the 400 Scouts who lost their parents and travelled around the country, thanking the Thai Scout Movement for their efforts in the rescue effort. In the Arab Emirates, CG has combined a kind of inspection tour of the Scouting business with semi-official state visits and business contacts. The same applies to Brunei.

---

<sup>9</sup> Carl XVI Gustaf. Tal vid World Scout Foundation /Baden Powell Fellows galamiddag i Rom 2005-04-22.