

## Chapter 69 : “Final words”

The general view seems to be that if CG is to continue as a monarch he should surround himself with qualified people and listen to them. This seems to happen when he gives official speeches, which have often been referred to various parties. However, not as regards to his general approach. During the writing of this book, it has emerged that CG speaks to Silvia and sometimes calls around to acquaintances but that is all. Some good advice has been put forward:

1. CG should think more about how he ages. “His hairstyle needs to be adjusted. The king's hair tends to get too long and frizzy on the sides. It's not nice when the head is thinning at the same time.” - “The King must look like the king he is, says Sacha, simple but dignified. When you get older and are a public person, you have to be careful not to become a parody of yourself.” Silvia's botox treatments are a warning example. Age with dignity!
2. CG should employ media strategists. The unique position of the entire monarchy is eroding. It is becoming increasingly risky to rely on journalists or people in the immediate surroundings to respect the court etiquette and “confidentiality”. It is now maintained only by using threats.
3. The current way of dealing with unpleasant situations of putting the lid on and hoping that they will be forgotten does not work when the internet is available. Nowadays the information is accessible forever. If CG does not wish to give a statement, he should discuss his situation with the CIO so that they can set up an information strategy. To consistently deny or refuse to comment only erodes confidence.
4. The organization is not adapted to deal with criticism of the monarchy as an institution and its “dynastic” responsibility. This is strange given the frequency with which such criticism occurs. The rest of the state apparatus usually deals with this by employing independent experts and publishing White Papers. Maybe something to imitate.
5. It is obvious that many of CG's activities lack newsvalue. Either they have been repeated too many times or they take place abroad. The importance of the many activities and how they can be renewed should be discussed.
6. Since CG has a political role, however peripheral it may be, he should also have political advisors. According to one proposal “a group of experienced, highly educated, independent advisers with an aristocratic but not snobbish image.”<sup>1</sup>
7. CG cannot afford to alienate large parts of the cultural establishment. When the nobility is abolished, others are needed to spread splendour over the royal house.

Further suggestions include providing CG with a supervisor that can intervene if his private life appears to be out of control. A radical proposal is that the government should appoint the Marshal of the Realm and that the adjutants and bodyguards report directly to him instead of to CG. It seems unlikely that CG would accept such a person. It would be better to give him a concrete remit or to define evaluable criteria for his area of responsibility so that it is possible

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<sup>1</sup> Stig Strömholm. Argument för monarkin. I: Mats Ögren (red). För Sverige - Nuförtiden. En antologi om Carl XVI Gustaf, Bokförlaget DN, 2006.

to check on what he is doing. The outcome can be discussed in a political forum or in an independent committee of experts, something like the Fiscal Council. CG need not be accountable to this forum, more of a reference group, but must confront it. As it is, no one, not even he himself, knows whether he is doing a good or bad job. In that case, the discussion might be about something else than his private life or opinion polls. My own assessment is that CG, torn between too many activities, and now in addition growing old, is doing a mediocre job and that Silvia, in exchange for supporting CG against all internal & external criticism is given too free a rein. Her role in this context becomes downright destructive because it prevents internal discussion. In the absence of other criteria, CG appears to rely on counting working hours and columns.

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There is a discussion about how CG can be dethroned. It is sometimes assumed that he can be persuaded to abdicate voluntarily or under duress. There are no paragraphs for it. According to one report, he could be replaced if he became unable to carry out his duties. That would be the case if he disappeared abroad for six months and refused to return. His substitute Crown Princess Victoria would then assume office. The same if, for example, he became long-term ill or converted to another religion.

CG is often compared to a politician. If criticized for his private life, a politician usually resigns because his contacts with other politicians, with the press and with the voters will be about his private life, not about the political issues he was elected to pursue. Presumably, CG could experience something similar in his dealings with the people and its representatives. If the elected representatives do not want to deal with him, if the MP's leave Parliament at the inauguration or refuse to attend the Cabinet meetings or Foreign Affairs Committee; if the municipal politicians refuse to accept his national tours; then his position becomes untenable. However, such strong feelings exist only among the syndicalists. Others have been content with not attending dinners, weddings and services.

There are proposals to abolish the Head of State's immunity and reinstate impeachment as a means of dismissing him. Impeachment was abolished in 1974, but had not been used for 120 years. The motive for deposing him would then be that he no longer is a unifying force but divides the kingdom. There is also a process of reinterpreting the constitution to align it with changing times. CP has attended a foreign school and CG no longer needs a replacement as long as he stays in the Nordic countries. The suitability criteria for a royal marriage seem a formality. The constitution is not as sacrosanct as the monarchists may wish.

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At CG's 50th birthday April 29, 1996, Silvia recited the poem of Admiral Richard H. Jackson (1866-1971), "The Old Gardener". Doubtful attribution though. She probably alluded to the cover of Kjell Fridh's biography of King Gustaf VI where the latter picks roses in his garden at Sofiero:

Dear Carl Gustaf,  
Count your garden by the flowers,  
never by the leaves that fall;  
Count your days by golden hours  
don't remember clouds at all!

Count the night by stars, not shadows  
Count your life with smiles – not tears  
And with joy on today's birthday,  
count your age by friends – not years!

Obviously, that will not be the case. Perhaps Silvia should have chosen Alexei K Tolstoy's (1817-1875) poem "If You Love" instead, more suitable for a prince of the blood:

If you love, it should be without all reason.  
If there is a threat, it should be very serious.  
If you insult, it shall only be done in anger.  
If you cut, it should be with full force.  
If there is a dispute, it must be unreasonable.  
If you punish, it should have its cause.  
If you forgive, it should be with full heart.  
If you party it should be all night.

The peoples comment on all this (see appendix 2 & 3) is much like CG's own: Life is a cabaret. Don't be too bloody serious about it.

GBKF.