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WMU in the News

12-19-1988

Certain conditions at the so called UN-school in Malmö

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EN4082/eh

21 December 1988

Free translation of a letter from Mr. Ramsby sent to the Rector on 19 December 1988.

Heading: "Re: Certain conditions at the so called UN-school in Malmö".

I heard your comments in Radio "Malmöhus". I have read your statements in "Sydsvenska Dagbladet" on 15 December this year in a strange article about spying. I also listened to your both correct and fine address in the Malmö Concert Hall. I wrote the article on "Arbetets" page for culture about Pinochet's buddies.

During the 1950ies I was a member for five years of the Swedish Association of Deck Officers and I sailed also for the Broström group. I know what a Master Mariner and a Chief Engineer is. I am also very positive to the University in Malmö, as it is the first one of its kind in the world.

In the article in "Sydsvenskan" you say that no single country can afford the luxury to go against the United Nations concept. Then, if ever would we become politicized... .

There is nothing and has never been anything in the concept of the United Nations which points at support of terrorist regims (even if the country or countries concerned are members of the United Nations). On the contrary such states should be boycotted (for example South Africa). Chile is another example. For that reason I enclose for your information an article by Leif Persson who is one of the most knowledgeable of Swedish journalists in respect of Latin America. (That article was printed in the issue of 18 December 1988 of "Sydsvenska Dagbladet", it concerns Chile only and it does not contain any references or anything of interest from the WMU point of view).

For your information I can also tell you that the Chilean Captain Tadeo Zerega Guerrero and I met personally before he graduated. It took place at a private meeting in Malmö. That meeting confirmed what I had heard from refugees about "officers at the UN-school".

Captain Tadeo stated among other things that "Chilean refugees in Sweden are not refugees but represent the worst class of the slum in the Chilean society - a vermine for Chile". He has also during his studies in Sweden distributed newspapers and brochures - everything from tourist propaganda to political propaganda.

Captain Tadeo's wife and her best friend have before they left Sweden personally indicated to me that journalists like I who write articles like I have done should disappear overnight in their home country. Something they felt was positive. What do you think? Do you want to continue to train such military students? Is that in conformity with the United Nations concept? Do you still hold the view expressed in "Sydsvenskan" that you are upset about me calling a person like Tadeo for one of Pinochet's buddies? You say in the paper that it is an irrelevant piece of information as the student Tadeo and the others are more tolerant now after their studies in Malmö. More tolerant against who? Or what do you mean as responsible Head for the UN-University in Malmö? When you then in the newspaper also states that there are only Master Mariners and Chief Engineers at the UN-School in Malmö you are not telling the truth. You know very well the difference between Merchant Officers and Navy Officers. A Merchant Officer is taught in accordance with Swedish and international norms to navigate, to take care of, load and unload and administer a Merchant Ship. A Navy Officer gets military training, teaches navigation and military science.

Among your students there are for example the Commander Luiz Eduardo Diaz Monclus who is active in Commandancia Generale de la Armada in Caracas - the highest command of the navy with other words. What has he got to do at the civilian United Nations University? Were there nobody with a non-military background? His countryman Jesus Enrique Duran Sanoya is another Navy Captain? Or Commander Luiz Andres Mella Montoya in the Navy of Peru? Or the Chilean Ruben Pillado Villa, Head of the Department for International Affairs in Valparaiso?

I have also studied the students from Nicaragua, a country close to the Swedish Government. There I have not found a single student who comes from a military unit. They all come from non-military units. That is what must be the purpose of the United Nations support of the University in Malmö. Not to educate an already very highly very qualified officer from a fascist or of military terrorized countries. Or what? or should the United Nations offer additional education in shipping for the military elite? Is that the thought behind the United Nations?

As journalist I want to ask the following questions which I wish to have answered in writing without undue delay:

1. After which criteria are students admitted?
2. As the education is non-military why do you accept high-ranking officers who are active as officers in their home countries?
3. Which possibilities do the University have to decline to accept a student? In other words: Who decides in the end who shall be admitted?
4. Have you as Rector informed the United Nations Maritime Organization in London about the critical articles and radio transmissions which have appeared recently in Malmö?

5. Will you continue to accept students of high military rank or officers as a whole?
6. Or do you intend to request for the future that the school shall only be open for non-military students who want additional education in the subject of "shipping" - merchant shipping and its administration etc.?
7. What is the United Nations explicit purpose and aim with the University in Malmö? I wish to have the answer in Swedish, in other words as you have interpreted the United Nations purpose and goal?
8. Which bars apart from those based on knowledge, exist to get admitted to the University? And is it possible that the statutes can be re-written after new decisions preventing officers from getting access to the University?
9. For which reasons apart from those based on knowledge have you so far turned down applicants to the University?
10. Are you willing to send me a complete directory over the new 100 students who will now come to Malmö - their name, their positions, their home countries, their service in different organizations, companies etc. as well as their home addresses? If you do not want to do this, what is your explanation? Would you also provide me with a statement regarding regulations concerning public documents at the University?

As long as the United Nations University in Malmö trains officers of high rank from states which daily crush the United Nations human rights, puts people into jail, tortures and terrorizes and kills dissidents I will as journalist continue to keep the University in Malmö under observation.

With friendly regards.

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