

Stockholm, March 29, 1971

Dear Sirs,

Thanks for Your visit to our country last february which was, indeed, very stimulating for kendo over here. This letter is mainly intended to serve as a supplement to the questionnaire received in Stockholm, since the organization of budo in Sweden differs considerably from that of other countries. Below You have my comments to the answers given in the questionnaire, in order corresponding to the capital letters in the latter.

A/ -

B/ It is to be observed that neither kendo nor any other art of budo has an organization of its own. We are, instead, united in one single budo association, at present consisting of five sections (aikido, jiu-jitsu, judo, karate and kendo) each of which has its own chairman and board. The section of course has full sovereign power in matters belonging to their own field. The separate chairmen of the five sections form, together with the chairman, deputy chairman, treasure - man and secretary general of the association, the Main Board of the Association. This organization has proven to be most beneficial, since it offers the advantage of having as many members as possible, but still offers the possibility for each art to take care their own internal questions. Please notice that matters concerning swedish kendo should be sent to the secretary general of the association, who will forward it to the kendo section. If the question is very urgent, however, the chairman or the secretary of the kendo section should be contacted directly.

C/ Our association was originally founded as a judo association but as a consequence of the introduction of other arts of budo it has been re-organized to a Budo Association. Kendo was the last art to be introduced into our association in 1967.

D/ Secretary General of the Swedish Budo Association, Box 222,
S-754 01 Uppsala 1, Sweden.

E/ -

F/ These numbers are for kendo only. The whole association has some 10.000 registrated members.

cont.

2.

G/ -

H/ -

I/ a. Yes, we do.

b. At present this is not possible to state.

c. -"- -"- -"- -"- .

J/ a. 35

b. At present not available. This year the board of the kendo section has, however, appointed a committee, the task of which is to establish contacts with Japan in order to solve this question. Perhaps You could help us with advice and/or get in touch with those who supply kendo armour. This is one of our greatest problems at present.

c. 30 Sw.Crowns (6 US dollars)

d. Not available. Many kendoka use judogi instead (price 50 - 80 Sw. Cr. = 10 -16 US Dollars)

e. 75 Sw.Crowns (15 US Dollars)

f. We have to use our fantasy, many times using material of non-japanese origin. And of course if a shinai is broken we are very careful to save all the parts.

g. The lack of, and the high costs involved in this post, form one of the two great difficulties we are facing now.

It is difficult for us to get beginners in kendo for these reasons because: A. Only in a few places we have shinai and bogu to loan to those who want to start practising kendo. B. If someone advances and wants to obtain necessary equipment, this is disturbed by two disadvantages. It is tremendously expensive and it takes a very long time to get it here from Japan. As most of our recruits are students, whose economy does not allow these extravagancies, the situation for us administrating kendo in Sweden is in fact very serious.

K. This is not possible at present, due to the lack of instructors competent for graduation. (I have understood Your question as referring to Dan - grades.)

L. Please inform japanese kendoka that there is kendo in our country and that if they are on tour in Europe they should feel welcome to come to Sweden, helping us to improve our kendo. They cannot, however, make their living from solely teaching kendo, so if they plan to stay teaching for any longer time, they should apply for a working permit in Sweden while still in Japan. The swedish embassy in Tokyo will,

cont.

3.

give all necessary information on this subject. If they want to stay for a longer time it is necessary that they possess good knowledge in english and that they are qualified kendoka (we find Mr. Akio Watanabe a good example of this).

M/ Kindly help us to get in touch with those who supply kendo equipment such as stated above under J/.

Please also inform japanese kendoka about conditions for kendo in Sweden as stated under L/.

N/ There is not much to be said except for the fact that a visit like this one is a very good source of inspiration for our kendoka. We only regret the shortage of time and that there were no possibility to assemble every swedish kendoka to Your course.
