

Knud Løkkegaard

15 November 1923 – 9 March 1992



Knud Løkkegaard, one of the most prominent persons in international fisheries policy in the epoch-making period of the 1960s and 1970s, died in hospital in Hong Kong 9 March 1992 after a short period of illness, while he and his wife were visiting their son.

Knud Løkkegaard graduated in law at the University of Copenhagen in 1947. After a period as Head of Section (international relations) in the Ministry of Agriculture he became Private Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries during 1954–56. He was Danish Fisheries Attaché in Rio de Janeiro (1957–59), a position and place which he frequently told about with great pleasure. In 1960, he was Head of the Fisheries Department of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and 1961–63 Danish Commercial Attaché in Lisbon. He returned to the Danish Ministry of Fisheries in 1964 and apart from a half-year period (1977/78) as Head of Cabinet to the EEC Commissioner for Agri-

culture and Fisheries he served in that ministry as Head of Division until he retired in November 1983.

With his great experience in international affairs Knud Løkkegaard was appointed leader of Danish delegations to the two North Atlantic fisheries commissions, International Commission for the North-west Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) and Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). He was also delegate to the Diplomatic Conference preparing the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) 1972–74 and became the first Chairman of that Commission (1974–77) and continued as the Head of Delegation to IBSFC thereafter. Likewise, he was Head of Delegation to FAO's Fisheries Committee (COFI) and 1st Vice-Chairman of COFI 1974–75. He was also a delegate to the UN Law of the Sea Conference.

At ICNAF Knud Løkkegaard was Head of the Danish Delegation 1965–76. He was the Commission's Vice-Chairman 1969–71, and Chairman 1971–73. He was also Chairman of Panel 1 1969–71 and of Panel 4 1975–77. Anybody familiar with international fisheries negotiations in that period will know that positions as head delegate and Chairman were not just posts of honour but jobs requiring insight, diplomatic ability and hard work. Knud Løkkegaard fully met these demands and further excelled in mastering the English language. His insight on matters under discussion was excellent, and his recognition of advisers' role made it a great pleasure to work with him in the delegation. He built his statements both on the scientific advice and on social-economic considerations as well as on the administrative, technical and political feasibility of the matter under discussion. He could keep firm standpoints as well as be very flexible, but always with a strong sense of fair play and honesty. Those sitting behind him could always judge the turn of events by the colour of his neck. If it turned a trifle red, there was mischief afoot on the other side of the table.

Knud Løkkegaard worked hard. Late night sessions were common in those years in ICNAF and no less in NEAFC where Knud Løkkegaard was in the firing-line during the period of introduction of quota systems in the North Sea and the implementation of the Common Market fisheries policy. In spite of the hard work, he always found time to create the social atmosphere and relations which characterized the commissions. His pleasant company, great sense

of humour and wide selection of good stories were highly appreciated. He liked the atmosphere around the international meetings, especially in the years when ICNAF and NEAFC built up their first TAC and quota regulations in a spirit of mutual understanding. Also during the period when the salmon fishery at Greenland was a "hot potato", Knud Løkkegaard was at his best.

The many years of fatiguing travel and meetings inevitably affected his health in the long run, and he decided to retire in November 1983, before reaching retirement age, to enjoy family life and social life with friends.

In recognition of his outstanding service, Knud Løkkegaard was invested a Knight of first grade of

the order of the Dannebrog. He also held the Brazilian order of the Southern Cross and was officer of the Portuguese order of Henry the Navigator.

Knud Løkkegaard's friends and colleagues will miss him. He will be remembered as one of those who contributed significantly to the work and spirit of international fisheries commissions in their probably most interesting and difficult period.

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