The Kungälv Conference

By Sune Åkerman

This issue of our periodical contains a detailed report of the NAAS conference held during the Summer of 1971 in Kungälv, Sweden. There is no need to comment on the program of the conference but rather simply state that there is evidently a growing interest among the Nordic countries to engage in NAAS' activities. At the conference, which also functioned as the yearly meeting for NAAS, it was decided to undertake certain organizational changes. It was decided that successive changes should occur within the executive committee, resulting in a younger and more vital committee. Furthermore it was decided that the committee should be strengthened by the addition of a delegate from each country. Also local committees will be organized to work on a national level. We hope, for example, to arrange smaller and less ambitious conferences in each of the Nordic countries.

The new delegates to the executive committee are as follows: Dr. Jóhann S. Hannesson, Iceland; Dr. Brita Lindberg-Seyersted, American Institute, Oslo; Dr. Merete Licht, Dept. of English, Univ. of Copenhagen; Dr. Hans Aldskogius, Dept. of Geography, Univ. of Uppsala, Sweden; Prof. Nils Erik Enkvist, Dept. of English, Univ. of Åbo, Finland. At the conference it was also decided that a special editorial committee be created to assist the editorial staff. The reason for the creation of this committee is to allow a better coverage of Nordic research within the field of American studies. The members of the editorial committee are as follows: Dr. Kristian Hvidt, head of Library of Parliament, Copenhagen; Dr. Orm Øverland, Univ. of Bergen, Norway; Prof. Olov Fryckstedt, American Institute, Univ. of Uppsala, Sweden; Erik Allardt, head of the Dept. of Sociology, Helsinki, Finland.
In this issue the introductory lecture of the Kungälv conference, "USA and the Third World", by Prof. Karl Erik Svendsen, Copenhagen, personal advisor of President Nyerere, is presented along with two studies on Theodore Dreiser by Orm Øverland and Rolf Lundén.

We hope that the new concentration on the editorial section will result in a more varied content for this periodical and above all that we will be able to publish more of the research concerning America in the field of social sciences.

USA and the Third World

By Knud Erik Svendsen

During the last few years I have been involved in a broad range of policy problems in one particular developing country. My friends in Denmark feel that this has made me too "specific" — too interested in one single tree and not in the wood as a whole. So when they hear — if they hear — that I have accepted to speak on "USA and the Third World" they probably enjoy some badly motivated feelings, followed by sudden worries about what I am going to do to this important topic. This may, in fact, be my main motive in presenting my special version of the English language to this association.

More important is, of course, that we all are forced to be concerned about this major contemporary problem whether we live in USA or another industrialized country or in a low profit developing country in Africa or in more exposed parts of the two other continents of the Third World. What I propose to do is to use the limitations in my background — I am not an expert on global politics, American Society, or on ecology — to raise a number of questions (i.e., to select what I believe to be the more important aspects of the problem and to suggest some answers in order to get inputs from the factors of production which you represent). Knowing something about a few trees, I shall try to speculate about the forest.

As a beginning it might be useful to split the topic into components: the Third World, the USA, their co-presence on this small globe and the flow of time or the dynamics of these components and the structure they form.

First of all, I am not sure that it makes too much sense to speak of a Third World, or the developing countries as a homogenous group of states. The understandable preference of international organisations to generalize often leads to serious loss in individuality