

David Cornwell, as a representative of the Olof Palme family, it is of course a privilege for me to have the responsibility to hand over the 2019 Olof Palme Prize to its very worthy winner.

When discussing this year's prize and its winner with my brothers, two things have emerged:

First, the many striking similarities between David Cornwell and Olof Palme. You both were trained as military officers. You both took up employment in the military to work for the military intelligence, albeit in different capacities. As I see it, you both then decided to leave that world to try to find other ways to serve the human values of the democratic order, and to seek alternatives to the cold war regime. Perhaps – here I am on looser ground – this was based on a similar and common dream of another kind of society in terms of the quality of human relations within and between nations.

The second thing; while you never met in person, my brothers have both reminded me about our father's enthusiasm about his encounter with the writer John le Carré and getting acquainted with Smiley - encouraging us to do the same, which we did of course.

With this background, and because you, David Cornwell, have shown such extraordinary courage and persistence in fighting for your values – values shared by us who are here today, no one would have been happier than our father about you receiving the prize. He would have been equally moved, as we are today, to hear - and I here thank you for letting me announce it - that you have decided to donate the prize money of 100 000 USD to Médecins Sans Frontières, Läkare utan gränser.

At this point, can I please invite you to come on stage.

Because with the prize there also comes a diploma, and this is for you to keep. David Cornwell, congratulations to the 2019 Olof Palme Prize.