

## Obituary

### Hans-Heinz Krill de Capello (1929-2005)

It is with profound regret that we report the tragic death of our friend and colleague, Hans-Heinz Krill de Capello. His passing came only a short time after family and friends had marked his 75th birthday in Berlin. We are trying to understand his final decision.

Hans-Heinz, a learned historian, will be remembered with respect and consideration as a man of exquisite courtesy and soft manner. His thoughtfulness and natural kindness, coupled with a delicate sense of humour and a disregard for ephemeral vanities, made him a true gentleman admired and liked by all.

He began his professional career at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn, when that city was the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany. He then moved to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and from there, in 1964, joined Unesco's "Foreign Office" (known as RMO, CPX, REX, BRX and ERC in its successive reincarnations). There he worked with skill and devotion in the Europe and North America Division. When he retired from Unesco in 1990 as Director of that Division, he had acquired the reputation of an accomplished diplomat and left behind him many friends among both his colleagues and the representatives of Member States.

After his retirement from Unesco Hans-Heinz witnessed with personal emotion the reunification of his country and subsequently the re-creation of the "Larger Europe". In order to make a personal contribution to this historic process he became President of the association sustaining the French-German Friendship Treaty. Subsequently Hans-Heinz joined the board of trustees of the newly-founded "Weimar Triangle", where he was active in a political, cultural, scientific and economic initiative launched by France, Germany and Poland in the non-governmental arena.

Throughout his life our friend was marked (as were so many of his generation) by the tragedy of the Second World War and—as a victim himself together with many millions of human beings—by expulsion from home and hearth. He served the public with one thought in mind: bringing understanding among peoples so that such a horror would not be repeated. This was his main motivation before, during and after his 26-year service in Unesco's Secretariat.

On behalf of his many colleagues and friends everywhere, we extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Hans-Heinz: his wife Ulrike and his children Angela and Wolfgang.

Klaus-Heinrich Standke and Horst Gödicke

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