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Finland



United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs

August 1990



Official Name:
Republic of Finland

PROFILE

Geography

Area: 337,113 sq. km. (130,160 sq. mi.); about the size of New England, New Jersey, and New York combined. **Cities:** *Capital*—Helsinki (pop. 484,399). *Other cities*—Tampere (167,335), Turku (163,655). **Terrain:** Low but hilly, more than 70% forested, with more than 60,000 lakes. **Climate:** Cool; mean annual temperature in Helsinki (1977–86) +5 °C (41 °F); July +17 °C (63 °F); January -6 °C (21 °F).

People

Nationality: *Noun*—Finn(s). *Adjective*—Finnish. **Population** (1989): 4,971,844. **Annual growth rate** (1989): 0.4%. **Ethnic groups:**

Fins, Swedes, Lapps, Gypsies, Tartars. **Religions** (1987): Lutheran 88.7%, Orthodox 1.1%. **Languages:** Finnish 93.6%, Swedish 6%. **Education:** *Years compulsory*—9. *Attendance*—almost 100%. *Literacy*—almost 100%. **Health** (1989): *Infant mortality rate*—6/1,000. *Life expectancy*—males 71 yrs., females 79 yrs. **Work force** (1989, 2,559,000): *Agriculture*—8.7%. *Industry, commerce, and finance*—53.3%. *Services* (public and personal)—24.7%. *Government*—5.4%. *Transport* (storage and communication)—7.1%.

Government

Type: Constitutional republic. **Constitution:** July 17, 1919. **Independence:** December 6, 1917.

Branches: *Executive*—president (chief of state), prime minister (head of government), Council of State (cabinet). *Legislative*—Unicameral parliament. *Judicial*—Supreme Court, regional appellate courts, local courts.

Subdivisions: 12 provinces, provincial self-rule for the Aland Islands.

Political parties: Four largest, in order: Social Democratic Party (SDP), National Coalition (Conservative) Party, Center Party, Leftist Alliance.

Central government budget (1989): \$28.91 billion.

Defense (1989): 1.4% of GDP.

Flag: Light blue cross on a white field.

Economy

GDP (1989): \$114.9 billion. **Annual growth rate:** 5% (GDP). **Per capita income** (1989 est.): \$23,153. **Inflation rate** (1989): 6.6%.

Natural resources: Forests, minerals (copper, zinc, iron), farmland.

Agriculture (3% of GDP): *Products*—meat

(pork and beef), grain (wheat, rye, barley, oats), dairy products, potatoes, rapeseed.

Industry (27% of GDP): *Types*—metal and steel, forest, foodstuffs, textile and clothing.

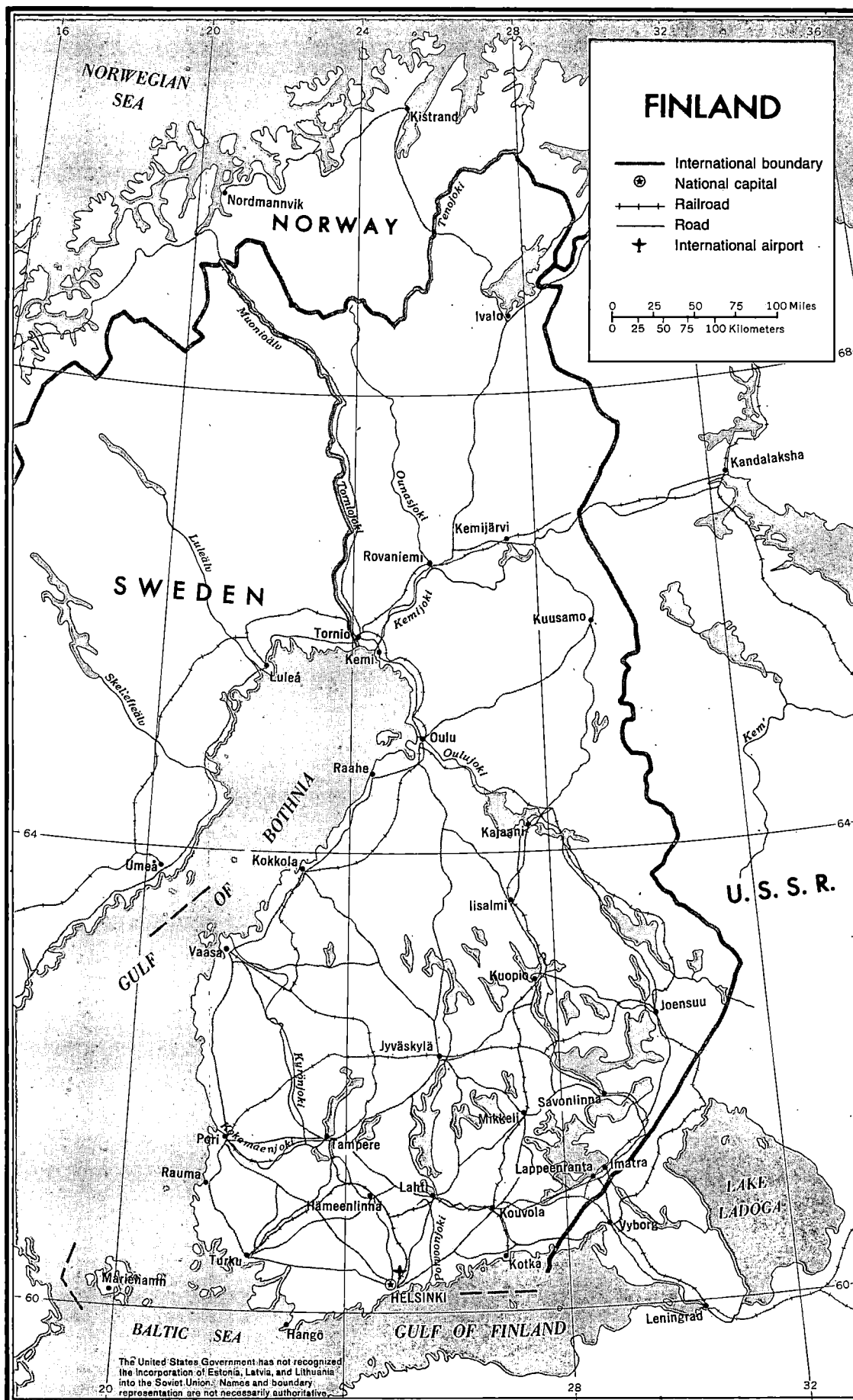
Trade (1989): *Exports*—\$23.2 billion: paper and paperboard, machinery and equipment, ships, lumber, woodpulp, chemicals. *Major markets*—USSR 14.5%, Sweden 14.4%, UK 12%, FRG 10%, US 6.4%. *Imports*—\$24.6 billion: fuels and lubricants, machinery and equipment, including motor vehicles, basic manufactures, chemicals; foodstuffs. *Major suppliers*—FRG 17.3%, Sweden 13.6%, USSR 11.4%, US 6.3%.

Official exchange rate (1989): 4.295 Finnmarks=US\$1.

Fiscal year: Calendar year.

Membership in International Organizations

UN and some of its specialized and related agencies, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Development Association (IDA); Bank for International Settlements (BIS); Asian Development Bank; Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); Council of Europe; Nordic Council; European Free Trade Association (EFTA); European Community (EC)—free trade agreement; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); INTELSAT.



PEOPLE

The origins of the Finnish people are still a matter of conjecture, although most scholars agree that their original home was in what is now west-central Siberia. The Finns arrived in their present territory thousands of years ago, pushing the indigenous Lapps into the more remote northern regions.

The Finnish language is Finno-Ugric, of the Uralic language family (of which Hungarian and Estonian also are a part) and not Indo-European. Lappish, the language of the small Lapp minority, also is Finno-Ugric.

Swedish became the dominant language following Finland's incorporation into Sweden in the 12th century. Finnish recovered its predominance after a resurgence of Finnish nationalism in the 19th century. Today, although 94% of the people speak Finnish as a first language, both Finnish and Swedish are official languages.

The population is ethnically homogeneous with no sizable immigrant population. Few tensions exist between the Finnish-speaking majority and the Swedish-speaking minority.

Finns are highly literate, and poetry has played a key role in Finnish history. Publication in 1835 of the Finnish national epic, *The Kalevala*, a collection of traditional myths and legends, first stirred the nationalism that led to independence in 1917.

An important theme in Finnish literature is humanity's unity with nature, which identifies human fate with impersonal forces and which gives Finnish literature a somber, sometimes tragic, sometimes heroic, tone. Another theme is the importance of the common people—the Finnish folk. One of the country's major writers, Frans Emil Sillanpää, received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1939.

Finland is one of the most active publishing countries in the world. Although major literary works have been translated into English, Finnish music, because it does not require translation, is better known. This is especially true of the works of Jean Sibelius who, along with many other Finnish artists, was profoundly influenced by *The Kalevala*.

Finns also are outstanding in other artistic fields; their jewelry, textile, glass, and furniture designs have gained prominence throughout the world.

Finland enjoys complete religious freedom as well as free education through the university level. An extensive social welfare system, constituting about one-fifth of the national income, includes a variety of pension and assistance programs and a comprehensive health insurance program.

In the mid-1970s, the educational system was reformed with the goal of equalizing educational opportunities. Beginning at age 7, all Finnish children are required to attend a "basic school" of nine grade levels. After this, they may elect to continue along an academic (*lukio*) or vocational (*ammattikoulu*) line. However, most pursue vocational studies. About one child in four receives a higher education in this highly competitive system. The number of openings in higher educational institutions is less than the demand.

HISTORY

Finland's nearly 700-year association with the Kingdom of Sweden began in 1154 with the introduction of Christianity by Sweden's King Eric. During the ensuing centuries, Finland played an important role in the political life of the Swedish-Finnish realm, and Finnish soldiers often predominated in Swedish armies. Finns also formed a significant proportion of the first "Swedish" settlers in 17th-century America.

In 1809, Finland was conquered by the armies of Czar Alexander I and thereafter remained an autonomous grand duchy connected with the Russian Empire until the end of 1917. On December 6, 1917, shortly after the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, Finland declared its independence. In 1918, Finland experienced a brief but bitter civil war that colored domestic politics for many years.

During World War II, Finland fought the Soviet Union twice—in the Winter War of 1939–40 and again in the Continuation War of 1941–44. This was followed by the Lapland War from 1944–45 when Finland fought against the Germans as they withdrew their forces from northern Finland.

The Treaty of Peace, signed at Paris on February 10, 1947, limited the size of Finland's defense forces and provided for the cession to the Soviet Union of the Petsamo area on the Arctic coast, the Karelian Isthmus in southeastern



Finnish folkdancing.

Finland, and other territory along the former eastern border. Another provision, terminated in 1956, leased the Porkkala area near Helsinki to the USSR for use as a naval base and gave free access to this area across Finnish territory. The peace treaty also called for Finland to pay to the Soviet Union reparations of 300 million gold dollars (amounting to an estimated \$570 million in 1952, the year the payments ended). The United States was not a signatory to the treaty because it had not been at war with Finland.

GOVERNMENT

Under the Finnish constitution, political power is divided between the *Eduskunta* (parliament) and the president of the republic, with the highest executive power vested in the president.

Elected for a 6-year term, the president:

- Handles foreign policy, except for certain international agreements and decisions of peace or war, which must be submitted to parliament;
- Is commander in chief of the armed forces and has wide decree and appointive powers;
- May initiate legislation, block legislation by pocket veto, and call extraordinary parliamentary sessions; and
- Appoints the cabinet.



A view of Helsinki's neoclassic center.

The Council of State is made up of the prime minister and ministers for the various departments of the central government as well as an ex-officio member, the Chancellor of Justice. Ministers are not obliged to be members of the *Eduskunta* and need not be formally identified with any political party.

Constitutionally, the 200-member, unicameral *Eduskunta* is the supreme authority in Finland. It may alter the constitution, bring about the resignation of the Council of State, and override presidential vetoes; its acts are not subject to judicial review. Legislation may be initiated by the president, the Council of State, or one of the *Eduskunta* members.

The *Eduskunta* is elected on the basis of proportional representation. All persons 18 or older, except military personnel on active duty and a few high judicial officials, are eligible for election. The regular parliamentary term is 4 years; however, the president may dissolve the *Eduskunta* and order new elections at any time.

The judicial system is divided between courts with regular civil and criminal jurisdiction and special courts with responsibility for litigation between the public and the administrative organs of the state. Finnish law is codified. Although there is no writ of habeas corpus or bail, the maximum period of pre-trial detention was recently reduced to 4 days. The Finnish court system consists of local courts, regional appellate courts, and a supreme court.

Finland's 12 provinces are divided into cities, townships, and communes administered by municipal and communal councils elected by proportional representation once every 4 years. The 11 mainland provinces are administered by provincial boards composed of civil servants and each headed by a presidentially appointed governor. The boards are responsible to the Ministry of the Interior and play a supervisory and coordinating role within the provinces.

The island province of Aaland is located near the 60th parallel between Sweden and Finland. It enjoys local autonomy by virtue of an international convention of 1921, implemented most

recently by the Act on Aaland Self-Government of 1951. The islands are further distinguished by the fact that they are entirely Swedish speaking. Government is vested in the provincial council, which consists of 30 delegates elected directly by Aaland's citizens.

Principal Government Officials

President—Mauno Koivisto
 Prime Minister—Harri Holkeri
 Foreign Minister—Pertti Paasio
 Ambassador to the United States—Jukka Valtasaari
 Ambassador to the United Nations—Klaus Tornudd

Finland maintains an embassy in the United States at 3216 New Mexico Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016 (tel. 202-363-2430).

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Finland's proportional representation system encourages a multitude of political parties and has resulted in many coalition governments.

Political activity by communists was legalized in 1944. Although four major parties have dominated the postwar political arena, none has a majority position. The largest is the Social Democratic Party (SDP), which commands the support of nearly 25% of the electorate, mainly among the urban working class but also with some support among small farmers, white-collar workers, and professionals. The SDP's rival on the left is the Leftist Alliance, formed in May 1990, which replaces the People's Democratic League (SKDL), the parliamentary group in the *Eduskunta* that represented the Finnish Communist Party. The SKDL's parliamentary effectiveness and potential participation in government were impaired, however, by the deep split in the Communist Party between its "moderate" majority and "hardline" minority.

The two other major parties are the Center Party, traditionally representing rural interests, and the Conservative Party, which draws its major support from the business community and urban professionals.

In the February 1988 election, President Koivisto won a new 6-year term. Parliamentary elections in March 1987 led to the formation of a "red-blue" coalition government that includes both the SDP and the National Coalition (Conservative) Party.

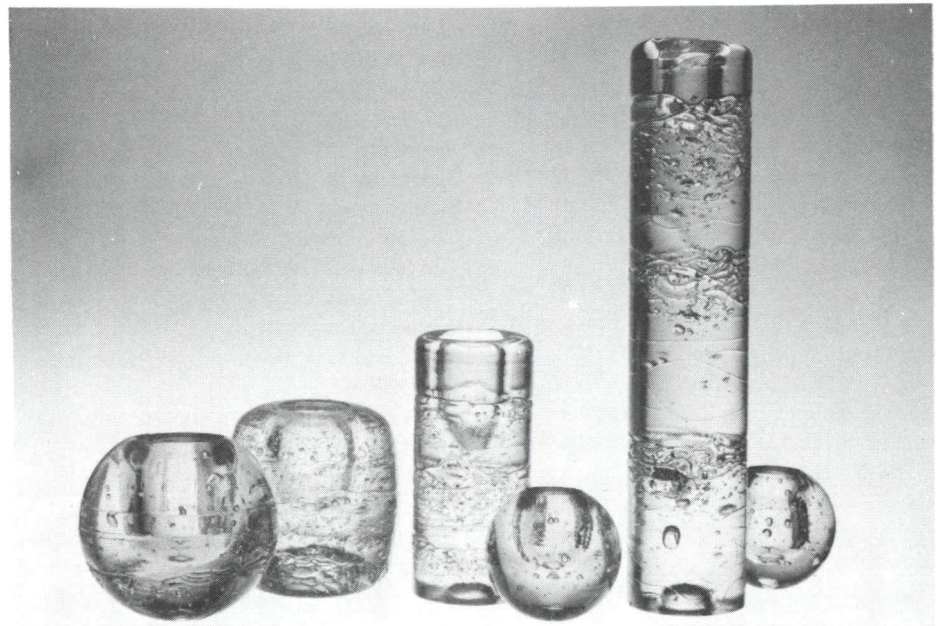
ECONOMY

Finland has a dynamic industrial economy based on abundant forest resources, capital investments, and technology. In

Political Parties

In order of respective seating placement

Democratic Alternative	4
Leftist Alliance	16
Social Democrats	56
Rural Party	8
Free Democrats	1
Center Party	40
National Coalition Party	53
Swedish People's Party	13
Greens	4
Christian League	5

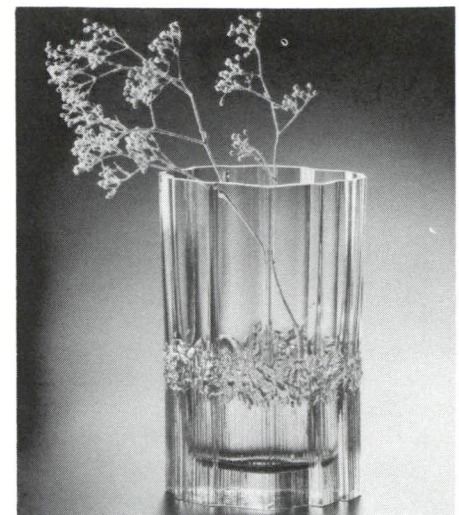


the 1980s, Finland's economic growth rate was one of the highest of industrialized countries. Exports contribute more than 20% of the gross domestic product (GDP); combined exports of goods and services amount to about 25% of GDP. Exports and imports of goods total about 40% of GDP. Timber and steel are the main industries, but other industries produce manufactured goods ranging from electronics to motor vehicles. Finnish-designed consumer products such as textiles, porcelain, and glassware are world famous.

Finland is self-sufficient in dairy products and meats, as well as in grains in good harvest years, but it imports large amounts of fruits and vegetables. Farms tend to be small, but sizable timber stands are harvested for supplementary income in winter.

Except for timber and several minerals, Finland depends on imported raw materials, energy, and some components for its manufactured products. Traditionally, Finland is a net importer of capital to finance industrial growth.

Finland imported 70% of its energy in 1989. Oil imports met 31% of Finnish requirements while nuclear power provided 15%, coal 11%, and natural gas 6%. Domestic energy sources include hydroelectric power, peat, and wood products.



Iittala Glassworks are famous worldwide. Classic designs capture the atmosphere of Finland's clear, cold waters.

DEFENSE

Finland's active duty defense forces are limited by the 1947 Treaty of Peace to 41,900 troops (army 34,400, navy 4,500, air force 3,000). The country has military conscription under which all young men serve from 8 to 11 months. A reserve force of about 700,000 ensures readiness as one means of deterring involvement in war. The basic tenet of Finnish security policy is that, while foreign policy is important, the nation's ability to defend itself is a prerequisite for a successful policy of neutrality.

New Conservative - Center cabinet, March '91.

See FI Embassy materials and attached.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Finland's basic foreign policy goal since 1944 has been to avoid great-power conflicts and to build mutual confidence with the Soviet Union. Although the country is culturally, socially, and politically Western, Finns realize they must live in peace with the USSR and take no action that might be interpreted as a security threat.

The principal architect of the post-1944 foreign policy was J.K. Paasikivi, who was president from 1946 to 1956. Urho Kekkonen, president from 1956 until 1981, further developed this policy, stressing that Finland should be an active rather than a passive neutral. This policy is now popularly known as the "Paasikivi-Kekkonen Line."

In April 1948, Finland signed an Agreement of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance with the Soviet Union, under which Finland is obligated (with the aid of the Soviet Union, if necessary) to resist armed attacks by Germany or its allies against Finland, or against the USSR through Finland. At the same time, the agreement recognizes Finland's desire to remain outside great-power conflicts. This agreement was renewed for 20 years in 1955, again in 1970, and most recently in 1983 to the year 2003.

Finland joined the United Nations and the Nordic Council in 1955, is a full member of the European Free Trade Association, and in 1973 signed a free trade agreement with the European Community. It also has entered into free

Further Information

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402:

American University. *Area Handbook for Finland*. 1974.

US Department of Commerce. "Finland." *Foreign Economic Trends and Their Implications for the United States*. International Marketing Information Series: Published annually.

trade agreements with Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, and the German Democratic Republic; a 15-year economic cooperation agreement with the



Soviet Union, last extended in 1980; and a cooperation agreement with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Finland also emphasizes cooperation with the other Scandinavian countries and has been a member of the Nordic Council since 1955. Under the council's auspices, the Nordic countries have created a common labor market and have abolished immigration controls among themselves. The council also serves to coordinate social and cultural policies of the participating countries and has promoted increased cooperation in many fields.

In recent years, Finland has emphasized its participation in international organizations. In proportion to its population, Finland is well represented in the UN civil service. Finnish troops have participated in UN peacekeeping activities since 1956 and Finns now serve with UN forces in the Middle East and with the UN good offices mission in Afghanistan.

Finland has hosted major international meetings such as the first and final stages of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The summit-level CSCE meeting in July and August 1975 brought 35 heads of state from Europe and North America to Helsinki for a conference unique in diplomatic history. Finland also hosted a 10th anniversary CSCE commemorative meeting in the summer of 1985 and will host the next CSCE review meeting in 1992.

US-FINNISH RELATIONS

Relations between Finland and the United States are cordial. It has been longstanding US policy to support Finnish neutrality while maintaining and reinforcing Finland's historic, cultural,

Travel Notes

Climate and clothing: Helsinki's winter climate is similar to Boston's; summer temperatures rarely exceed +24 °C (75 °F). Northern and parts of interior southern Finland sometimes experience Arctic conditions in mid-winter. Buildings are well-heated. Bring warm outdoor clothing during late autumn, winter, and early spring. Sweaters and raincoats are recommended for other seasons.

Health: Public health standards are similar to those in the United States. Tapwater is potable. Medical facilities are good.

Telecommunications: Telephone and telegraph services are efficient and available to most parts of Finland and the world. Helsinki is seven time zones ahead of eastern standard time.

Transportation: Bus and taxi service is available in most cities as well as tram and subway service in Helsinki. At least one US carrier provides US-Finland flights 5 days a week. Finnair flies to New York daily and offers flights to Los Angeles several days a week. Flights to many European cities depart Helsinki daily. Finland's domestic air network is one of the best in Europe. The country also has efficient rail and long-distance bus service. Roads are well maintained; nearly all major highways, and most important secondary roads are paved.

Tourist attractions: With many islands and lakes, evergreen forests, and granite outcroppings, Finland's countryside is striking. Many tourists enjoy cruises on stately historic steamers that travel on Finland's biggest lake, Saimaa. Lapland, with its flora and reindeer, also is popular.

and economic ties with the West. Economic and trade relations between Finland and the United States are active. President Reagan proclaimed 1988 the Year of US-Finnish Friendship.

The US educational exchange program in Finland, comparatively large for a West European country of Finland's size, is financed in part from a trust fund established in 1976 from Finland's final repayment of a US loan made in the aftermath of World War I.

Principal US Officials

Ambassador—John Giffen Weinmann
Deputy Chief of Mission—Max N.

Robinson

Public Affairs Officer—William P. Kiehl
Chief, Political Section—William Kushlis
Chief, Administrative Section—William J.

Burke, Jr.

Defense and Air Attache—William A.J.

Mackie

Chief, Economic Section—Lawrence E.

Butler

Commercial Attache—Richard Newquist
Consul—Robert O. Tatge

The US Embassy in Finland is at Itäinen Puistotie 14 B, Helsinki 14 (tel. 171931). The public affairs section is located at Kaivokatu 10 A, Helsinki 10 (tel. 176599). ■

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United States Department of State

1992

POST REPORT

Finland



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Preface

The Finnish character—as a nation and a people—has been forged by the severity of life in this northern corner of Europe, the challenge of being between contending powers, and the influence of lakes and forests that separate the country into small communities, even as they serve to inspire a national culture.

Finnish pride focuses on Finnish independence and the modern, industrialized democratic Finnish state, which accommodates a generous social welfare system and vigorous individualism. To Finns, being close to nature is an everyday occurrence: the freedom of the forests is guaranteed by law, and there they pick berries, gather wild mushrooms, and fish, hunt, ski, and swim. Americans are quick to take advantage of the outdoor activities in Finland.

After Reykjavik, Helsinki is the most northerly capital in the world. Seasonal changes in Finland are dramatic, and the country is noted for its thousands of lakes, great forests, and rocky islands. Short winter days contrast with the summer “white nights.” In addition to its wealth of unspoiled scenery, Finland offers medieval churches, ancient culture, and modern, progressive cities. Finland also offers the intellectual challenge of learning its language.

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Revised February 1992

The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

Finland, the sixth largest country in Europe, occupies an area of 338,312 square kilometers—about twice the size of the United Kingdom. Its coastline, excluding indentations, is 1,100 kilometers long. Finland is bordered on the east and south-east by the U.S.S.R., on the west by Sweden and the Gulf of Bothnia, on the north by Norway, and on the south by the Gulf of Finland. Most of the country is low but not necessarily flat. Because the soil, mainly moraine deposits from ice age glaciers, is very thin, the topography reflects the contours of the archaic bedrock. Elevations greater than 650 meters are found along the northwestern frontier with Norway and in the extreme northern region of Lapland. Most of Finland's 60,000 lakes, comprising 10% of the total area, lie in the southern half of the country and provide important waterways and logfloating routes. An extensive and imposing archipelago, reaching from the Russian border on the south westward to the Åland Islands and there northward, provides an important fishing and vacation area known for its magnitude and grandeur.

Another impressive physical feature and natural resource of Finland is its forest, covering about 65% of the land area (the highest percentage in Europe). The forests of Finland are mainly coniferous; a limited area in the south and southwest contains hardwood deciduous trees. In Lapland, the spruce and pines disappear and dwarf birch usually forms the timber line.

Virtually all of Finland lies between latitudes 60°N and 70°N, but the Gulf Stream and the prevalence of warm westerly winds make the climate several degrees warmer than elsewhere at the same latitude. Summers are short and mild, and the days are long. In June and July only a 2–3 hour period of twilight separates sunset from sunrise. In the extreme north the sun does not set for 73 days during the mid-

summer period. Precipitation, averaging 23–25 inches annually, is distributed over all seasons. Winters are long and cold. Snow is possible from October through April, with January through March having the heaviest accumulations. Temperatures may vary from north to south, as does the snow coverage from one winter to the next.

Because of Helsinki's location on the Gulf of Finland, the humidity there is high. The city's average temperature is +5°C. February and July mean temperatures are -5°C and +17°C, respectively. Average temperatures in Lapland are -12°C in January and +17°C in July.

Population

Finland's population of over 5 million includes some 3,000 Lapps. Since World War II, a rapid industrialization, the growth of service industries, and expanded educational opportunities have fostered a movement of people from rural areas to urban centers, but in recent years this decline/growth cycle has stabilized.

Finland has two official languages—Finnish and Swedish. Under the constitution, the government must meet equally the cultural and economic requirements of both language groups. Finnish is spoken by 94% of the population and Swedish by 6%. Finland also has a small Lapp-speaking minority.

The local school curriculum, especially at the secondary level, emphasizes foreign language study. The most widely spoken foreign languages are English and German. English-speaking visitors to Finland will generally have little difficulty communicating in Helsinki.

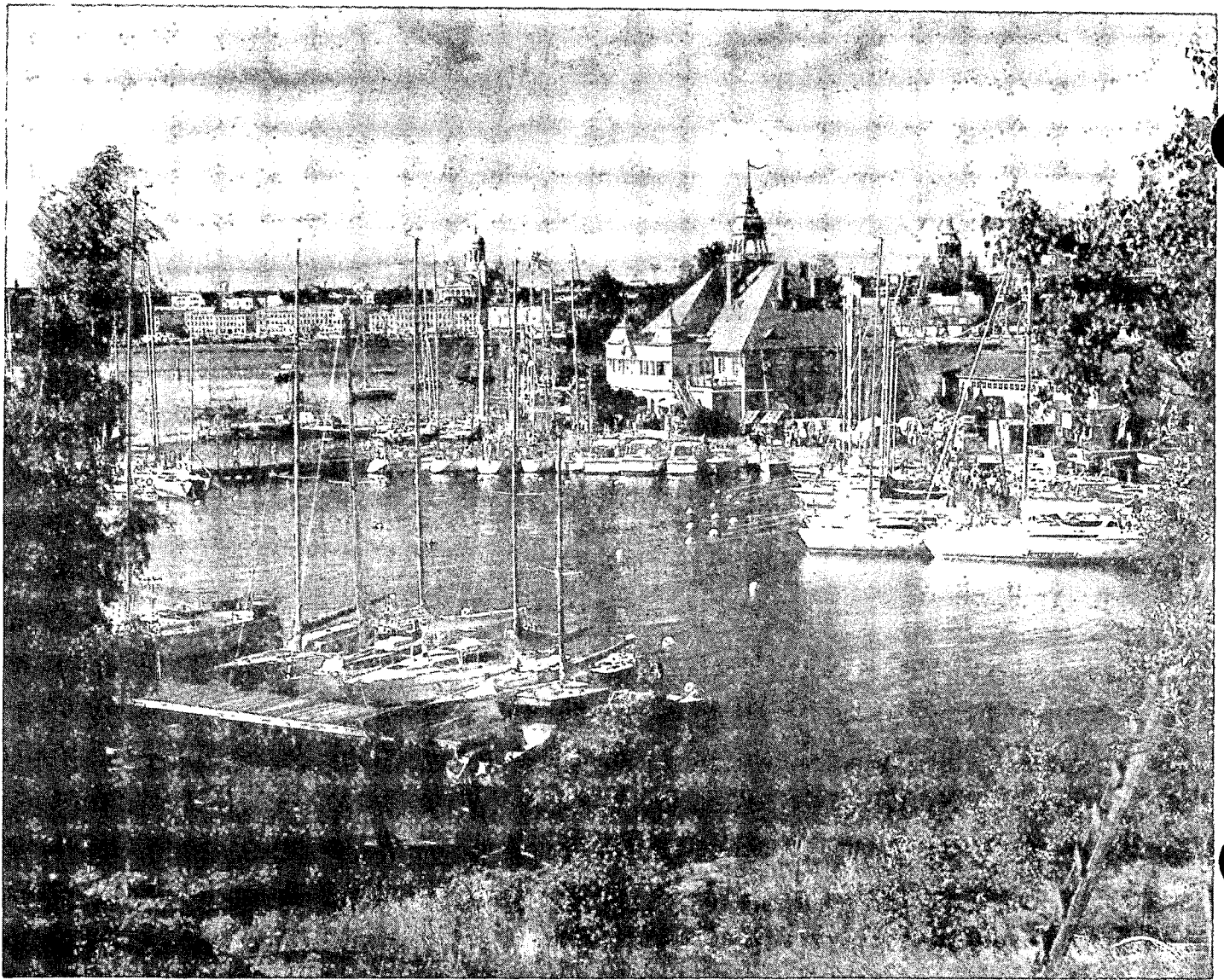
Public Institutions

King Eric of Sweden introduced Christianity to Finland in 1155. For 300 years the Catholic Church was influential, but during the Reformation the Protestant religion became predominant. Today, some 90.5% of the population belong to the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church, the state

church. The Finnish Orthodox congregation, with 1.2% of the population, is also a state church, but it owes allegiance to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. Finland has complete freedom of worship, and several smaller church organizations have congregations totaling about 8.3% of the population. Bishops of the eight dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church are appointed by the President of the Republic on the basis of elections held in each diocese. The bishop of the Diocese of Turku is the Archbishop of the Church of Finland.

Historically, Finland was controlled for long periods of time by Sweden and Russia. From its first conquests in the 12th century until the surrender of Finland to Russia in 1809, Sweden ruled. Then, Finland became an autonomous Grand Duchy of Russia but kept its old constitution, government, laws, and administration. A growing sentiment on the part of the Russians to absorb Finland, paralleled at the same time by an increasing awareness on the part of the Finns of their distinct character and spirit, led finally to the creation of an independent Finland in 1917 amidst the chaos of the Russian Revolution. The immediate result of this proclamation of independence was a 3-month civil war between the "Reds" and the eventually victorious "Whites." A new constitution was proclaimed in 1919.

During World War II, Finland twice fought the Soviet Union: in the Winter War of 1939–40, and again in the Continuation War of 1941–44. Finland suffered heavy casualties and lost 11% of its territory to the Soviet Union. Over 400,000 Finns had to be resettled. The Treaty of Peace between Finland and the U.S.S.R., signed in Paris on February 10, 1947, provided for the cession to the Soviet Union of the Petsamo area on the Arctic coast and the Karelian Isthmus in southeastern Finland. Another provision leased the Porkkala area near Helsinki to the U.S.S.R. for use as a naval base and for free access to this area across Finnish territory. In late 1955



View of the Helsinki Sailing Club, with the Neo-Classical Center in the background.

Soviets returned the Porkkala area to Finland. The treaty also provided that Finland pay the U.S.S.R. reparations in goods valued at an estimated \$570 million (completed in 1952). Finland's defense forces were limited by the Peace Treaty to 41,900 troops (army 34,400; navy 4,500; air force 3,000). However, in 1990 Finland stated that it no longer felt bound by these limits.

In April 1948 Finland and the U.S.S.R. signed an Agreement of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, by which Finland was obligated to resist armed attacks by Germany or its allies against Finland or against the U.S.S.R. through Finland, with, if necessary, the aid of the Soviet Union. At the same time, the agreement recognizes, in its preamble, the Finn-

ish desire to remain outside great power conflicts. This agreement was extended for 20 years in 1955, 1970, and again in 1983.

In the U.N., which it joined in 1955, Finland favors membership for all nations, usually takes no stand on major East-West issues, stresses neutrality as a policy of active participation in international life, and channels the bulk of its foreign assistance to developing countries through various U.N. agencies. Finland supports and actively participates in the U.N.'s peace-keeping activities.

Finland's official policy of neutrality and nonalignment has led to the establishment of relations with other countries regardless of their political systems. Finland worked for the convening of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in July 1973, involving the

U.S.S.R., countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Canada, and the U.S. This conference culminated in a summit meeting of 35 heads of state and the signing of the Final Act—often called the Helsinki Accords—on August 1, 1975. The 10th Anniversary of the CSCE meeting was held July 30–August 1, 1985 and was attended at the Foreign Minister level. Finland has also supported the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, which began in Helsinki in 1969. The next CSCE Review Conference is scheduled to be held in Helsinki starting March 1992. In the Nordic Council, an interparliamentary organ of cooperation among Nordic nations, Finland works closely with its Scandinavian neighbors on matters of intra-Nordic concern.

Today Finland is a Western-oriented

republic. Under the constitution of 1919, the President, elected for a term of 6 years, has powers stronger than those of his counterparts in most European countries, although not as great as those of the President of the U.S. The President has full power over foreign affairs, is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, and can dissolve Parliament.

The Cabinet includes the Prime Minister and the ministers and associate ministers in charge of the 13 government departments. The Parliament (Eduskunta) is unicameral and consists of 200 members directly elected every 4 years through proportional representation. Suffrage is equal and universal; all citizens over age 18 have the right to vote. Finland was the first country in Europe to grant full political rights to women (1906), well before the U.S.

Finnish policies on most basic domestic and foreign issues have been consistent, notwithstanding a relatively rapid turnover of cabinets since World War II and periods when no government commanded a parliamentary majority.

Nine political parties are represented in Parliament. Most Finnish governments are coalitions of several parties, although at times it has been necessary to form cabinets composed of nonparty technical experts. The average life of Finnish cabinets has been 12 months. By contrast, Finland has had only three presidents since 1946. Recently, however, the duration of cabinets has lengthened considerably.

Justice is administered by independent courts. The public courts of justice try both civil and criminal cases. In rural areas, courts of the first instance are known as circuit courts, the judicial authority resting in a legally trained judge and a jury of 5-12 lay members. Cities have municipal courts, each presided over by a legally trained magistrate and two counselors. Other courts are the Courts of Appeal and the highest judicial authority, the Supreme Court, to which appeals may be made against the judgments of the Courts of Appeal.

Judicial procedure differs from that in Anglo-Saxon countries. Finnish law is codified and does not provide for habeas corpus or bail. Formal charges must be brought within the first 7 days of detention on suspicion, and in practice charges are usually brought within 3-4 days. Courts of first instance must hear a case within 30

days of arrest. Civil rights are deeply entrenched and strictly observed by the police and courts.

Arts, Science, and Education

Much of the richness of Finnish culture derives from the folk element. A wealth of songs, costumes, traditions, and buildings has been carefully preserved over the years. Finnish literature in its oldest form comprises epic poems and tales passed from generation to generation by word of mouth. Since the first half of the 19th century, a determined effort has been made to preserve the Finnish national culture through creation of a Finnish-language literature. Many of the resulting literary masterpieces, both in poetry and prose, reflect a historical context and regional spirit.

Finnish architecture is justly famous, from the earliest achievements seen in medieval castles, through the elaborate wooden buildings of the 18th century, to the innovative and functional design prevalent today. Alvar Aalto (1898-1976), the modern Finnish architect, influenced urban and regional planning, interior decoration, and industrial art.

In the fields of music, painting, and sculpture are found many fine examples of Finnish genius. Glass (e.g., Iittala, Nuutajarvi, Humppila), porcelain (Arabia), textiles (Marimekko, Vuokko, and Pentik), jewelry (Lapponia and Kalevala Koru), and furniture (Alvar Aalto and Ilmari Tapiovaara) are some of the many items that bear the unique stamp of Finnish handiwork and design. Hvittrask, now a museum and restaurant, served as home and studio to Finnish architects Eliel Saarinen, Armas Lindgren, and Herman Gesellius.

Finland, with virtually no illiteracy, has an advanced educational system that is free and includes all textbooks and a broad medical care program. In addition, pupils receive a hot lunch daily. Special schools have been established in the larger cities for children who are handicapped or have learning disabilities. Four basic levels comprise the school system: preschool education, compulsory education (the 9-year comprehensive school), upper secondary education, and the universities and similar institutions.

Finland has a strong state-subsidized adult education program, with classes held at community schools or workers' insti-

tutes. This program supplements and/or completes the basic education and provides for advanced vocational training or cultural and intellectual pursuits.

The Finnish higher education system has undergone a major expansion since 1958, the national government now being the major financing source for this new state-supported system. The largest university is the University of Helsinki, which recently celebrated its 350th anniversary. It has spearheaded the country's intellectual life since the 17th century. The Helsinki University of Technology, located at Otaniemi in Espoo, is another well-known school of higher education. Finland has 20 university-level institutions and 3 art schools. The facilities in Helsinki, Turku, Tampere, Oulu, and Jyväskylä are the largest.

Commerce and Industry

Finland has become a modern industrialized nation. The standard of living is at the same high level as the other Scandinavian countries, with Finland ranking in the top 10 nations in personal income. Finland's economic development has taken place in the face of many obstacles. At the time of independence from Russia in 1917, Finland's economy was that of an undeveloped, remote Russian province; about 20 years after independence, Finland was thrust into a series of three destructive wars—two against the U.S.S.R. and one against Germany. Wartime damage was heavy, and peace terms imposed on Finland included large reparation payments to the Soviet Union.

Today, Finland is an essentially private economy. Most businesses are privately owned; however, some larger industrial enterprises are government owned in areas such as steel and mining. Railroads are state owned, and the Finnair airline is majority state owned. The telephone system is split between government and privately owned companies. Oil refining has been a government monopoly, but retail gas stations are both state and privately owned; sales of high alcohol-content beverages are all channeled through government-owned stores.

Overall, Finland's economic situation is impressive. Over the past half-decade, Finland has led Europe in terms of

economic growth. Inflation has been at higher than prevailing European levels but has recently been brought under better control. Still, for a variety of reasons,

over the years, been declining, but farmers are still encouraged by government support to maintain national self-sufficiency in basic food production, the quality of which is very high. The service industries are enjoying a healthy growth in fields such as banking, insurance, and engineering/design services.

Foreign trade is very important; Finland must import all of its oil, as well as some metals, chemicals, and food products. Machinery imports are high but are balanced by a high number of machinery exports. Forestry products such as paper are a primary export, as are ships, furs, clothing, and glassware. The U.S., the U.S.S.R., Sweden, West Germany, and Britain are the primary sources of product imports. In 1990, 10% of Finland's trade was with the Soviet Union. Finland, as a participant in international economic organizations, supports free trade policies and is a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Although Finland is not a member of the European Economic Community, the impact of

firms in the U.S., including four banks in New York City.

Finland is also active in the field of foreign aid to less-developed countries, the primary recipients of which are in Africa and Asia. Support for foreign aid is high among Finnish citizens.

Transportation

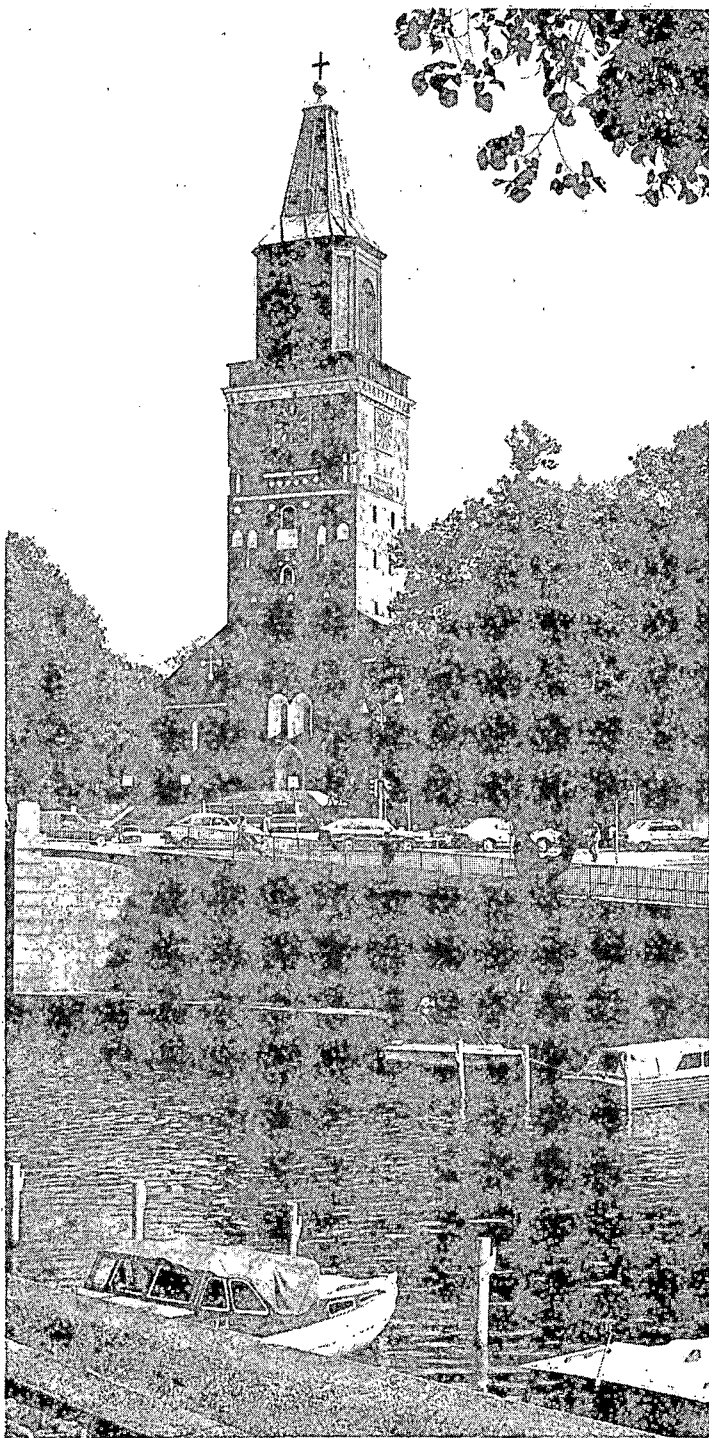
Automobiles

All staff members may import at least one car duty free. The Foreign Office, upon request, may authorize importation of a second vehicle duty free based on demonstrated need. A car imported duty free may be sold without taxes after it has been in the country for 3 years. The Foreign Office reserves the right to refuse permission to sell any additional vehicles before leaving Finland. Your car should be shipped to arrive as soon as possible, as the date your car is registered determines the 3-year eligibility date for duty-free sale. Most cars purchased new at the time of arrival and sold after 3 years sell for about the original purchase price.

Duty-free cars may also be purchased upon arrival in Finland. Prior to registration, which must be done within 30 days of the car's arrival, a car must pass inspection and be insured. Inspection costs about FIM 110, and an appointment can be arranged through the General Services Office. Cars must meet Finnish safety standards; cars with U.S. specifications normally require changes in the lighting system, headlight-cleaning equipment, rear-window defogger, and rust-proofing. Costs average about \$1,000. Catalytic converters should not be removed, as they are required in Finland.

Third-party liability insurance is mandatory and must be purchased locally. The General Services Office can arrange for coverage, which is unlimited for personal injury and limited to FIM 1,800,000 for property damage. The basic cost of coverage is about \$750 per year. A statement from your former insurance company(s) as to the total number of years of accident-free driving will substantially reduce your premium. Bring it with you, if possible.

Drivers licenses and automobile registration plates are issued by the Foreign Office. A valid drivers license from the

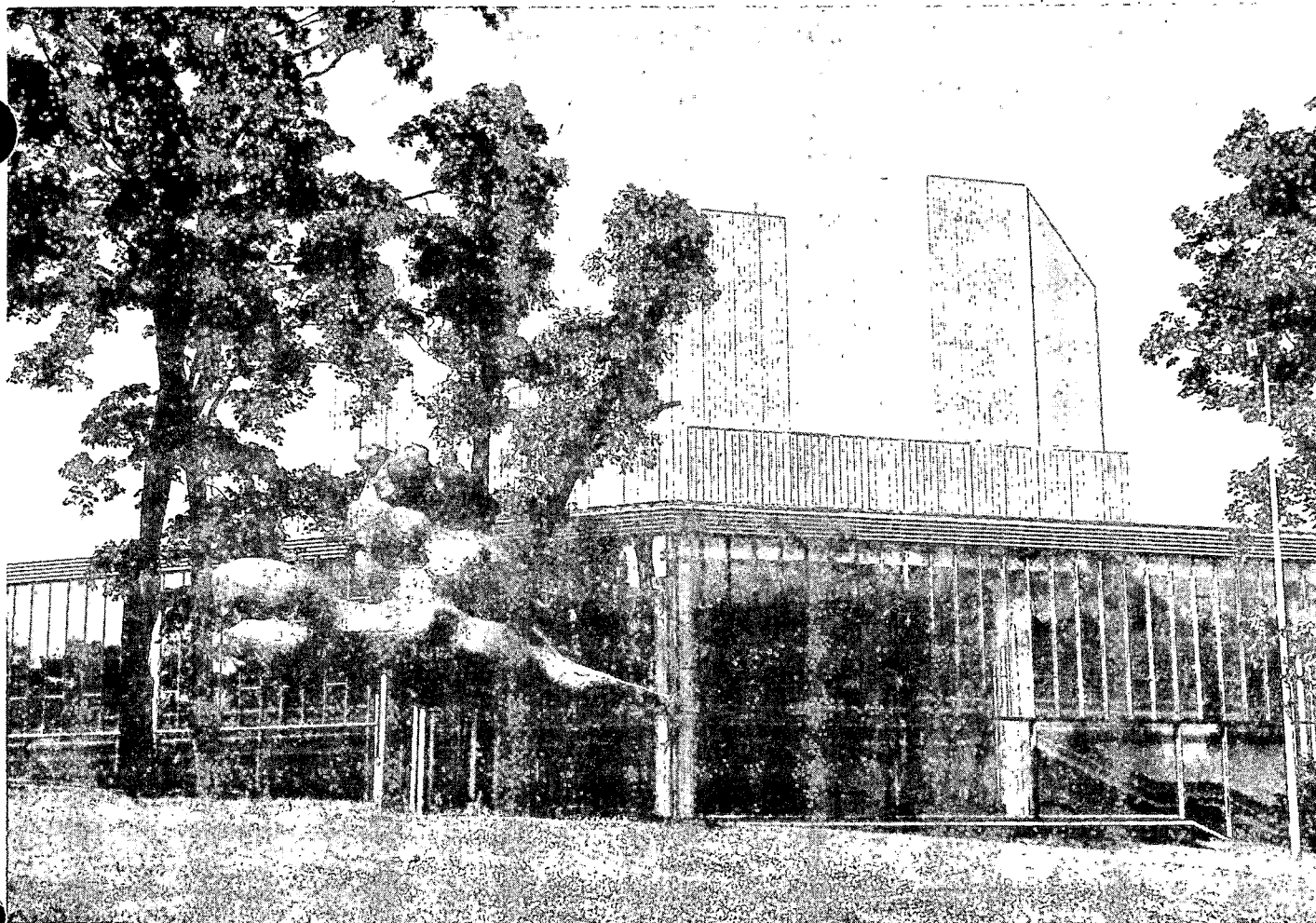


Turku Cathedral, overlooking the Aura River in Turku.

prices are very high by American standards.

Finland's main economic force is in manufacturing—often for export. Forest industries are still strong. Agriculture has,

the 1992 Single Market and the European Economic Area negotiations will be felt strongly here. Investment abroad is increasing as well, with nearly 200 Finnish-owned



Helsinki's City Theatre, with "Thalia and Pegasus" in the foreground.

U.S. or a third country needs to be presented along with your application. An international drivers license is not acceptable. The drivers license is valid until the age of 70; persons over 45 years of age must have a health certificate, issued by a Finnish doctor, to qualify for a license. Two identical passport photos are also needed. Vehicle license plates cost FM 120.

The operation of a motor vehicle is strictly forbidden after the consumption of alcohol; the law is explicit and the penalties severe.

Local

Helsinki offers excellent bus and tram service. Taxis, readily available at taxi stands throughout the city, are obtained by placing a call to the taxi stand closest to your location. Certain suburban areas are served by commuter trains, and a subway line is

open to suburbs in the east, with plans for further expansion of this network to other areas.

Regional

The Finnish State Railways operate on 9,000 km of track, with links to Sweden and the U.S.S.R. Public roads and highways are well maintained but not as efficient at transporting traffic as expected for a modern industrial nation, so travel time is frequently longer than might be anticipated. Finnair, the majority state-owned airline, has regular service throughout Finland and Scandinavia; to major European capitals; and to Montreal, New York, Seattle, and Los Angeles, among cities on other continents.

Most freight and much of the passenger traffic is by sea; harbors are kept open year round, with regularly scheduled fer-

ries to Sweden, Germany, Poland, and the U.S.S.R.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

The government operates the domestic telegraph and most of the country's telephone services. The Embassy will assist new arrivals in obtaining telephones; the employee is assessed a standard monthly charge, as well as an additional charge for each local call. Direct dialing is available to many foreign locations, including the U.S. Direct dial through AT&T is available in Finland.

Mail and Pouch

Personnel at post use both APO and international mail facilities. APO mail is dispatched and received by air. Under normal

conditions, letters can take 5–10 working days, and packages 1–4 weeks. APO mail costs the same as current domestic U.S. rates. Parcels are limited to a maximum of 70 pounds and 108 inches in length and girth. The APO address is:

Name
American Embassy—Helsinki
APO New York 09664–5000

International airmail takes about 5 days from Helsinki to New York, but postage rates are more expensive. Official pouch facilities cannot be used for personal mail.

In order to avoid problems receiving mail at post, please notify the Embassy APO of your expected date of arrival in Helsinki.

Radio and TV

Finland has two television broadcasting companies: state-owned Yleisradio Oy, which broadcasts on Channels One and Two, and commercial television MTV (Mainos Televisio) on Channel Three. Channel Four carries an amalgam of Swedish-language programs from Swedish TV by special arrangement.

Cable television is available in many areas of Helsinki and throughout Finland but requires an initial hook-up charge and a monthly fee. Cable carries CNN, BBC 1 and 2, Estonian- and Russian-language television, as well as sports, children's, and entertainment channels.

Foreign programs shown on Finnish television, including American, British, Canadian, and Australian, are broadcast in the original English and subtitled in either Finnish or Swedish. Since Finnish TV uses the PAL standard, it is advisable to obtain television sets and VCRs with the proper technical standards in Finland. Multi-system TVs and VCRs are recommended for use with local systems and U.S.-produced video tapes. These machines are available at PXs in Europe and by mail through AAFES.

A fair selection of musical programs, mostly popular, are available throughout the day on Finnish AM and FM radio, but bring audio equipment and an assortment of compact discs and/or tapes for your personal enjoyment; VOA and BBC transmissions can be received on shortwave and mediumwave radio.

Newspapers, Magazines, and Technical Journals

The first Finnish newspaper was printed in 1771. Today over 300 regular newspapers are published in Finland. The largest circulation newspaper is the politically independent *Helsingin Sanomat* (470,137 daily circulation and 557,087 on Sunday). It is also the largest circulation morning newspaper in Scandinavia. The daily *Hufvudstadsbladet* (circulation 66,680) is the nation's leading Swedish-language paper. Nearly 1,100 periodicals are published in Finland annually. There is no English-language paper published in Finland.

Time, *Newsweek*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *U.S.A. Today*, and the *International Herald Tribune* are sold locally. Other English-language newspapers and books can be obtained at the main train station, in lobbies of larger hotels, and at the two main bookstores. All imported and foreign-language publications are more expensive than in the country of origin, but magazine subscriptions and book club selections can be received through the APO.

The USIS library has a good selection of books as well as U.S. magazines and current events publications and periodicals.

The British Council Library also has a good selection of English-language books, as do many of the local Finnish libraries.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

The level of public health in Helsinki is comparable to that of any city in Western Europe or the United States. There are no special precautions for dining and water and food preparation recommended beyond normal caution and habits of good hygiene. The level of medical care available is also comparable to that of a European or American city of similar size.

Finnish medical standards are high. Physicians are educated at the University of Helsinki, and many have studied or done research abroad. Many physicians speak English, as do other medical professionals.

Hospitals are modern and well equipped and the treatment is good. Optometrists and ophthalmologists are available, and opticians fill most prescriptions promptly. Professional dental care is readily available, including orthodontic treatment.

Most medicines are available locally. They might not, however, be the same

compositions or brand names prescribed by U.S. physicians. Bring a supply of the medicine you will need until you have time to consult a doctor to determine the proper Finnish equivalent.

The Embassy has a Medical Unit that consists of a contract nurse as well as an Embassy medical adviser from one of the local hospitals. The regional medical officer is headquartered in Moscow and makes periodic visits to Helsinki for consultations on any medical problems.

Community Health

The general level of community sanitation is high. Public cleanliness and controls are good and adequate to prevent serious outbreaks of disease. Helsinki water is dependable but not fluoridated; fluoride tablets are available for children. The sanitation standards and safety of locally purchased goods are comparable to those in the U.S. Sewage and garbage disposal are excellent.

Helsinki's long, cold winters may aggravate conditions such as neuralgia, asthma, rheumatism, and sinus disorders.

Preventive Measures

At least 2 months prior to departure for Finland, ascertain what current inoculations and vaccinations are required. Since there are long periods without adequate sunshine, multiple vitamins for the whole family are recommended.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

There are occasional employment opportunities at the Embassy for spouses and dependents. At present, several PIT positions are filled by spouses: CLO coordinator, Embassy nurse, secretary to the administrative counselor, and APO clerk. The American Embassy Employees' Association (AEEA) employs a General Manager, a Club Manager, a Store Manager, and a bookkeeper. Also, occasional contract work is available for spouses. Some, for example, have also been trained to operate the switchboard in the absence of the regular operator. The CLO also tries to find work for teenage dependents during the summer vacation period.

Finding employment locally is difficult, and opportunities are limited, but it has been done. Several spouses have been

able to teach English at various local firms, business schools, and even at the University of Helsinki. In addition, some qualified teachers have found employment as full-time or substitute teachers with the International School. If you would like to teach at the school, it is recommended that you apply prior to arrival.

Once a spouse or dependent receives a written offer of employment, the Embassy Administrative Section will assist in obtaining a work permit from the Foreign Ministry, which is usually granted. All dependents working locally are required to

pay Finnish taxes on income earned and to give up diplomatic privileges and immunities while actually "on the job."

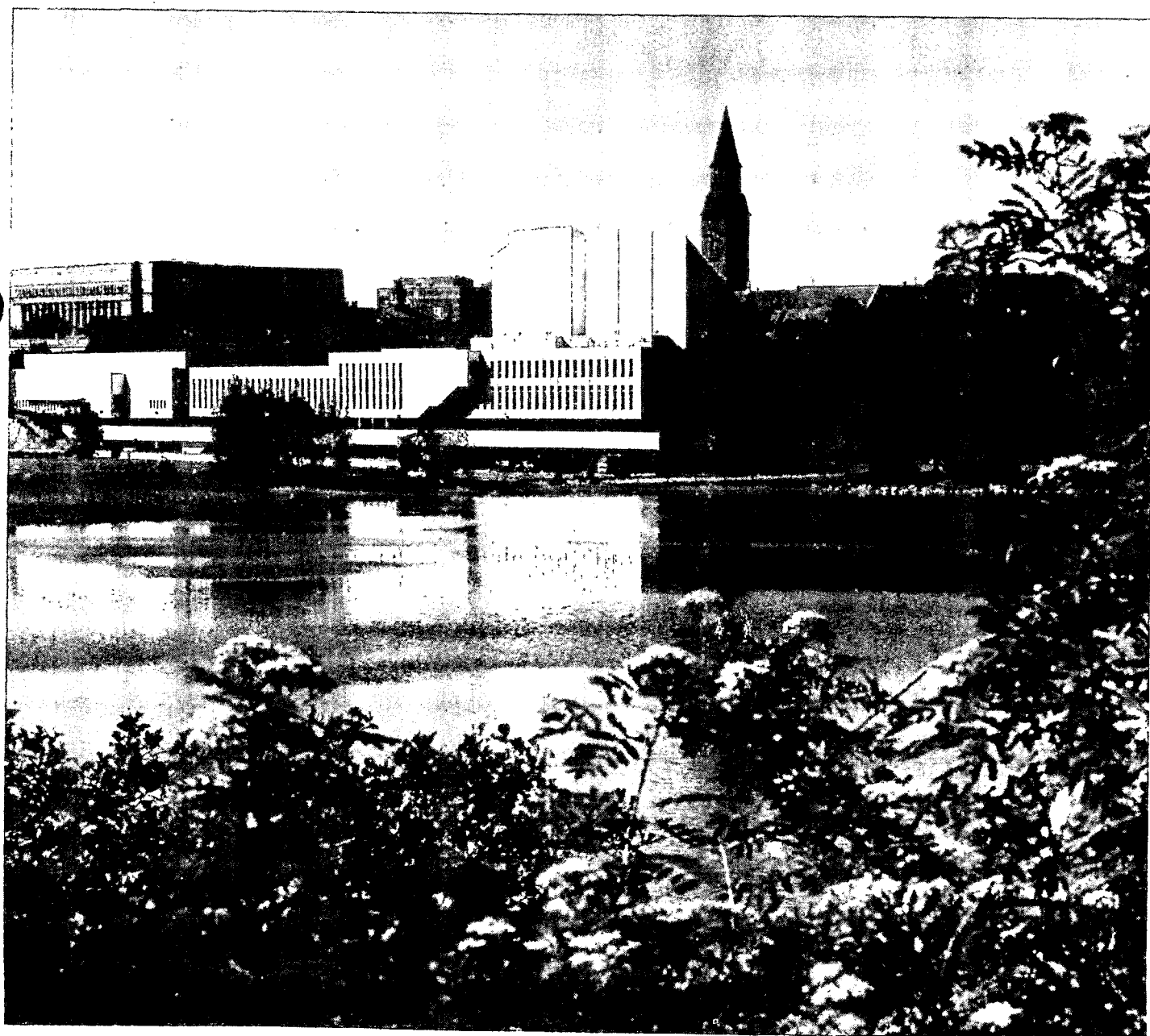
Community Liaison Office

The Community Liaison Office was reestablished in the fall of 1988 with the appointment of a part-time CLO coordinator. The CLO serves all American U.S. Government employees at the Mission and is responsible for developing many different programs; assisting new arrivals; distributing information and maintaining files on U.S. and Finnish educational opportunities; guiding employees and dependents departing post; and maintaining a "skills bank" for dependents seeking employment. The CLO also serves as an important link

between the Embassy and the Finnish community.

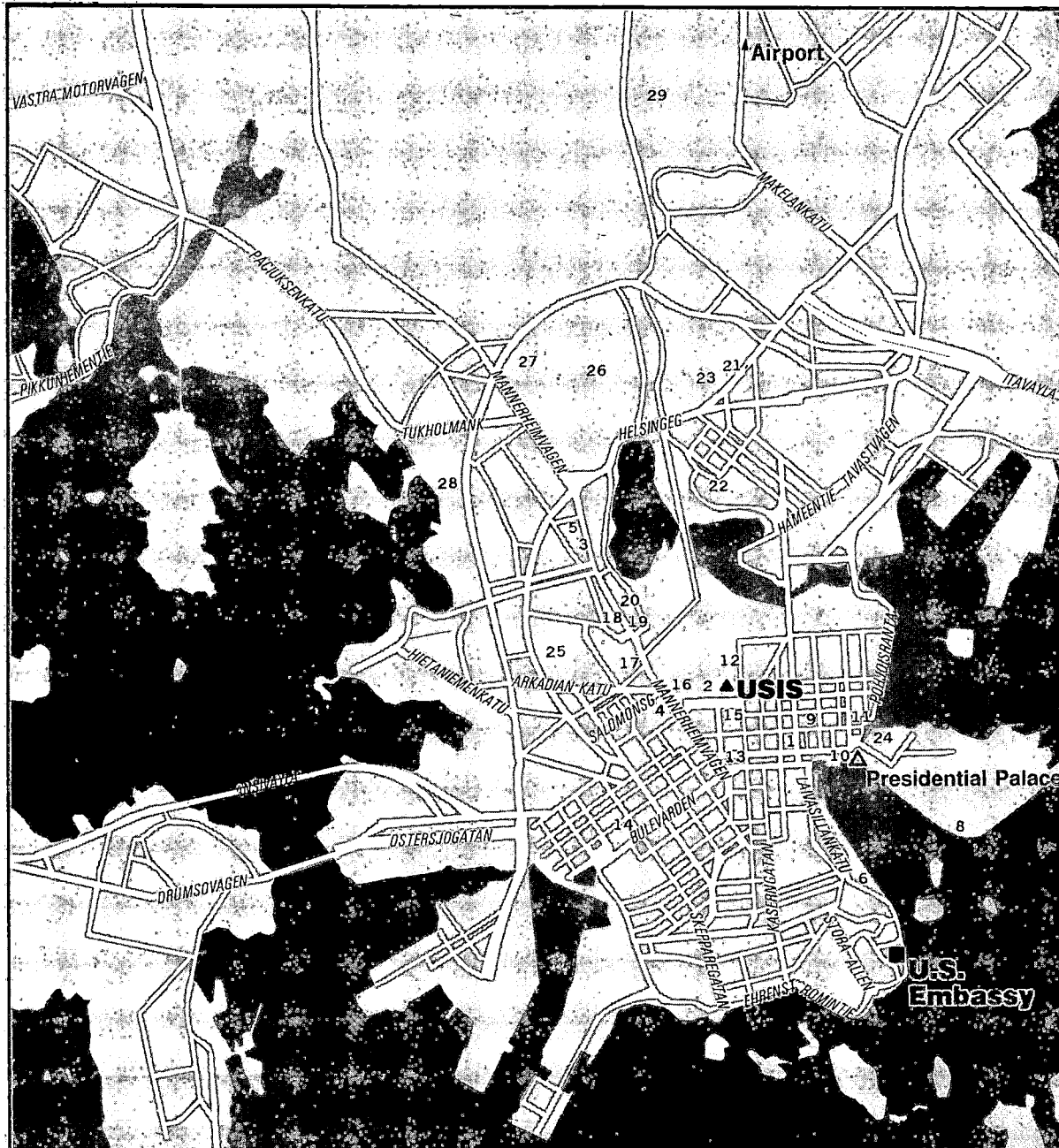
The CLO Office houses a small but growing library of U.S. catalogues, Scandinavian, Russian, and Finnish travel information, and information about Helsinki and the environs. The CLO resource library also contains a growing collection of boarding school, summer school, and college information.

The CLO coordinator is selected by the Embassy's "Dependent Employment Committee" from among the applicants for a 1-year period; the appointment may be extended for a second year if the committee agrees.



Alvar Aalto's Finlandia Hall in central Helsinki.

HELSINKI



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. City Tourist Office | 11. Pohjoisranta (Ferry to Korkeasaari) | 22. City Theatre |
| 2. Railway Station | 12. Finnish National Theatre | 23. Linnanmaki Amusement Park, |
| 3. Helsinki Congress Bureau | 13. Swedish Theatre | Peacock Theatre |
| 4. Bus Station | 14. Finnish National Opera | 24. Uspensky Cathedral |
| 5. Air Terminal | 15. Art Museum of the Ateneum | 25. Temppeliaukio Church |
| 6. Olympic Harbour | 16. Main Post Office | 26. Olympic Stadium, Swinning Stadium |
| 7. Passenger Harbour K5 | 17. Parliament House | 27. Ice Rink |
| 8. Katajanokka Harbour | 18. National Museum | 28. Sibelius Monument |
| 9. Senate Square, Cathedral | 19. City Museum | 29. Helsinki International Fair Center |
| 10. Market Square (Ferry to Suomenlinna) | 20. Finlandia Hall | |
| | 21. House of Culture | |

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American Embassy

Helsinki

Helsinki, capital and principal city, is a Baltic port on Finland's southern coast. It is a modern city, yet it has areas that give a genuine and comprehensive picture of the atmosphere and architecture of the past.

Helsinki was founded in 1550 by Swedish King Gustav Vasa. Great fires destroyed the old wooden Helsinki many times, but it was always rebuilt. The massive walls of the Suomenlinna Island fortress date from the 18th century. Helsinki became Finland's capital in 1812. Many of the city's historically interesting sights date from the beginning of the 19th century, when the administrative center was built around Senate Square. The cathedral, the university, and the Government Palace, for example, are among the finest architectural achievements of Helsinki. It has been said of the Helsinki of the Empire period that it was the last European city designed as an entity and created as a work of art. The historic Senate Square is one of the most remarkable achievements of neoclassicism at its height.

Helsinki today has a modern look, with some buildings designed by internationally known contemporary Finnish architects Eliel Saarinen and Alvar Aalto. In planning new areas and developing old ones, the aim has been to make the city a balanced whole with several regional centers, each with its own schools, sport fields, libraries, and shopping centers. The idea is to combine the advantages of urban living with those of rural life. Half a million people reside in the city, which is the administrative, cultural, commercial, and industrial center of Finland. Including suburbs, the population of Greater Helsinki is over 800,000.

Helsinki has many points of interest: One of the most popular is the harbor area and the Market Square, where the Havis Amanda fountain symbolizes Helsinki rising out of the waves. Other attractions include: the Olympic Stadium (site of the

1952 summer games), the Sibelius monument, the "Church in the Rock," Finlandia Hall, the City Museum, the National Museum, and Seurasaari and Suomenlinna Islands.

The Post and Its Administration

The Embassy residence, Chancery, and Chancery annex occupy a large tract at Itainen Puistotie 14, overlooking the entrance to Helsinki's south harbor. The residence and Chancery are in a Georgian red-brick building designed by an American architect and completed in 1940. A four-story converted apartment building at Itainen Puistotie 14B, acquired in 1947 and subsequently renovated, houses the Administrative, Commercial, and Consular Sections; the Defense Attache Offices (DAO); the Community Liaison Office, Medical Unit, Embassy Club, gameroom, and large sauna; Marine Detachment Commander's Office, and the mailroom/APO offices.

USIS offices are in the center of the city on the fourth floor of an office building at Kaivokatu 10A. This building, across the street from Helsinki's central railway station, is about 2.5 kilometers from the Embassy. The Embassy unit established to support U.S. posts in the former Soviet Union consists of two separate facilities for secure and nonsecure logistical support.

The Embassy switchboard is open during working hours; the number is 171-931. The after-hours emergency number is 605-414 or 171-337. USIS offices may be reached through the Embassy switchboard, or directly during working hours by dialing 175-138 (PAO). USIS fax number is 656-846.

The Embassy is open to the public 5 days a week, excluding American and local holidays, between 8:30 am and 5 pm. Duty personnel are assigned on a weekly basis starting Fridays at 8:30 am and are on call during the entire week.

Upon arrival new personnel are met by members of their section and/or their sponsors. The latter are designated by the Embassy and will provide basic information and answer initial questions about life in Helsinki. Write to the administrative officer as soon as your assignment is firm, giving family size, special requirements, if any, and travel plans so that suitable arrangements can be made.

State and USIA employees are paid biweekly for salary and allowances in U.S. Treasury checks prepared by the Consolidated American Payroll Processing System (CAPPS), Washington, D.C.. A pay lag of about 4 weeks may occur while leave and pay records are transferred from the former post to the Regional Finance Center in Paris.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

New arrivals stay either in a hotel or in one of the Embassy's two transient apartments. The latter are furnished with basic necessities and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. New arrivals should advise the Embassy of their travel plans as far in advance as possible in order to secure adequate accommodations.

Permanent Housing

The Ambassador's residence is an attractive three-story, red-brick, Georgian colonial-style building, one wing of which is the main Chancery. The main floor has a dining room that seats 16 comfortably, living room, paneled library (with 60 feet of shelving), powder room, and two lavatories, as well as a large kitchen and pantry complex. The second floor has a master bedroom with dressing room and bath, two other bedrooms with bath, and a small sitting room with bath. The third floor has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a sitting room, and a sauna with an adjoining after-sauna area. The house also has a large garden.

The house is tastefully furnished and fully supplied to meet all representational requirements. An Ambassador normally brings personal items such as decorative china, pictures (Art in Embassies program may be useful in decorating), vases, and art objects.

The DCM's home is located on the Baltic Sea in the Helsinki suburb of Westend, about 11 kilometers from the Chancery. The house is basically on one level. The dining and living rooms are separated by glass shelving, and when combined offer a representational area of about 44 X 18 feet. Also included are a study with fireplace, a built-in desk and bookshelves, master and spare bedrooms with bath, and an additional bedroom. The remainder of the house consists of a large kitchen, pantry and breakfast room, a sewing room, and a cold-storage room. A fully equipped laundry and additional storage rooms are in the basement. The house is fully furnished, but the DCM should bring pictures and personal decorative objects.

A small guesthouse situated alongside the main building consists of a bedroom, bath, and a sitting room and is ideal for a live-in couple. A two-car garage also houses a freezer and second refrigerator. A sauna house is on the shoreline of the large grounds.

All Embassy staff members (State, DAO, USIS, FCS) occupy government-leased or -owned quarters. Many of these homes are fully furnished. Newly assigned personnel should contact the post regarding the furnishing of their assigned quarters.

Dwellings are normally described by the number of square meters (1 square meter equals about 10 square feet). Typical dwellings average from 140-180 square meters for a family with two or more children, depending on availability and representational responsibility. Helsinki itself is an apartment-living community, but some detached homes and rowhouses are available in the suburbs. Newly assigned personnel should advise the Embassy as soon as possible of any special housing requirements that need to be considered by the Post Housing Board. The Embassy tries to locate suitable housing for new personnel prior to their arrival at post, but because of the tight housing market and the difficulty of locating rental properties exceeding 200 meters, families with more than five members should anticipate a 3-6-month stay in transient quarters or a hotel.

Furnishings

An Embassy Welcome Kit is available for use by newly arriving personnel until their airfreight shipments arrive. The Welcome Kit includes bed linens, towels, dinnerware, cooking utensils and kitchen appliances, and miscellaneous tools. Airfreight should contain these same basic items to allow maximum use of Embassy kits, especially during the heavy summer personnel turnover.

Note: Since Finnish living space is smaller than in the U.S., contact the Embassy's General Services Office to determine room dimensions and whether any personal furniture items that you might decide to bring will fit into your assigned quarters. The Embassy does not have a warehouse or other storage space available for the personal use of Embassy personnel.

Utilities and Equipment

Finnish homes and apartments are well heated. Electricity is 220v, 50-cycle, AC. Therefore, any 110v appliances, radios, etc., require stepdown transformers that you should bring with you, since transformers are very expensive in Finland. Refrigerator/freezers and stoves are generally provided in rented apartments but are small by American standards. A supplemental refrigerator and freezer are available to Embassy personnel if needed. European washers, dryers, and dishwashers are normally provided by the landlord or the Embassy. It is often impossible to provide or install some American appliances due to space or electrical restrictions. An electric roaster oven is a useful appliance to have, as Finnish ovens are small and often do not have broiling facilities. It is also advisable to bring a good oven thermometer.

U.S. light fixtures can be used merely by changing the electrical plugs.

Food

Most food items and speciality items can be found in Helsinki. In addition to a plentiful supply of local fish, various cuts of beef, pork, lamb, reindeer, and local fowl are available. Eggs, milk, and milk products, especially the local yogurts and cheeses, are excellent. Because the selection of fresh fruit and vegetables is limited

for much of the year, many items are imported and are expensive. Many vegetables and especially berries, plentiful in summer, are frozen for year-round use. Wild mushrooms abound in late summer and fall, and mushroom-picking excursions are quite popular among Finns and foreigners who have studied the many species available. Baby formulas and baby foods are produced locally and are of very good quality. Generally, however, locally purchased food will be more expensive than in the U.S.

The Embassy Association consists of all American employees at the Embassy. At present, a refundable deposit of \$500 per family or \$250 per single employee is required for membership, entitling participants to use the Country Store. Orders are made from a comprehensive computer printout of products available. Billing for APO charges, Country Store purchases, personal food orders, and the video club is provided monthly.

Several times a year the Embassy Association places group orders for dry goods and frozen food caselots with a distributor in the U.S. Special cuts and quantities of frozen meats can also be ordered at that time. Prices are generally less than local prices, and the selection includes many U.S. products not usually available in Finland.

The small Country Store is located in the basement of the Chancery and is open 4 days a week for 4 hours each day. The store is stocked with high-demand items procured from the U.S., a limited assortment of frozen items, but no fresh produce. Although there is a slight markup on these items, they remain well below local costs.

A ship chandler in Helsinki provides foodstuffs, nonalcoholic beverages, cigarettes, cosmetics, etc., at prices cheaper than in the local market. The shipstore generally makes its pricelist of products available to Embassy personnel for large caselot orders. Orders can be placed by phone for delivery to the Embassy or picked up in person. A Finnish discount grocer also provides services to members of the Embassy staff. These stores are particularly useful when purchasing large quantities.

A variety of items may also be ordered through the free-port concerns Peter Justesen Co. and Ostermann Peterson Co. in Denmark. Catalogs are available in the Embassy's General Services Section and in the CLO coordinator's office.



Helsinki's open market.

Clothing

When preparing your wardrobe for Helsinki, remember that winters are long and cold, fall and spring are rainy and cool, and summers are short. Layered outfits are ideal for differences in seasonal temperatures as well as the changes from indoors to outdoors. All clothing items can be purchased locally, but prices are higher than in the U.S. Good sales occur locally during January and August, so it is best to shop at these times. Locally available winter outer garments and boots for men, women, and children are well made and ideally suited to the climate; they are generally worth the extra cost. Items can be purchased from the U.S. through mail order. If you are difficult to fit for shoes or clothes, bring extra items with you.

Men. Fall-weight suits can be worn throughout the year; winterweight suits from October through May. Tuxedos or dark suits are worn to the Marine Ball and other social functions during the year. You will need raingear, overcoats, overshoes, and boots. Fur hats, available locally, are popular and very warm. "Informal" on a dinner invitation usually means dark suit and tie.

Women. A useful wardrobe will include one formal dress or skirt; several short cocktail/dinner dresses; sports attire; casual dresses, skirts, and pants; and sweaters and blouses. Raingear and heavy winter coats are a must; beautiful fur coats and leather coats are available locally. Accessories depend on your needs and tastes.

Children. Warm, water-resistant winter snowsuits and boots are a must. Rubber overalls from local department stores are useful during periods of rain and thaw. It may be advisable to have a second set of outdoor clothes for the winter if your child

participates in winter sports. A fall-weight coat or jacket is necessary during spring and fall.

The DAO can provide specific uniform requirements upon request.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Bring a good supply of toiletries, cosmetics, and home medicines. Local and European brands are available, but the cost is high. Some toiletries are available at the Embassy Country Store, but quantity and variety are limited.

Basic Services

Laundry and drycleaning are expensive. Bring your own cleaning compounds for spot removals. Certain neighborhood drycleaners offer "kilo pesu" or drycleaning

of items with the charge based on weight. These items are not steam pressed, but the cost is less than cleaning the items individually.

Domestic Help

Household servants are difficult to find, but you can place an ad in the local paper for domestic help or inquire among your Embassy colleagues for recommendations and names. The CLO office has a file of maids who are looking for work. Some

Education

Dependent Education

At Post. The International School of Helsinki is operated as a private, nonprofit educational institution under a school board elected by the parents of the enrolled children. Many different nationalities are represented, both in the school and on the nine-member Board of Directors. Chil-

The International School occupies a section of a private Finnish school, so it is able to take advantage of its facilities; extracurricular activities are also offered after school. Bus and metro transportation are available; school and bus fees along with tuition are within the authorized allowances. Additional information can be obtained from the Office of Overseas schools or by writing directly to the Headmaster:



The Russian Orthodox Church in Hamina, with City Hall in the background.

cleaning women are available part time, and it is possible to hire extra help for dinners and receptions.

Religious Activities

Many religions are represented in Helsinki. Services in English are offered weekly by the Anglican Church at the Cathedral Chapel, Saalem Free Gospel Church, and the Temppeliaukio Lutheran Church; St. Henrik's Catholic Church offers English services two Sundays a month. Other places of worship include: Uspensky Russian Orthodox Cathedral; two churches of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Helsinki's Jewish Synagogue; and Islam House.

dren 5 through 16 years old (kindergarten through grade 10) are eligible for enrollment. Children who will be 5 during the first school term are usually accepted. Exceptions to this policy are decided at the discretion of the principal and the school board. The school is made up of 10 classes, with an average size of 14 students each, using a curriculum based on American and British standards, with a full-time staff consisting of American and British teachers. It also has a learning disabilities program and hopes to expand to include grades 11 and 12. The school is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and the European Council of International Schools.

International School of Helsinki
Stahlberginkuja 1
00570 Helsinki
Telephone: 684-8166

The English School, a Catholic-affiliated institution, is supported by the Finnish Government, since it is primarily intended for Finnish students who wish to learn and maintain English-language skills; religious studies are not part of the curriculum. About 450 students are enrolled, of whom some 10% are non-Finnish. Classes run from kindergarten through the grade 10. There is normally a waiting list, so you should contact the school as early as possible to ensure enrollment. Additional information can be obtained from the post admin-

istrative officer or by writing directly to the school principal:

The English School
Mantytie 14
00270 Helsinki

Private bus transportation is not available to this school, but all tuition, school fees, and the cost of public transportation are covered by the post educational allowance.

A small private French school, L'Ecole Francaise d'Helsinki, is run by the French Embassy. Schooling is assured for

all ages, including kindergarten, and follows the studies set down by the French Ministry of Education. The staff is composed of French teachers provided by the French Government or recruited locally. Enrollment of about 30 children of various nationalities is open to any French-speaking family. Again, private bus transportation is not provided, but tuition, fees, and the cost of public transportation are covered by the post educational allowance.

The German School, long established in Helsinki, offers kindergarten through

high school, leading to a choice of either a German or a Finnish high school diploma. The school has a reputation for giving its students a very good education. The teachers are German and Finnish; instruction is entirely in German. German-language books and materials are up to date and attractive. The school is a part of the Finnish school system with similar holidays, number of school days, and regulations. The staff welcomes children without fluency in German in the first few grades but generally discourages those who are at higher levels from entering due to the difficulty of catching up to classmates in the language.

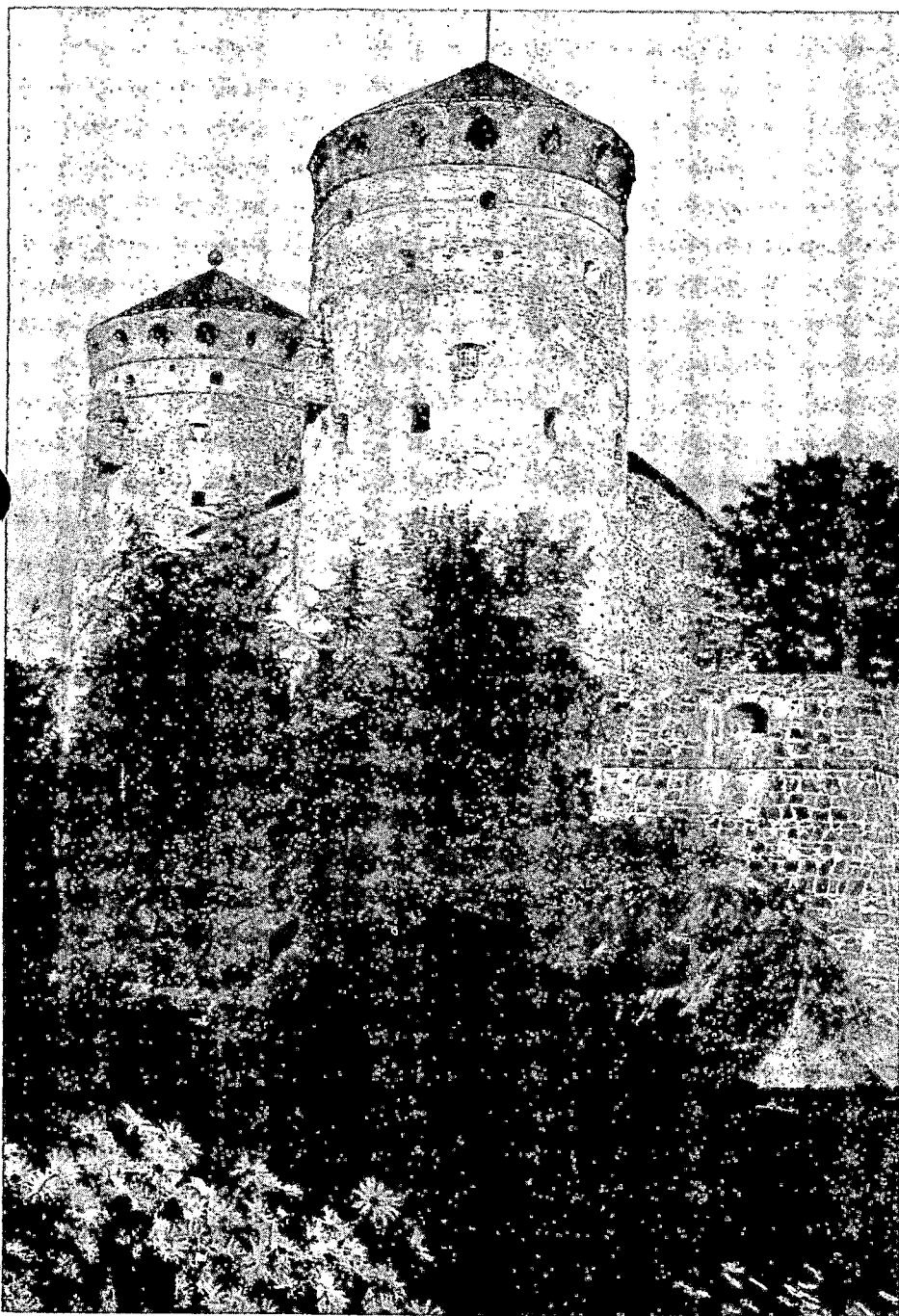
Finnish- and Swedish-language public schools accept foreign students. Beginning school age is 7. The post education allowance will normally cover expenses for a private tutor. Local kindergartens are also available. Parents can obtain more specific information on arrival or by writing to the administrative officer.

Away From Post. The Defense Department school serving Finland is London Central High School in High Wycombe, England, which is a pleasant suburb located about halfway between downtown London and Oxford. DOD dependents attend this school, which has an excellent athletic and social program; it is also the most similar to U.S. schooling, with full credits for high school graduation and college entrance.

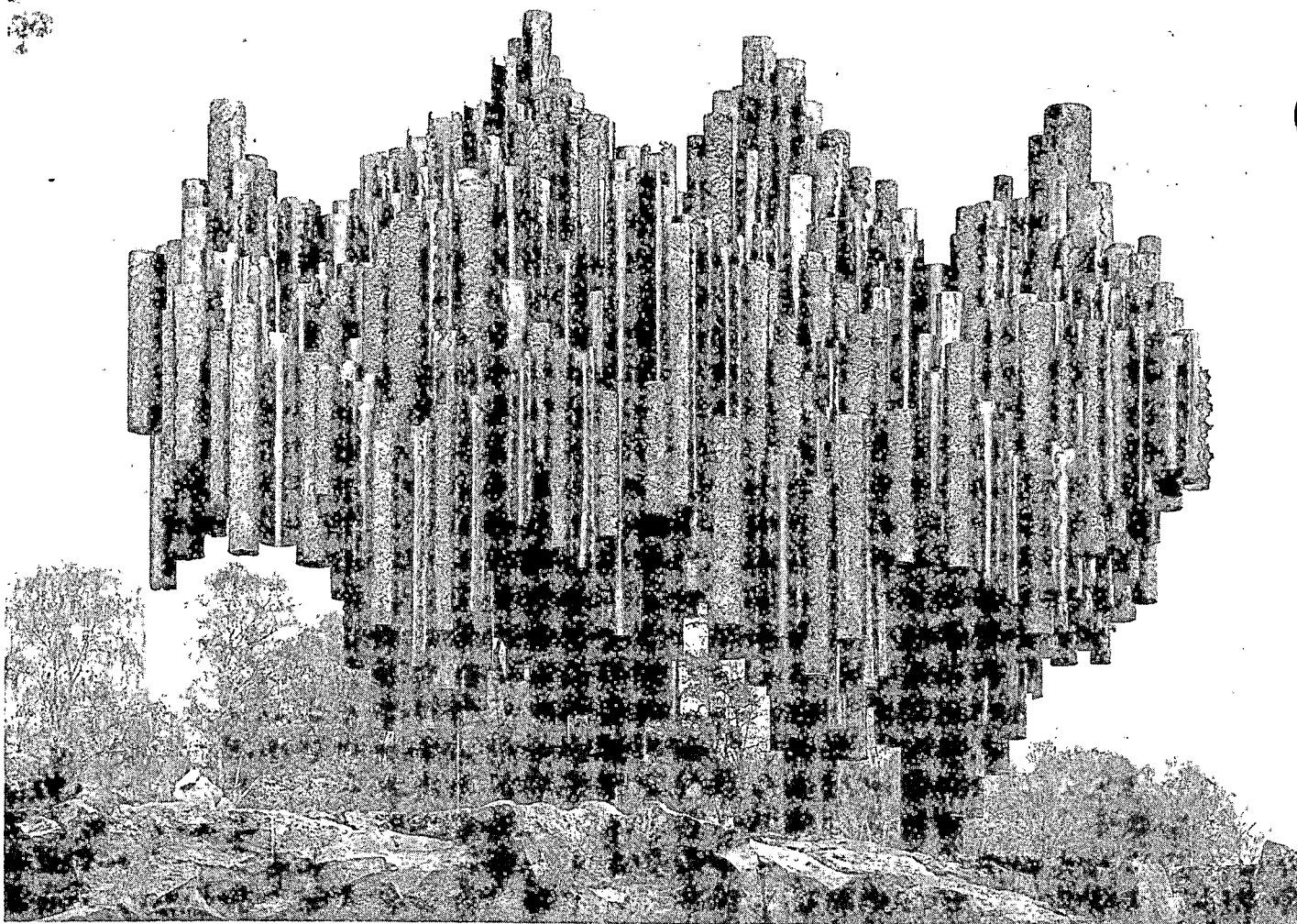
Under the post education allowance, State and USIS personnel may currently send their 9th- through 12th-grade dependents to private boarding schools in England, Switzerland, other European countries, or the U.S. Some boarding schools in the U.S. offer special tuition arrangements for dependents of Embassy personnel. The Overseas Briefing Center at F.S.I. has more information.

Special Educational Opportunities

In addition to the University of Helsinki, which is the largest university in the Nordic area, Helsinki has a technical university and two schools of economics and business administration; all are very good. Although courses in the English department are taught in English, instruction in the other departments is in Finnish or Swedish, making it difficult for most students to carry a full academic course load.



The Savonlinna Castle in eastern Finland, where the annual Opera Festival is held.



Sibelius monument, Helsinki

The University of Helsinki offers excellent language courses in Finnish and Swedish for foreigners, charging only a nominal FIM 10 materials cost fee. Courses are taught at all levels of proficiency, during the day and after working hours, providing an excellent opportunity to learn Finnish and meet other foreigners.

Special educational opportunities in Finnish schools are available for children with learning disabilities and the physically handicapped, but all instruction is either in Finnish or Swedish. Families coming to post with physically handicapped children should write to the Headmaster of the International School, or to the post administrative officer, to ascertain what facilities are available in each case.

Any employee or dependent wishing to learn Finnish may join the excellent Finnish-language daytime courses offered year round at the University of Helsinki.

Post Orientation Program

Recently, the CLO coordinator, along with section chiefs, has developed a new post orientation program for Embassy newcomers. In view of the post's small size, the orientation program is offered only during periods of high personnel turnover. A sponsorship program has been established, and all new arrivals are assisted in finding their way around Helsinki, placing commissary orders, and are briefed regarding life at post and security practices. Chiefs of sections assume responsibility for orienting employees to U.S. policy objectives.

Recreation and Social Life

The sauna is a national institution in Finland. Finns normally take a sauna once a week, and it is a custom that most Americans learn to enjoy. Saunas are particularly

enjoyable after physical exercise, especially cross-country skiing, and as a means of socializing. Mixed saunas are not customary.

The purpose of taking a sauna is to cleanse the body by undergoing great changes in temperature. After the heat of the sauna, you either shower or swim in a pool or lake, or plunge through a hole in the ice. After a sauna, a cold beer or soda is a necessary thirst quencher. Most Finnish apartment buildings have saunas, and their residents have regularly scheduled sauna periods each week. Almost all houses have saunas, some with pools. Summer houses, although quite modest, are usually on a lake or the sea, and all have saunas.

Sports

Finland first rose to prominence in sports at the 1912 Olympics, when it took first place in wrestling and second place in track and field. In succeeding years Finland has



Winter cross-country skiing in Finnish Lapland.



The Neo-Classic Center, where many movies have been filmed.

become famous for long-distance running, cross-country skiing, ski jumping, speed skating, and target shooting. Sports unique to Finland are bandy, a form of ice hockey, and pesapallo, a game resembling American baseball. Soccer, hockey, and basketball are popular spectator sports.

From the first of June until late August, daylight hours are long, and outdoor activities such as boating, sailing, sunbathing, swimming, hiking, picnicking, and motor trips may be enjoyed in the immediate vicinity of Helsinki.

Helsinki has four golf courses, two of which have 18 holes, and a few excellent outdoor clay tennis courts, as well as several indoor year-round tennis courts. Two of the golf clubs allow diplomats to play without paying a membership fee; tennis courts must usually be booked in advance and sometimes at inconvenient hours.

Squash is also popular; court time is booked on a half-hour basis. Cycling possibilities are excellent in the Helsinki suburbs, and hiking and jogging trails abound. Sail and motor boating begins in May and

extends into September. Swimming and sunbathing at Helsinki's numerous municipal beaches and outdoor pools are also a popular summertime leisure activity. Swimming is also possible year round at several indoor pools.

Winter sports include both cross-country and downhill skiing, skating, ice hockey, and ice fishing. Excellent trails for cross-country skiing are available in and around the city, many of which are lighted for evening use. Several smaller towns within a few hours' ride offer good weekend skiing, and spring skiing trips to Lapland are popular. Downhill skiing is increasingly popular, with several areas located near Helsinki. For the best conditions and hills, however, most skiers go further north and into Lapland, especially during the spring skiing season. The city has many good outdoor skating rinks and a few indoor rinks. Figure skating lessons are available for children.

Fishing is popular, especially salmon fishing in northern Finland, and ice fishing is quite popular throughout Finland during the long winter months. Moose, deer, hare, and bird hunting is possible, but on a limited basis.

Ten-pin bowling is popular in Finland. The Embassy has an active bowling league and dart league that compete weekly throughout the year. The Embassy also has a volleyball team and plays against volleyball teams from other Embassies during the September through May game season.

Sports clothing and equipment made and used in Finland are of excellent quality, but, with the exception of cross-country skiing equipment, it is more expensive than in the U.S.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Fine museums, parks, and playgrounds are located throughout the city. A zoo on an island just outside Helsinki harbor is open year round. Marvelous outdoor recreation

and touring opportunities are plentiful throughout Finland, particularly to Lapland and the lake district.

Lapland, land of the midnight sun, northern lights, and reindeer, is the northernmost province of Finland. The principal towns in Lapland—Kemi and Rovaniemi—are about 800 kilometers from Helsinki and are accessible by air (2 hours) and rail (9 hours) and, of course, by car. The overnight train, with space for cars, is a popular way to get to Rovaniemi, a transit point to the tourist and resort areas of Pallas-tunturi, Kilpisjärvi, and Inari farther north. You can also drive north and view the Norwegian fjords. Lapland is especially popular in early April, when days are longer and skiing excellent; in June, for midsummer's night to view the bonfires and other midsummer festivities; and in September, when the foliage changes color.

The lake district, comprising most of southeast and central Finland, provides excellent opportunities for scenic travel by car and steamship. A wood-burning steamer offers an unusually scenic 12-hour trip from

Savonlinna to Kuopio. The Olavinlinna Castle, in Savonlinna, dating back to 1475, is the site of the worldclass Savonlinna Opera Festival in July.

Day trips to Turku, Hanko, and Porvoo are popular. In Turku, 2½ hours west of Helsinki, the Turku Cathedral and Castle, both dating from the 13th century, and the summer open-air handicrafts museum are popular attractions. Hanko, a coastal city 2 hours west of Helsinki by car, is one of the best Finnish saltwater bathing resorts during July and August. En route to Hanko is Tammissaari, a charming seaside town with narrow lanes bordered by Empire-

style wooden houses. Porvoo, another idyllic old coastal town, is located east of Helsinki and can be reached by car in about 1 hour or, during the summer, by boat from Helsinki harbor. Porvoo was the home of the poet Runeberg and is the site of a charming, historic "Old Town" area, as well as a popular Doll Museum.

A tour in Helsinki provides excellent opportunities to travel to Sweden and the U.S.S.R. Two ferry lines have overnight

Entertainment

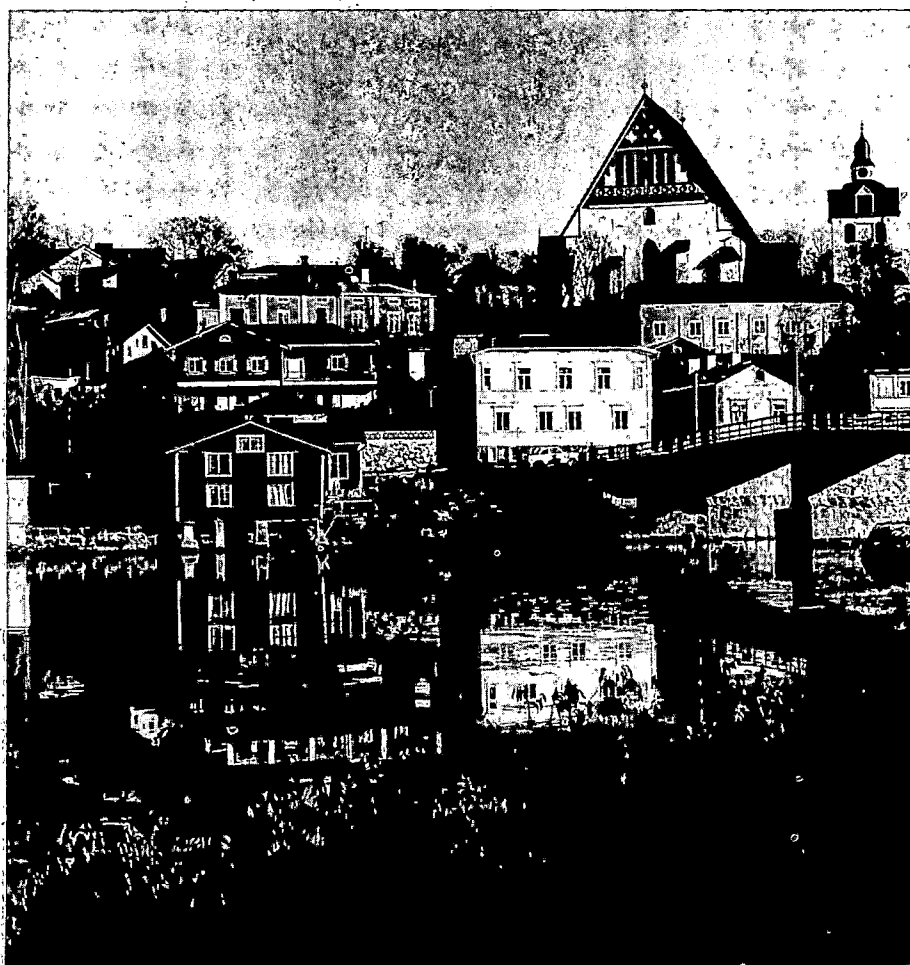
Since its designation as the nation's capital in 1812, Helsinki has developed into a cultural center. Many of Finland's most important museums are located here. The largest is the National Museum, with its extensive prehistoric, historic, and ethnographic collections. The largest art museum is the Art Museum of the Athenaeum, located across the street from the railroad station. It contains Finnish art from the

18th century to the present and foreign works of art. Occasionally large foreign exhibitions are shown there. The Art Collections of the City of Helsinki and the Amos Anderson Museum of Art are also noted museums, which often have exhibitions in addition to their regular collections.

Many good movie theaters in the city and suburbs offer the latest American, British, Italian, French, German, and other films in their original versions as well as locally produced films in Finnish. Strict regulations prevent children from attending movies featuring violence, whether accompanied by parents or not.

Helsinki has two permanent symphony orchestras—the Helsinki Philharmonic and the Radio

Symphony Orchestra—plus the National Opera with both opera and ballet companies, and the government-sponsored National Theatre. Concerts and recitals are performed in the renowned Finlandia Hall, the Taivallahti Church, the Sibelius Academy, and the House of Nobility, among others, making for a rich and varied musical life. Summer festivals throughout Finland feature noted Finnish and international artists and musicians; included are the Kuopio Dance and Music Festival, the Jyväskylä Arts Festival, the Kaustinen In-



Historical section of Porvoo, dominated by the Old Cathedral.

service between Stockholm and Helsinki; ships also travel to Tallinn, Travemünde, and Gdansk; and daily Finnair and Aeroflot flights, as well as trains, link Finland with Leningrad and Moscow. All excursions to the U.S.S.R. require a Soviet visa. Since accommodations must be booked before a visa is issued, have a travel agent in Helsinki make all arrangements. The Embassy can request visas by diplomatic note from the Soviet Embassy in Helsinki, but visa processing can take from 10 days to 2 weeks.

ternational Folk Music Festival, the Savonlinna Opera Festival, the Pori Jazz Festival, the Turku Music Festival, the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, the Lahti International Organ Festival, the Tampere Summer Theater, and the Helsinki Festival.

Social Activities

The American Embassy Employees Association is run by an appointed board. In addition to its official functions of maintaining the Country Store and Embassy Club, it also sponsors Christmas parties for Embassy children and employees and spouses, "Hail and Farewell" parties, and the annual July Fourth family picnic.

The American Women's Club, founded in 1969 by a group of Embassy wives and American women living in Finland, has expanded over the years to include Finnish women and women of other nationalities who have an interest in American life. The group meets on the second Thursday of every month from September through May. Monthly tours to points of interest are arranged, and a variety of interest groups are maintained. Members pay annual dues established by the club.

The Helsinki Chapter of Finnish-American Society is a cultural and social organization linked to the League of Finnish American Societies (LFAS), with some 70 chapters and 60,000 members throughout Finland. The Chapter sponsors many cultural and social activities throughout the year. A special Ladies' Club and a Men's Club meet monthly. All Americans may join for a nominal fee.

Other clubs include the Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce, the Club of '32, Consular Corps, Helsinki Diplomatic Association, Helsinki Spanish-Speaking Club, International Women's Club, Rotary, Lions, etc.

Official Functions

Social life in Helsinki, apart from official dinners and receptions, is basically what you make it. Cocktail parties, dinners, informal gatherings, coffees, and card parties can all be part of your social calendar. Embassy officers and their spouses might find the pace demanding for a good part of the year, but July and August often provide a respite from a busy schedule.



Finnish folkdancing.

Standards of Social Conduct

In Finland, both men and women shake hands upon meeting each other. Children also shake hands with adults and should not be excluded from the ceremony. Punctuality is a must. Guests are expected to arrive within 5 minutes of the stated arrival time for a dinner party.

When visiting a Finnish home, it is the custom to take flowers to the hostess or to send flowers preceding or following the visit. Flowers taken to the hostess are usually presented to the hostess unwrapped and in numbers of 3, 5, or 7. In lieu of flowers, other small gifts may also be presented.

At a dinner party it is customary for the host to make the welcoming speech as soon as the first course is served and all the wine glasses filled. No one touches his or her glass until the ritual has been performed. The honored guest makes a toast and thanks the host and hostess as soon as the dessert has been served.

Finns observe the name day as well as the birthday of close friends, relatives, and prominent people. The really important birthday celebrations are the 50th and 60th, which are recognized by extending best wishes personally, by phone or telegram, or by sending flowers. Names for the day are published in local newspapers.

A 15% service charge is included in all restaurant bills. There is no need to tip additionally. Bellhops, hat-checkers, and door attendants are given a minimum of FIM 3 for their services. A posted charge is usually paid to coatroom attendants in most public places such as restaurants or concert halls, theaters, and elsewhere.

Calling cards are necessary only for personnel on the diplomatic list. Bring at least 100 officer's cards and 100 "Mr. and Mrs." cards for personal and professional purposes. Printed calling cards and invitations are of good quality and can be easily obtained locally, but prices are high for such items, so you may wish to bring them from the U.S.

Notes for Travelers

Getting to the Post

Travelers should make sure their routings comply with the Fly America Act. American Airlines no longer has direct flights to Helsinki, but it does fly to New York and to Stockholm. Under current Fly America regulations (check to be sure) you may have the option of taking the ferry boat from Stockholm to Helsinki. It is a delightful way to arrive in Helsinki.

Use unaccompanied airfreight to ship a wardrobe of suitable clothing, bedding, towels, and kitchen equipment needed to set up housekeeping until the arrival of household effects.

Shipments by air average 3–4 weeks. Household effects arriving by sea from the U.S. take a minimum of 6–8 weeks in good weather. On occasion, ice conditions delay arrivals.

At least 12 photos ($1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$) of each adult family member are required on arrival. Do not ship them in airfreight.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

The Embassy's General Services Section clears unaccompanied baggage. Household and personal effects of officers on the diplomatic list are cleared without exception. Although effects of nondiplomatic personnel are legally subject to inspection, this right is not generally exercised by customs authorities. No special charges, quotas, restrictions, waivers, or exemptions are levied other than those cited above.

All personnel are granted free entry of personal and household effects; shipments may arrive duty free at any time during their tour for persons on the diplomatic list.

Parcel post packages sent through Finnish postal facilities are subject to customs clearance before release to the Embassy.

No restrictions are placed on the amount of currency, travelers checks, bank drafts, letters of credit, etc., that can be

imported into Finland. However, no more than FIM 5,000 may be exported from the country without a Bank of Finland license.

All Americans, except the Marine Security Guards, may import at least one automobile duty free.

Passage

A visa is not necessary for entry into Finland. Americans planning to remain in Finland more than 90 days must obtain a residence permit after arrival.

Diplomatic members desiring to bring domestic help from abroad may obtain a work permit for the domestic immediately after their arrival. With the exceptions of Scandinavian citizens, a nominal Finnmark fee (depending on nationality) is required to obtain a residence permit and work permit. The renewable work permit is valid for 1 year.

No regulations govern movement of travelers, personal baggage, or vehicles when arriving in Finland by car. A valid passport, U.S. or foreign auto registration certifying vehicle ownership, and an international "Green Card" (liability insurance) are the only travel documents required. For automobile safety modifications required under Finnish law, see Transportation.

Personnel traveling to Finland do not need a smallpox inoculation certificate.

Pets

Effective June 1988, the quarantine requirements applicable to all cats and dogs were removed. Instead, a veterinarian's certificate from the country of origin indicating that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days but not more than 365 days prior to entry must be presented. The document may be written in Finnish, Swedish, English, or German and should include the name and official position of the veterinarian who has issued the certificate, as well as the date and place of issuance.

The Embassy needs to know the exact time of arrival of the pet and whether it is arriving as airfreight or accompanied baggage. Pets should not arrive on weekends

or Finnish holidays. Personnel bringing pets should furnish information on the type and size before arrival and be able to produce the necessary health certificates upon arrival.

Firearms and Ammunition

Firearms and ammunition may be shipped, but not mailed, to post without an export license provided they are consigned to U.S. personnel for their personal use and are not for resale. Prior approval of the Chief of Mission is not necessary provided post is given advance notification.

Only the following nonautomatic sport and hunting firearms may be brought into Finland: pistols and revolvers, caliber not to exceed 9mm or .357, with a barrel length of 4" or more; and shotguns and rifles. No military or police-type firearms are permitted.

Local requirements for hunting licenses are handled by the police. The Embassy can assist you in obtaining both a license to carry a gun and a hunting license from the police department in the section that handles licensing. Fishing licenses, at a modest charge, are also required.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

The unit of Finnish currency, the "markka" or Finnmark (FIM), has a floating exchange rate. Bank notes are in denominations of 10, 50, 100, and 500 marks; coins are in denominations of 5, 10, 20, and 50 pennies and 1 and 5 marks. The Bank of Finland establishes the rate of exchange daily. As of February 1992, 4.30 markka = US\$1. Banks and international newspapers have current rates of exchange.

Personal dollar checking accounts in U.S. banks are useful to pay for goods bought outside Finland as well as to buy Finnmarks locally. Travelers checks may be purchased at local banks for dollars or

dollar instruments. A local Finnmark checking account can also be useful, although payment of local bills is accomplished easily through local banks and post offices. Dollars are not accepted by most vendors.

Finland uses the metric system.

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

Finnish currency regulations are reasonable, and clearance formalities upon arrival are not demanding. Personnel may bring Finnish marks, foreign currencies, and other means of payment, such as travelers checks, in an unlimited amount.

The Embassy Budget and Fiscal Office provides accommodation facilities for exchanging dollars and dollar instruments to Finnmarks, or employees may exchange dollars for Finnmarks at any authorized Finnish source such as banks, Stockmann's Department Store, hotels, or the like. These authorized sources will accept U.S. currency, foreign currencies, and travelers checks for Finnmarks, and some banks will accept the personal check of personnel accredited to the Embassy. The Budget and Fiscal Office has only a limited amount of U.S. currency, and its disbursement is restricted by regulations.

The importation, sale, or export of personal property, including cars of American employees, must be in accordance with the laws, regulations, and conventions of the host country. Personal property, including motor vehicles, brought to Finland by American employees must be for bona fide personal use or that of their dependents and not with intent of sale or transfer. Autos purchased for shipment to post should be unostentatious and modestly equipped.

At present, employees are not allowed to sell personal property, including motor vehicles, for profit; however, permission to do this is continuously under review and subject to change. Such profits would be subject to U.S. taxation under the provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

The sale of major items of personal property, including cars, to persons other

than those with duty-free import privileges requires Embassy notification. Such information must be submitted in writing to the administrative officer.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on Finland. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

Finnish History and Politics

Armstrong, Roy. *Finland's Relations with the Soviet Union 1944-84*. Macmillan: London, 1985.

Jakobson, Max. *Finland Survived: An Account of the Finnish-Soviet Winter War 1939-40*. Otava Publishing Co.: Helsinki, 1984. (This book was published earlier by Harvard University Press under the title *Diplomacy and the Winter War*.)

Jakobson, Max. *Finnish Neutrality*. Praeger: New York, 1969. An accounting of Finnish foreign policy following World War II.

Kling, Matti. *Sixty Years Independent Finland*. Otava: Helsinki, 1977. A concise outline of Finland's principal achievements.

Koivisto, Mauno. *Landmarks: Finland in the World*. Kirjayhtymä: Helsinki, 1985. Views of Finnish and international affairs by Finland's current president.

Nousiainen, Jaakko. *The Finnish Political System*. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, 1971.

Rakamem, Aini. *Of Finnish Ways*. Dillon: New York, 1981.

Ries, Tomas. *Cold Will: The Defence of Finland*. Brassey's Defence Publishers: London, 1988. A history of the Finnish defense forces from 1918-1987.

Salem, Erik. *The Nordic Council and Scandinavian Integration*. Praeger: New York, 1977.

Schwartz, Andrew J. *America and the Russo-Finnish War*. Public Affairs Press: Washington, D.C., 1960. An account of U.S.-Finnish relations through the Winter and Continuation Wars.

Upton, Anthony. *The Finnish Revolution*. University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis, 1981.

Wuorinen, John. *A History of Finland*. Columbia University Press: New York, 1985. Perhaps the best overall survey of Finnish history; written in English.

Finnish Culture and Society

Bradley, David. *Lion Among Roses*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston: New York, 1965. An account of the experiences of an American family during a 2-year stay in Finland.

Finland: An Introduction. Sylvie Nickels, ed., et al. A collection of articles on Finnish culture, politics, and economics. Last revised in 1977.

Kalevala. Francis Peabody Magnoun, Jr., trans. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, 1963. An excellent translation of Finland's epic poem.

Kolehmainen, John. *Epic of the North*. A study of the *Kalevala*.

Linna, Vaino. *The Unknown Soldier*.

Nicol, Gladys. *Finland*. Hastings: New York, 1975.

Smith, John Bolton. *The Golden Age of Finnish Art*. Otava Publishing Co.: Helsinki, 1975.

Local Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
Epiphany	Saturday between January 6 and 12
Good Friday	Friday before Easter
Easter Monday	Monday after Easter
May Day	May 1
Ascension Day	Saturday about 40 days after Easter
Whitsun Eve	Saturday before Whit Sunday
Midsummer's Eve	Friday preceding Midsummer's Day
Midsummer's Day	Saturday closest to June 25
All Saints Day	Saturday closest to November 1
Independence Day	December 6
Christmas Eve	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26