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**OA/ID Number:** 13728  
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RC Staff

(Smith/Blessey)  
June 22, 1989  
Draft Two  
EMBASSY

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF  
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY  
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1989

o Barbara and I are delighted to be in Hungary again, and to have the chance to meet you. Perhaps an old proverb says it best: "Once you've visited Hungary, you always return as a friend."

o From my own experience in China, I know that there is no more dedicated and loyal group of people than the men and women -- American and foreign -- who staff our Embassies.

o I also realize what a burden a Presidential visit can be. And I want you to know how much we appreciate the hard work and superb planning that have gone into our visit.

o Almost six years have passed since last we were in Hungary. And the professionalism and commitment of this Embassy is as evident now as then. Your dedication hasn't changed. But so much else in Hungary has.

o You have been living, and working, through some extraordinary times -- of economic liberalization, and political democratization. Of a closer merging of East and West. In a real sense, of history in the making -- a revival of the Hungarian nation that you know, and love.

native anecdotes

own experience

X

o In this sea of change, you've been an anchor. And I want to salute you for promoting American interests, and for keeping me and the Secretary of State informed.

o In coming months, more than ever, your efforts will be crucial -- crucial to on-going reforms, and to the strength of our bi-lateral relationship. ~~But most of all, we will need you to reaffirm those values which know no national boundaries: Liberty, human dignity, and democratic ideals.~~

o ~~As you do, you will~~ embody ~~again~~ the best and brightest of public service. And for that, our Nation, and Hungary, are doubly blessed. For, Mr. Ambassador, you have a magnificent staff. And their leader is both a professional and my friend.

o Two days ago, thousands of Hungarians jammed Kossuth Square here in Budapest. They were cheering not for me, but for America -- and freedom. To champion that cause is our challenge as Americans and as free men and women. With your help, we will not let them down.

o In closing, let me say again how we appreciate your support. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

*what's happening in Finland*

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Service**

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Kaivokatu 10 A  
00101 Helsinki

Telephone 176 599  
Telefax 656 846



TELEFAX MESSAGE

MESSAGE #: **590**  
DATE: Sept. 6, 1990

TO: WHITE HOUSE SPEECH OFFICE  
FAX #: 202 456-6218

ATTENTION: JENNEFER GROSSMAN

SUBJECT: EMBASSY GREETINGS **6270**

FROM: UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE  
HELSINKI, FINLAND  
FAX # 358-0-656 846 (Int'l)  
90-656 846 (Finland)

REPLY TO: WILLIAM P. KIEHL **W**

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1  
ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS PER YOUR REQUEST.

SENT BY: Xerox Telecopier 7021 : 6-9-90 : 14:16 :

1748814

358 0 656846;# 2

In addition to what we discussed by phone.

Suggested Talking Points for President Bush Meeting with Embassy Employees Saturday, September 8, 1990

- Second visit to Finland
- Here as Vice President in 1993
- Values friendship with President Mauno Koivisto; has kept in touch with him; followed Finland affairs closely
- Value the work you do here; both American and Finnish employees
- Can't thank you enough for putting this meeting together on such short notice
- I remember from when I headed our Mission in Beijing just how much work a presidential visit is. In those days the head of the Advance Team had to share my office as there was no other space.
- These are tough times for U.S. diplomats in many of our Middle East posts

- They are coming through their ordeal with the usual Foreign Service dedication and professionalism
- Your work in putting this meeting together on short notice is in that same tradition

GB

30-1

(212) 735-10737

(212) home 249-3798

Finland (212) 425-2524

Beate

Mr. B. & I had hoped to be there... Even though I know... I'd like to see you all... Main... We will... cover to take the... symbol

Bab

TALKING POINTS  
U.S. EMBASSY, PARIS, FRANCE  
MONDAY, JULY 17, 1989  
8:00 A.M.

-- I WANT TO THANK SECRETARY BAKER FOR THAT WARM INTRODUCTION AND -- ON HIS BEHALF, AND MINE AND BARBARA'S, AND ALL THOSE TRAVELING WITH US -- EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO AMBASSADOR CURLEY AND TO ALL OF YOU IN THE EMBASSY.

- 2 -

-- AND LET ME THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART BECAUSE I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT SURVIVING A VISIT FROM A PRESIDENT. WE HAD ONE IN BEIJING WHEN I SERVED AS AMBASSADOR. AND I WAS SURE GLAD TO SEE HIM GO. AND IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, WE SURVIVED TWO FROM HENRY KISSINGER. TRY THAT ONE ON FOR SIZE.

- 3 -

-- I ALSO HAVE SOME PARTICULAR THANKS, BEGINNING WITH THOSE THAT ARE TOO OFTEN MENTIONED LAST: THE U.S. MARINES, THE EMBASSY AND OECD STAFF, YOUR SPOUSES AND KIDS WHO PITCHED IN AND PUT UP WITH THE OVERTIME, AND THE FRENCH NATIONALS WHO HELP YOU WITH ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS.

- 4 -

-- I KNOW THAT YOU HERE IN PARIS ARE OLD HANDS AT THIS SORT OF THING. BUT THIS WAS A MUCH MORE COMPLICATED VISIT THAN USUAL -- INVOLVING AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT, A BILATERAL VISIT TO FRANCE, AND THE BICENTENNIAL FESTIVITIES. NEVERTHELESS, YOU PULLED IT OFF WITH CHARACTERISTIC STYLE. THANKS TO YOU, WE MUST BE THE ONLY AMERICAN TRAVELERS IN PARIS WHO LANDED HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

JACKS

- 5 -

-- TO MY COLLEAGUES HERE I OFFER MANY SPECIFIC THANKS. EACH AFTERNOON AS YOUR DAY IN PARIS WINDS DOWN, IT IS MORNING IN WASHINGTON AND MY DAILY BRIEFING IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. NO ONE VALUES YOUR SOUND REPORTING EFFORTS MORE THAN ME.

ME.  
↓  
THAN I!!

- 6 -

-- I ALSO APPRECIATE THE PARTICULAR BURDEN PLACED ON THIS EMBASSY'S RESOURCES BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO COME TO PARIS AND NEED YOUR HELP. YOU HAVE ALWAYS RESPONDED MAGNIFICENTLY, AND ONCE AGAIN PUT IN A STELLAR PERFORMANCE FOR THIS VISIT.

- 9 -

I HAVE RESPECT FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE. I HAVE RESPECT FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVING ABROAD. AND I HAVE RESPECT FOR THOSE IN THE OTHER AGENCIES THAT MAKE UP A GREAT EMBASSY LIKE THIS.

-- AND, BEFORE LEAVING, I WANT TO COMMEND AMBASSADOR CURLEY TO YOU. IN ADDITION TO A LONG CAREER IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE BUSINESS, HE HAS BEEN MY FRIEND FOR MANY YEARS.

- 10 -

JUDGING BY YOUR FIRST CLASS WORK THESE PAST FEW DAYS -- YOU DESERVE THE BEST -- AND I THINK YOU HAVE THE BEST. I KNOW YOU WILL MAKE HIM PROUD.

-- ONCE AGAIN, BARBARA AND I WISH TO THANK ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PARIS EMBASSY WHO MADE THIS VISIT SUCH A SUCCESS.

- 11 -

GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST EXPERIMENT IN FREEDOM  
AND DIVERSITY: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THANK  
YOU ALL.

# # #

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMERICAN COMMUNITY  
THE HAGUE, HOLLAND  
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1989

*Blessey*

O I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN HOLLAND AGAIN, AND TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEET YOU. YOUR GREETING MARKS ONE OF THE MANY WARM MEMORIES WE WILL TAKE BACK TO THE STATES.

- 2 -

*continued* ←  
O FIRST, LET ME SAY THAT I KNOW WHAT A BURDEN A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT CAN BE. BARBARA AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE WORK AND DEDICATION THAT HAVE GONE INTO OUR VISIT.

O SECOND, FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE IN CHINA, I KNOW THAT THERE IS NO MORE LOYAL AND TALENTED GROUP OF PEOPLE THAN THE MEN AND WOMEN -- AMERICAN AND FOREIGN - - WHO STAFF OUR EMBASSIES.

0 THAT IS ESPECIALLY TRUE HERE. FOR YOU DIRECTLY  
MANAGE OUR OLDEST UNINTERRUPTED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.  
ON AMERICA'S BEHALF, MY HEART-FELT THANKS.

0 I HAVE JUST COME FROM THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT,  
WHERE WE REVIEWED THE CHANGES AND CHALLENGES --  
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL -- WE FACE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

0 AS YOU KNOW, THE FACE OF EUROPE, AND THE WORLD,  
IS CHANGING. BUT SOME THINGS HAVE NOT. THINGS LIKE  
FUNDAMENTAL VIEWS ABOUT LIFE AND LIBERTY. AND  
CENTURIES-OLD TIES WHICH BIND US TO OUR EUROPEAN  
ALLIES, AND TO OUR DUTCH PARTNERS ESPECIALLY.

O WE SEE THESE TIES IN OUR COMMON DEFENSE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM. AND IN OUR BELIEF IN DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY EXIST IN JOINT VENTURES TO EXPLORE SPACE AND NEW TECHNOLOGY. AND IN THE COMMERCE WHICH TODAY MAKES HOLLAND AMERICA'S SECOND-LARGEST INVESTOR.

O IN THE FUTURE, WE WILL FACE OLD ISSUES OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE. AND NEW, TRANSATLANTIC PROBLEMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. WE MUST MAKE OURS A SAFER, PURER, MORE PROSPEROUS WORLD.

O FOR THAT, WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP AND YOUR COMMITMENT. IN CLOSING, THANK YOU AGAIN, GOOD LUCK, GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

# # # #

characterize Sweden and Finland, and the bizarre volcanic majesty of much of Iceland.

So, space and magnificent scenery are among the great (and free) trump cards of the region. To these you can add several natural phenomena which, in European terms, are unique to Scandinavia: long golden summer evenings stretching right into next day's dawn as you travel into the northern latitudes of the midnight sun; and, in winter, the rippling veils of the Northern Lights that weave magical curtains across the sky. The fall colors, too, have a special brilliance as you progress northwards, and spring, though relatively late, banishes the long winter with a welcome speed and vigor.

With so much unadulterated nature around, you won't find it too surprising that in large areas people—and all the paraphernalia that goes with them—can be rather thin on the ground. In fact, their numbers work out more or less in direct ratio to their latitude; from relatively (but only relatively) crowded little Denmark to the almost (but only almost) empty far north of Lapland up there beyond the Arctic Circle. Which brings us to another Scandinavian certainty, one that may at first sight seem somewhat paradoxical given the harsh climate: wherever there are people, there are good living conditions. These nordic folk learned long ago how to make themselves at home in conditions that range from the temperately comfortable to the downright inhospitable. The result is that, however remote a community may be, you can expect it to have all the amenities that the traveler of the 1980s is likely to need. They won't be lacking in finesse either. The Scandinavians like things to be not only practical, but aesthetic as well.

### Transports of Delight

As far as you, the visitor, is concerned, the combination of human and natural history has tailor-made these countries for three particular types of holiday. The first is touring. Though you won't find historical monuments and art treasures in such multiplicity as in some other parts of Europe, there is nevertheless an enormous amount to see: prehistoric and Viking burial grounds, runic stones, Viking ships, medieval wooden or stone churches, Hanseatic merchants' houses, Renaissance castles and manors, the occasional Gothic cathedral, the graciously neo-Classical 19th-century buildings of Stockholm and Helsinki, and a great deal of spectacular modern architecture, to name but some of the region's specialties.

With the exception of Denmark and the more urban areas of Norway, Sweden and Finland, however, the serious culture vulture may need to cover quite a lot of territory to get his fill, though most of it is, happily, very travel-worthy territory, well serviced by varied means of communication. Outside urban areas, roads are blessedly uncrowded, in addition to being well maintained—if occasionally bumpy—and, if you haven't a car, you can fall back on northern Europe's finest public transport systems—air, rail, bus, ferry, lake steamer, hydrofoil—often interlinked to meet the needs of widely differing terrain.

For those intent on seeing as much as possible, there are good transport bargains to be investigated. Some depend on your age—both ends of the age-scale benefit, but the minimums and maximums vary from country to country, as do the types of transport to which they apply. Others depend on the composition of your group—families with one child or more get



## AN INTRODUCTION TO SCANDINAVIA

*Variety within Harmony*

by  
SYLVIE NICKELS

Space—vast quantities of it—is one of the first qualities you're likely to associate with Scandinavia. Between them, the five Scandinavian nations cover an area of some 500,000 square miles, give or take a few (and that doesn't include the huge and largely autonomous Danish territory of Greenland). You could fit the U.K. five times into that, or Texas twice, and still have acreage to spare. What's more, all this is shared out among some 20 million souls—rather less than three Londons or New Yorks. So if plenty of elbow room makes you feel nervous, you had better keep away!

If you have any pre-conceived ideas that one Scandinavian country is much like another, you can also begin by forgetting these. Of course, they all share a broadly similar cultural background, have strong historical and economic ties, and enjoy many similarities in political and social structure. But that said, the individual components of the Scandinavian scene are just that—highly individual. The special qualities of each are no more comparable than are the tidy, well-husbanded landscapes and long sandy beaches of Denmark with the wild tawny fjords and fells of Norway; which in turn are quite different from the huge lake-and-forestscapes that so

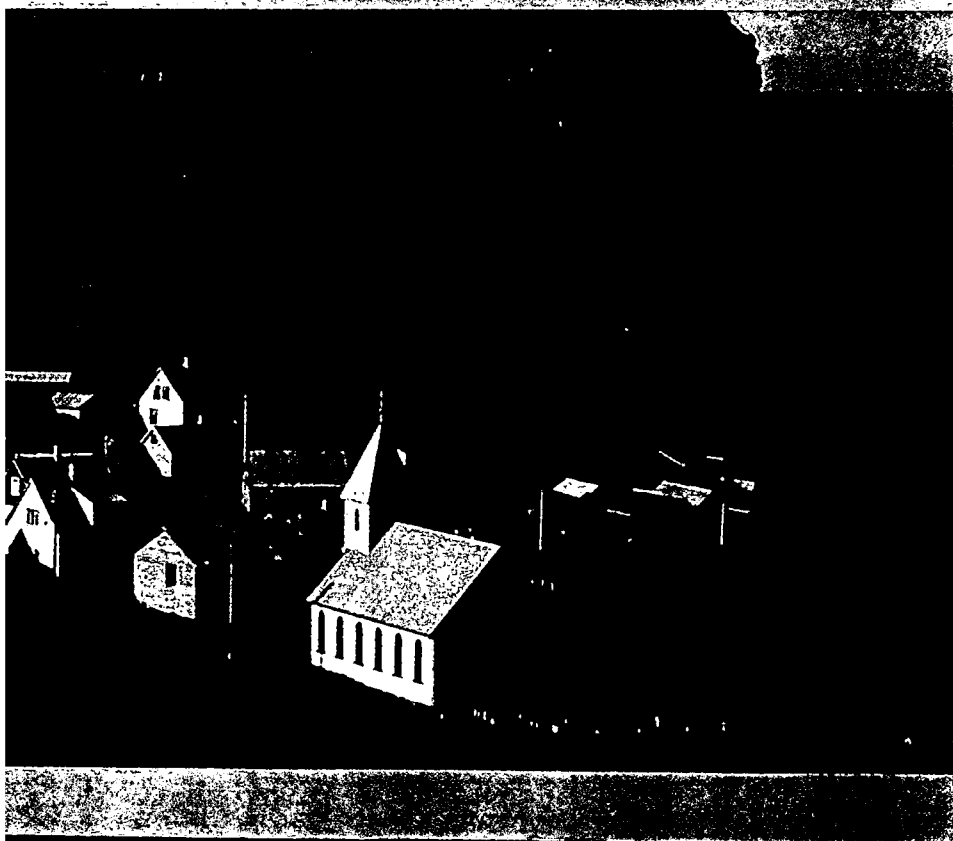
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# Fodor's 90

## Scandinavia

*Denmark, Finland,  
Iceland, Norway,  
Sweden*



good concessions on air and rail throughout much of the region. Yet others depend on nothing more than careful advance planning, as in the case of the Scanrail Pass and the comparable facilities that give unlimited rail travel in individual countries for fixed periods, such as the Finnrail Pass, or good reductions in Norway or Sweden for travel on several days of the week. But check these *before* you arrive in Scandinavia, and remember that many of them are also marketed as part of reasonably priced packages from your home country.

Hand-in-hand with flexible travel facilities go flexible accommodation systems. A variety of "hotel check" schemes—hotel vouchers essentially—operate in each of the countries, except Iceland, the greatest choice being in Sweden. Some, such as Scandic hotel checks, extend across borders and are valid in specified hotels in Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The Danes also have an attractive scheme concentrating on the *kro* or country inn, nearly all in rural settings, most of them family run and many contained in fine old half-timbered buildings of considerable vintage. Similarly, summer hotels are a feature of all five countries. These act as student accommodation during the rest of the year, offer good value for money and are often enthusiastically run by the students themselves.

### Catering to the Self

There are ways, though, of getting to even closer grips with the way of life of your chosen country; and this brings us to the second type of vacation in which Scandinavia excels: self-catering. One of its most popular forms is the farm vacation, which the Danes in particular have developed to a fine art. Usually these vacations are on a half- or full-board basis, but in most cases the great attraction is that you will be staying on a working farm with the option of participating in the way of life of a working family. The potential benefits hardly need stressing, especially if you have youngsters in tow. The rural settings are likely to be idyllic, if remote, so it's an advantage to have your own transport.

But if you want to savor the northern summer as only the Scandinavians know how, you should give serious thought to that quite indispensable feature of their way of life: the summer cottage. It probably isn't too much of an exaggeration to say that most families in all five nations own, rent, borrow or otherwise have access to four walls and a roof somewhere in the great beyond of the countryside. It can be anything from a simple shack to a minor mansion, but is likely to be somewhere in between with an almost guaranteed tranquillity—except perhaps on a few popular coastal stretches of Denmark and Sweden—on some lake, river or sea shore.

To such havens, families will retire for the entire summer, working members joining them at every opportunity, spending their time swimming, fishing, boating, walking in woods or over hills and fells, or simply watching the ever changing interplay of light and color as reflections are flung from water to sky and back again, or the surrealistic sunsets that linger far into the nordic night. You, the visitor, would do well to follow suit.

The best-equipped (and most expensive) summer cottages usually form part of a holiday village, often featuring a restaurant, shop, some sports facilities and perhaps entertainment. Centers of this kind tend to reach a higher degree of sophistication in Denmark and Sweden than in Norway and Finland (you won't find them in Iceland), and it is this type of holiday

property that is mainly marketed overseas. Rentals for individually sited cottages, for which there are many agencies in Scandinavia, can be very much lower—even downright cheap if you are content to "get back to nature" as so many Scandinavians are (whatever they like to say). This, at its most basic, may mean drawing water from a well, hewing your own firewood or accepting the sufficiency of an outdoor privy. Whatever the standard, though, the setting will certainly be memorable.

### Nature, Naturally

So we come to the third and final type of holiday for which these lands are especially well suited: holidays in which the emphasis is, quite simply, on nature itself and the various ways of savoring it to the full. The most obvious way is on foot; Scandinavia, after all, is the home of orienteering. But never fear—you won't need to go armed with a compass. Marked trails cater for those whose energies are geared only to a short stroll through fragrant pinewoods along a lake shore all the way up to those more rugged types whose idea of fun is many days back-packing through terrain as isolated as any that Europe can offer. Punctuating the latter, overnight shelter is available in strategically-sited wilderness refuges or well-equipped hostels and mountain cabins. In Norway they have taken things a stage further with a unique system of mountain huts where basic essentials (blankets, food, fuel, etc.) can be purchased or hired on a self-service basis, offering a welcome economy in muscle power. Not to be outdone, the Danes, whose greatest claim to a mountain touches the sky at around 500 feet in Jutland, have evolved their own specialty: organized "marches" or, better, rambles of various duration, one of the most popular being along the old Military Road, a historic track through Jutland. Hundreds of people take part in these but, of course, the trails are available at any time if you're not the gregarious type.

Cycling is another activity that the Danes have got well organized, though the lack of hills does give them a substantial headstart. Packages include a detailed itinerary, accommodations of various grades and, of course, the bike itself, though you can also bring your own, transported free on most North Sea ferries. Similar packages have spread to Sweden and, to a lesser extent, Norway and Finland. In Iceland, the sturdy little horses directly descended from Viking-era ancestry are rather better adapted to the rugged terrain.

With so many lakes and so much sea around, messing about in boats is an activity more or less built-in to the Scandinavian summer scene. You'll find that a rowing boat comes almost, as it were, as part of the furniture with a lot of self-catering accommodations, and there will be something that floats available, either free or at nominal cost, at many hotels and most campsites. The Finns and Swedes are great canoeists, with a whole range of rallies weaving across the blue and green landscapes. On one Swedish river, you can even build your own log raft for a leisurely float of several days, borne by the current at a mile per hour. Sailing is immensely popular—after all, some of the most famous windjammers from the great era of sail were built and had their home ports in Baltic waters, and a number of them are now museum ships. Today, the vessels may be more modest, but the flutter of sails is pretty well a constant feature of any coastal scene and the spectacle provided by the major regattas that punctuate the Danish calendar especially are sights to remember. Charter-

ing a yacht isn't quite so easy (the best chances are in Denmark and Sweden), but if you want to get a good grounding in what every budding yachtsman ought to know, a number of sailing schools are ready to oblige.

The Scandinavians are also inveterate swimmers. Don't be put off by the latitudes. Water temperatures won't, of course, match those of the Mediterranean, but in summer you'll find them surprisingly acceptable and, at worst, refreshing! The best sands are on the west coast of Denmark's Jutland, where they're so firm and extensive that you can drive a car along them for miles on end; other good sands are on the west coast of Finland. Almost anywhere else, whether by lake or sea, the bathing is off rocks, usually long, smooth shoulders of granite comfortably shaped for soaking in the sun, which happens to be another favorite occupation in these parts.

If you get the opportunity to take a sauna bath—and you almost certainly will—you'll never have a better one, especially if you are in Finland, the home of the sauna, where for many people, it is still almost as intrinsic a part of life as eating and sleeping. A true country sauna poised on lake- or sea-shore bears little resemblance to its urbanized descendant, even less to most exported versions. For the Finn, the sauna is a social as well as a cleansing experience—for some almost a spiritual one, too; and when you relax afterwards looking out across quiet waters under the huge northern sky, you may begin to understand why. The Icelanders have their own specialty: an abundance of natural warm water piped from the bowels of the earth into swimming pools in which you can bathe in the open air even in the depths of winter.

And this brings us to that entirely different part of the Scandinavian scene: the Nordic winter. Skiing as a sport was born in Norway: to be precise in the village of Morgedal, in the province of Telemark. As far as large numbers of Norwegians, Swedes and Finns are concerned, skiing was—and for some still is—an essential part of everyday life for several months of the year. For most, however, the element of necessity has been entirely removed, though this does not prevent them donning their skis at any excuse, or even without one, for it's a quite common sight to see city dwellers skiing to work across their parks. Though there are quite a few resorts, many of them well-known, offering good downhill facilities, especially in Norway, those accustomed to the more vertical type of skiing will find things a bit different here. The terrain varies enormously from the considerable mountains of Norway to the smooth treeless slopes of the northern Swedish and Finnish fells, and the great white expanses of lowland lake- and forestscapes. But generally speaking, the Scandinavian preference remains for cross-country skiing—or the other extreme of hurling themselves into the void from the top of a sky-scraping ski jump. In both, their successes in Olympic and World Championship events speak for themselves.

### Of Nansen and Nobel

Maybe these preferences reflect certain traits of the northern temperament, so what of the Scandinavians themselves? There is little argument that the extrovert Danes are the easiest to get to know. Norwegians and Finns have a self-sufficiency and reserve which you might even interpret as indifference, though you'd be quite wrong; you may have to make the first move, but the results will probably be overwhelming. In between are

the Swedes, a little more solemn, still a bit sensitive about their long neutrality and material well-being, but responsive to a friendly interest in their affairs.

That said, they all share common characteristics, most of them rooted in the pioneer spirit which has led them to develop one of the highest standards of living anywhere, despite a predominantly harsh climate. One is a fine, dry sense of humor allied to an endearing ability to laugh at themselves. Another is more paradoxical, for the very pioneer spirit which has produced some exceptional explorers, from Viking times onwards, is matched by a rare compassion and concern for the more wretched affairs of the world. Thus 20th century Scandinavia has been in the vanguard in helping the under-privileged and in striving to inject peace into a humanity sometimes seemingly bent upon self-destruction.

Just one example is the Norwegian, Fridtjof Nansen, who achieved majestic feats of human endurance as an Arctic explorer and then, with equal single-mindedness, applied his energies to the seemingly intractable problems of the world at the League of Nations, concerning himself especially with the agonies of the world's refugees. In 1923, he won the cherished Peace Prize instituted by yet another Scandinavian, Alfred Bernhard Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite. Since those days, international forums seeking disarmament accords have regularly taken place on Scandinavian soil, while young Scandinavians participate in peace-keeping forces and medical missions in various troubled parts of the globe.

### Design As Art

We've already established that the Scandinavians know how to make themselves comfortable under almost any circumstance. But they are also very insistent that things should be beautiful as well as practical. Scandinavian architects have established reputations that are world-wide, Scandinavian designers regularly carry off prizes at international contests. And this is probably largely because the "average" citizen cares to a degree that is rare elsewhere about the design and craftsmanship that has gone into the bowl which decorates his table, the ceramics or glass from which he eats and drinks, the textiles that hang at his windows, even the pots and pans he cooks in or the tools with which he will further endeavour to improve the quality of life. This intrinsic preference for the aesthetic, and the talents with which to satisfy it, have visible repercussions on the holiday scene. A less obvious, but nonetheless pleasing side effect is the number of crafts centers or studios to be stumbled upon, often in the most unexpected backwoods areas, where talented artists—many of them escapees from city life—are producing beautiful items in wood, ceramics, textiles, precious or semi-precious metals and stones, either for practical use or pure adornment.

When it comes to the fine arts, interestingly (and with a few obvious exceptions), the Scandinavians are more successful as sculptors than as painters, though there are probably proportionately more of both than in most other parts of the world. Open-air art exhibitions are a strong feature of the Scandinavian summer, some of them so remotely tucked away among the woods and lakes that you wonder how anyone ever gets to hear of them, let alone make the effort to go there. But they do. They're also prolific writers and avid readers not only of their own literature, but everyone else's too. To a degree you'll probably find shaming, they will almost certainly know more about you than you know about them.

### Markets and Midsummer Madness

Open-air exhibitions are only one small aspect of the al fresco activities that characterize the long days of the Scandinavian summer. Most symbolic of all is the great festival common to the whole region which celebrates Midsummer, usually at the weekend closest to the longest day. Focal points of the festivities are the huge bonfires lit on Midsummer's Eve pretty well everywhere; except, that is, in Sweden and western Finland where these are replaced by decorated maypoles. Music and dancing is the order of the day—or rather night, for few people will see their beds on this occasion.

During the light summer evenings, open-air theaters take over when most regular theaters are closed for the season. Street entertainment is particularly popular, especially in the cities and towns of Denmark and Sweden. The main ones will probably attract a few protest marches, too, with the Scandinavian young passionately recording their assent or (more likely) dissent on issues ranging from local laws to distant wars. Sporting activities confined for so many months of the year to indoor sports complexes are smartly transferred to the great outdoors. This sporting exodus to the great outdoors is by no means confined solely to more obviously athletic pursuits. One of the sights of Sweden's urban parks are the open-air chess games, played with giant-size chessmen and great solemnity to the accompaniment of murmured advice from the audience of enthusiasts which invariably gathers round.

The open-air museum, reconstructing the living conditions and way-of-life long past, was born in Scandinavia: in Stockholm, to be precise, where you can visit the original Skansen whose name has been adopted by a proliferation of "skansens" the world over. And, of course, there are open-air markets filling the squares and narrow streets of many of the pretty provincial towns and, incidentally, providing a good hunting ground for less expensive handicrafts. In fact in larger cities, some of these markets flourish year-round, and there's nothing that quite matches the atmosphere of a mid-winter market with be-furred and heavily-booted stall holders stamping their feet in the snow, the sun low on the horizon.

Festivals of a more cultural nature—of all kinds and at all levels—now pack the Scandinavian summer calendar. Some cover just about every cultural activity you can think of, others are more specialized, ranging from jazz to chamber or organ music and folklore to historic pageantry. The top events attract top international performers from the world of theater, ballet, opera and music; among the leading festivals are those at Bergen, Helsinki and Århus. But if you've made opera your scene, you want to head for the gorgeous Rococo theater of Drottningholm, Stockholm, or the splendid medieval castle that provides the setting for the Savonlinna Opera Festival in Finland. For lovers of jazz, the choice includes Copenhagen, Molde in Norway, Pori in Finland, while the Roskilde Festival in Denmark tops the lot in northern Europe for a feast of rock, jazz and folk music. Allegorical plays are a specialty of Dalarna province in Sweden; the Swedish island of Gotland focuses on a moving mystery pageant; the Danes of southern Jutland have a nostalgia for medieval times with tilting at the ring tournaments; and their compatriots in Frederikssund grow beards (or at least the men do!) and recreate the life and times of the Vikings at their annual Viking Festival.

Some events will never make the international calendar and are just pure fun, like the Sleepyhead Day of Naantali in Finland when, if you're a late riser, you might just qualify for being thrown into the sea! Folkloric custom and culture are strong favorites, whether as part of an organized festival (Kaustinen in Finland, Skagen in Denmark) or perpetuating such deep-rooted traditions as church boat processions, again in Dalarna where this was once the only way of traveling to worship, or the peasant-style weddings of western Norway.

With a bit of careful planning, you could fill the months from late spring to early fall moving from one event to another. For the rest of the year, the theater, opera and concert season takes over in the towns and cities, and out in the country districts workaday activities, geared to the rhythm of the seasons, provide some of the most colorful events of all. Up around the Arctic Circle and beyond, for example, the reindeer round-ups of northern Norway, Sweden and Finland provide a memorably boisterous scene of whirling lassos and thundering hooves, strongly reminiscent of the Wild West, yet muted by deep-freeze temperatures and a thick blanket of snow. And still way beyond the Arctic Circle, thousands of fishermen in hundreds of vessels converge during the early months of the year on the icy seas around Norway's spectacular Lofoten Islands for the annual harvest of the Lofotens Fisheries. This scene of extraordinary activity, which depends on nothing more or less than the life cycle of the cod, goes back to the Middle Ages, and such is its importance that the whole procedure comes under the jurisdiction of its own special Fisheries "government."

### Of the People . . .

But what of the broader canvas of the Scandinavian social and political scene? Certainly, the flame of democracy burns steadily here and with historic continuity. Here the world's first parliament saw the light of day (in Iceland around A.D. 930). Here originated the post of Ombudsman to investigate complaints against government departments (in Sweden in 1809). Here the first women in Europe—the second in the world—won the franchise (in Finland in 1906). And here the first woman ever was freely elected as head of state (presently, the President of Iceland). Yet traditions die hard and few Scandinavians have any inclination to tamper with their aristocratic and royal heritage where it exists. Three of the countries can produce a royal family apiece, two of them a plethora of counts and barons.

That said, the Scandinavian royals are as much "of the people" as you are likely to find anywhere, as you'll discover when you brush elbows with the Swedish king in a Stockholm theater lobby, or meet the Danish royal family cycling along a rural lane, or learn that the Norwegian Crown Prince underwent all the same hardships of a military winter exercise as his contemporaries. The fact of the matter is that these monarchs provide the stabilizing influence, above and beyond political considerations, and the continuity so necessary to the continued well-being of the countries. It's probably no exaggeration to say that if the monarchy were abolished in any of the three countries where it exists, the king would be a strong contender for president!

Politically, the emphasis is on moderation. If you are accustomed to a two-party system, you may find the number of parties from which Scandinavian electors need to choose their representatives a little excessive (10

in Denmark, for example, and nine in Finland), and it's true that coalitions are often a necessary by-product. In parts of the region, too, the Communist party is rather more in evidence than most of us are used to, though its steady decline is equally apparent, its position in Finland (one of its former strongholds) having dropped from a close second in 1945 to a lagging fourth in 1987. It is also important to realise that Scandinavia's brand of Eurocommunism has moved some distance from the Soviet variety with which it is often in conflict.

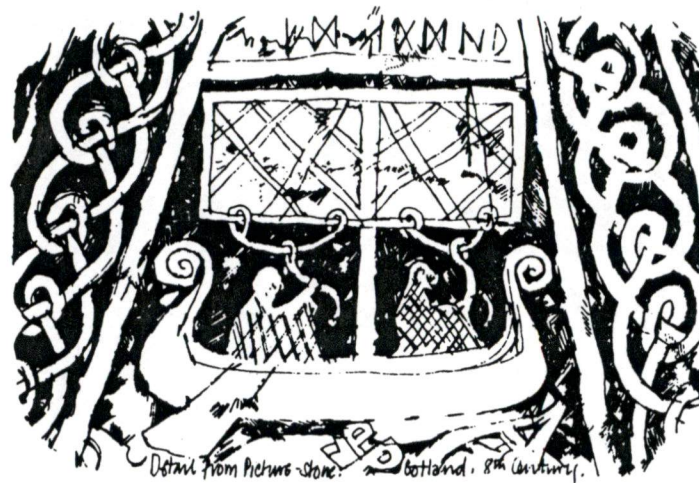
But for the most part, it's the Social Democrats—broadly comparable to the Democrats—who constitute the overall political makeup of Scandinavia, at the expense of such other major groups as the the Center, Conservative and Liberal parties.

### Economy and Enterprise

In any survey of the contemporary Scandinavian scene, the question arises sooner or later, on what have the Scandinavians based their current considerable prosperity? Fortuitously, most of the natural features that contribute so much to their countries' attractions can be translated one way or another into hard cash. Thus, timber, fish, iron and steel, dairy farming, hydro-electric energy, shipping and, in more recent years, oil, all constitute a major part of the region's economy, along with their by-products and the specialized equipment with which to process them. But in modern times, overspecialization has revealed its own hazards, as became evident to the Finns once dangerously dependent on timber and paper exports, and Icelanders whose economy was almost entirely based on fishing.

But like the rest of us, the Scandinavians have recognized the vital need to diversify and are now applying their special talents to a much broader range of goods. The latest in electronic equipment and medical supplies, complex machinery of all kinds, fashions and furniture, sports equipment and household appliances, all swell the selection of items that now appear on their order books. To such exports an all-important addition can be made, albeit an invisible one: know-how. All over the world, you'll come across Scandinavians bringing their expertise to the development of new enterprise, whether it's a tractor factory in Brazil, a telex-data installation in Saudi Arabia, a smelting furnace in India, a paper mill in Canada, or a hotel in the Balkans.

You could almost call it a new Viking era.



## SCANDINAVIAN HISTORY

### *Prosperity Out of Conflict*

Scandinavia today presents a picture of harmonious unity: five countries, linked by a common culture, geography and history, politically and technologically sophisticated, at peace with themselves and the world. There are, to be sure, differences between them. Finland, for example, has a language that owes nothing to the other Scandinavian tongues. Norway, Sweden and Denmark are monarchies, Finland and Iceland are republics. Denmark is the only Scandinavian member of the EEC, the Common Market. Sweden and Finland have long been politically non-aligned, Norway, Denmark and Iceland are all active members of NATO. But what unites Scandinavia is ultimately of greater significance than what divides her, and it is difficult to think of any other grouping of countries in the modern world more happily or naturally united.

But it was not always so. Her present enviable prosperity and stability are a striking tribute to the new maturity of once rival and warring lands, with little more than a common tongue—Finland excepted—and their harsh climate and isolation on the northern fringes of Europe to unite them.

### Bog People and Berserkers

More than anything else, it is the fact of her isolation that provides the key note of much early Scandinavian history. With the exception of Denmark and parts of southern Sweden, Scandinavia is a vast and frequently inhospitable land, underpopulated even today; a land of endless forests

and mountain fastnesses, laced by rivers and lakes and buffeted by the long northern winter. This combination of remoteness and vast scale long conspired to ensure that she remained in the backwaters of early European history.

Not surprisingly, Scandinavia's earliest inhabitants seem naturally to have gravitated towards its most fertile and temperate regions. Though relics dating back six or seven thousand years—in particular primitive skis—have been found in the empty wastes of Finland and northern Sweden, it was in the south of Scandinavia, in present day Denmark and southern Sweden, that the first sizeable settlements existed. There is considerable evidence to suggest that by the Bronze Age (c. 1500 B.C.—500 B.C.) the early Scandinavians had become successful farmers and hunters, skilled also at pottery and weaving. A number of Scandinavian museums—the Nordic Museum in Stockholm pre-eminently—contain sizeable collections of jewelry, pottery and other artefacts from burial mounds which attest to the relative sophistication of these early inhabitants. Remarkably, two of the men themselves, pickled by the peat bogs in which they were buried, have also been found. The severed heads of these grisly remains—Graubolle man and Tollund man—are today on view, for those with strong stomachs, at the Århus and Silkeborg museums in Denmark.

Yet despite this evidence of a not inconsiderable population, Scandinavia remained isolated from the main centers of Europe. Even the Romans balked at her trackless forests and vast unpopulated expanses, no doubt discouraged also by her brutal winters, and the northernmost limits of their empire stopped far to the south of the Scandinavian lands. Nonetheless, it seems clear that merchants from the south were happy to barter with the mysterious northern tribes. The pieces of amber that could be picked up on Denmark's beaches were particularly prized by the Romans, who traded ivory, silver and gold for them. Roman coins have even been found in remote and rugged Iceland—*Ultima Thule* indeed.

By about A.D. 700 much of coastal southern Scandinavia had been settled, though vast areas of the interior remained uninhabited. Interestingly, though perhaps not surprisingly, the most densely populated areas, at the heart of the most important agricultural lands and strategically placed for trade, were subsequently to grow into modern Scandinavia's capitals. But in addition, Trondheim, on the northwest coast of Norway, also developed as an important center.

As well as being successful hunters and farmers, the Scandinavians also traded extensively. The Swedes, for example, controlled the fur trade between north and south Scandinavia, while the Norwegians of the Atlantic coast had trade links with both southern Sweden and Denmark and the Frisian islands on the west coast of Germany. However, the inhospitable interior meant that most trade was dependent on sea travel, and it is evident that despite their primitive navigational know-how the early Scandinavians were skilled shipwrights and routinely undertook long and arduous sea voyages. At the same time, increasingly persistent warring between rival tribes also made the possession of sea-going vessels necessary.

Around A.D. 800 something very strange happened to these somewhat primitive hunters and farmers, relegated to the outer fringes of Europe. Without warning, and for reasons that still remain the subject of speculation, they exploded onto the European scene, sallying forth from Scandinavia in their long ships and wreaking havoc—pillaging, looting and terrorizing—over the length and breadth of Europe. The Vikings had arrived.

"From the fury of the Norsemen, Good Lord deliver us," was to become a deeply-felt and oft-uttered prayer in many parts of Europe.

Whatever the reasons for the sudden appearance of the Vikings—whether economic pressure created by population increases in their homelands, changes in the climate, or just a simple-minded taste for a wandering life of excitement and exploration (the ultimate test of Viking manhood was to enter battle bare-chested or "berserk")—one thing is clear. The Vikings were successful because the disintegration of the Roman empire had created a power vacuum in Europe, leaving the continent weak and disordered, a prey to any who chanced upon her. Thus the Vikings remorselessly swept through Europe, as though a cannon loaded with grapeshot had been suddenly fired.

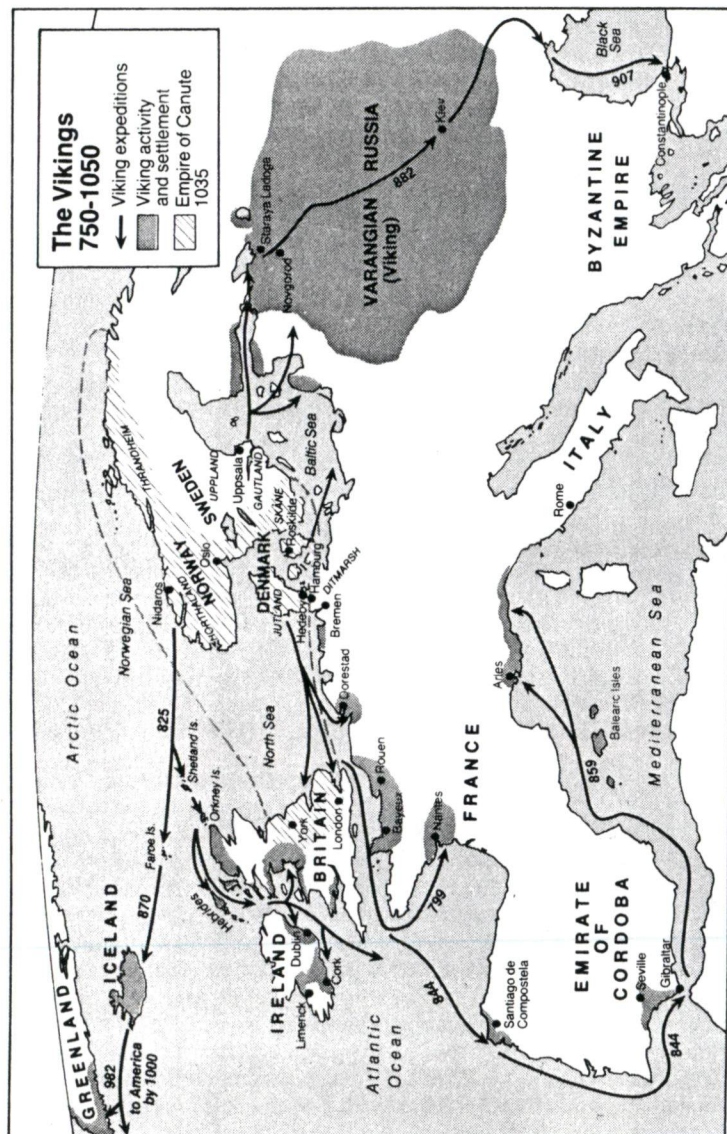
Swedes thrust southeastwards across the Baltic, founding Russia some say (*rus* means Swede), and reaching the Black Sea by means of the Dnieper river, and Persia by the Volga river and Caspian sea. In Constantinople they enrolled as Varangian (or Viking) guards, elite bodyguards to the Byzantine emperor. The Norwegians sailed west and north, overtaking Orkney and Shetland, which remained Scandinavian until 1468 when they were mortgaged to the Scottish crown. Step by step, they then bridged the Atlantic, reaching the Faroes (850), Iceland (874), Greenland (984) and finally Vinland—North America—(1000). The Atlantic leap itself was achieved in just two generations. Eric the Red left Norway to farm in Iceland, and then moved on to found the Greenland colony. It was his son, Leif, who discovered America.

The Norwegians also swept down the west coast of Britain, to the Isle of Man, the Lake District and Ireland. The Danes meanwhile landed in eastern England, establishing York as their major center. In the south of England, the Danish king Canute eventually reigned (1016–1035) over a combined English, Danish and Norwegian domain. At the same time Northern France became Normandy, the land of the northmen, soon to emerge as an independent country and, under Duke William, to begin the conquest of Britain in 1066.

### The Coming of Christianity

Though the impact of the Vikings was great, the Viking age itself was relatively short lived, lasting from about 800 to 1050. Perhaps its very vividness was such as to ensure that it exhausted itself quickly. At all events, by the middle of the 11th century, the Viking period was rapidly being superseded by a new and much more stable economic and political order that was to last right up to the Renaissance. And at the heart of this new medieval society was Christianity, slowly but inevitably dispersing the seemingly endless night of the Dark Ages.

The Vikings themselves yielded to the forces of the "pale Galilean." Some indeed appeared positively to welcome the new religion and proved themselves enthusiastic converts and, later, missionaries, happy to despatch those whose interest was more tepid to the Viking Valhalla. Nonetheless, the old beliefs and religions of the Vikings lingered on—their Gods Tyr, Wodon, Thor and Frey are still with us, disguised as Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. For a time, Christianity fused with the Viking religions to create curious hybrids, nowhere better illustrated than by the 12th-century stave churches of Norway, a number of which have survived to the present day at Fantoft, Borgund and Lom. These tall,



pagoda-like structures, whose tiered wooden roofs rise delicately skywards, are always surmounted by a cross, but on their eaves and along the door jambs dragons and other pagan symbols are carved. Even today there are clear traces of the old Scandinavian religions in the far north among the Lapps and in Finnmark.

But Christianity proved itself an irresistible force and by 1300 had established itself throughout Scandinavia. Sweden even produced a saint, Bridget, born in 1303. She subsequently moved to Rome where she wrote a series of widely influential mystic *Revelations* and founded an order of nuns, the Bridgettines.

### The Middle Ages

For all that Christianity underpinned Scandinavian society in the Middle Ages, Scandinavian history in this period nonetheless presents a confused picture of succeeding dynasties, recalcitrant nobles and scheming bishops. And for much of the period, that is until the beginning of the 17th century, Scandinavia remained essentially remote from developments on the wider European stage, a minor player in an increasingly important game. Even Denmark, for example, long the most developed and prosperous of the Scandinavian countries, largely by virtue of its proximity to the European mainland, was reduced to bit part status, falling under the sway of the Hanseatic League, the predatory merchants of Hamburg and Lübeck in north Germany who negotiated for themselves lucrative trading monopolies among the hapless Scandinavians. The Hansa quays in Bergen, Norway, have survived as potent evidence of Hanseatic power.

At the same time that Scandinavia was groaning under the Hanseatic yoke in the 13th and 14th centuries, another catastrophe struck in the form of the Black Death. Norway alone lost a third of her population between 1349 and 1350. Essential reading for an idea of the impact of the Black Death on the infant Scandinavian states is Sigrid Undset's sprawling novel *Kristin Lavransdatter*.

Literature of another sort was actually being produced during this period, in Iceland, by the aristocratic and cultured Snorri Sturlson (1179–1241). He it was who committed to writing the achievements and adventures of the Viking age, and celebrated early Iceland's turmoil and warring, in the Sagas and Eddas, the greatest monuments of early Scandinavian literature and an invaluable treasure house of historic myths and tales. Ironically perhaps, he did so at a moment when not only had the Vikings all but faded from the scene but when Iceland itself, until the 13th century a considerable political force in Scandinavian affairs and a proudly independent land—it is Iceland's happy boast that she is the site of the oldest republic north of the Alps—was fast fading herself, a decline continued in 1264 when Iceland succumbed to Norwegian rule, as had Greenland three years earlier.

However, this period of Norwegian expansion in the 13th century was to prove brief and, the Hanseatic League notwithstanding, by the 14th century it was Denmark that had emerged as the dominant voice in Scandinavian affairs, consolidating her hold on the whole of the region in 1389 in the shape of the Kalmar Union by which Sweden, Finland and Norway were united under Danish rule. The Kalmar Union, which lasted until 1521, was essentially the work of the remarkable Queen Margrethe of Denmark. She was, however, Regent only and in 1397 handed the reigns of

power to her incompetent nephew, Eric of Pomerania. The combination of his maladministration and the greed of his henchmen was more than sufficient to cause a seemingly endless series of revolts among his subject peoples, especially in Sweden. The Danish rulers that followed Eric were hardly less inept, but nonetheless the Union struggled precariously through the 15th century. By the end of the century, following the ascendancy of the energetic and authoritarian Christian II of Denmark, it appeared set for greater things, however. Determined to stamp out dissent among the Swedes once and for all, in 1520 Christian initiated a massacre of the leading members of the so-called Freedom Party in Stockholm. But his efforts were to prove entirely counter-productive, and only sparked greater demands for Swedish independence. This the Swedes were dramatically and violently to achieve, principally under the imaginative and forceful leadership of Gustavus Vasa. Capitalizing on a popular uprising in the province of Dalecarlia, Gustavus fanned the flame of revolt and by 1523 had established himself as undisputed ruler of a newly-independent and aggressive Sweden. Thus the stage was set for Sweden's greatest moment of glory and expansion.

### The Reformation and Sweden's Rise

The Sweden now ruled by the indomitable Gustavus Vasa was still an essentially impoverished and downtrodden land following almost two centuries of Danish domination. Similarly, though the Danes had been ousted from Sweden, their military intentions toward her were by no means exhausted and they remained in control of parts of southern Sweden, a permanent threat to Gustavus. Thus much of Gustavus's reign was characterized by an urgent need to consolidate Sweden's independence from Denmark and to build up trade as rapidly as possible in order to finance his increasingly ambitious military goals.

In this, Gustavus shrewdly and pragmatically took advantage of the slow spread of the Reformation into Scandinavia. Like his contemporary Henry VIII in England, Gustavus, guided largely by political rather than spiritual considerations, took advantage of the split with Rome to support and eventually to establish as the new national church the Reformed—that is, the Protestant—religion. Simultaneously, he systematically confiscated much of the considerable wealth of the old Catholic church in Sweden, using it to finance his armies.

As Sweden grew in strength, in the process ridding herself of the remaining monopolies enjoyed by the waning Hanseatic League, so Gustavus began to interest himself more and more in foreign affairs. And it was under Gustavus that for the first time since the Vikings a Scandinavian country began to enjoy influence and status on the wider European stage. An alliance with Francis I of France against the future emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Charles V, represented only the first stirrings of Sweden's ambitions toward, and influence over, the affairs of the Holy Roman Empire on the European mainland.

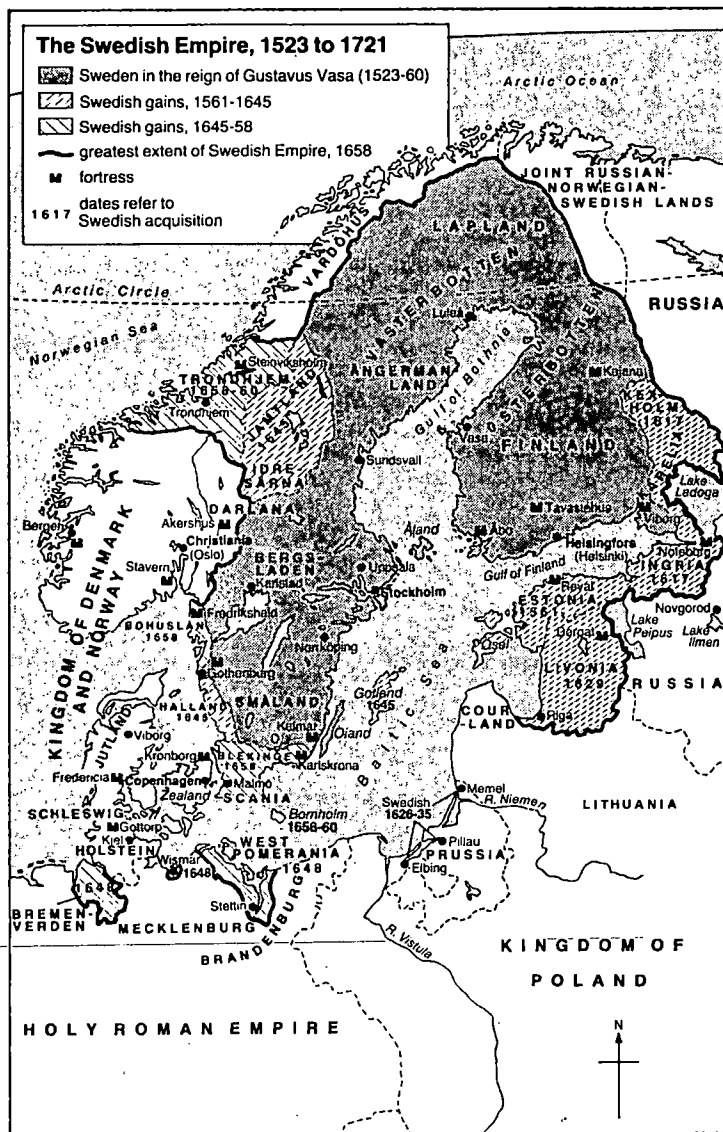
The Reformation enjoyed equal success in the rest of Scandinavia, spreading throughout the joint kingdom of Denmark and Norway and into Swedish controlled Finland, and finally to Iceland. To some extent, the Reformed Church acted as a new focus of nationalism for the Danes, still smarting from their defeat at the hands of Gustavus Vasa. Sweden's position by the end of the 16th century was still somewhat precarious. Her

only outlet to the North Sea, for example, was a narrow strip at the mouth of the Göta river between hostile Denmark and Norway, and her ambitions in the Baltic were permanently under threat from Russia and Poland as well as Denmark herself. Moreover, by the beginning of the 17th century Denmark had acquired a new ruler in Christian IV (1588–1648) whose dynamism and ambition were formidable. As well as being an indefatigable builder—Copenhagen's fairy-tale summer palace of Rosenborg and the Borsen (Stock Exchange) with its barley-sugar-twist spire both owe their existence to the energetic Christian; similarly, he rebuilt Oslo, moving it nearer to its present location and renaming it Christiania in the process—Christian made strident efforts to regain the dominance Denmark had enjoyed during the heyday of the Kalmar Union. Denmark still controlled all shipping passing through the narrow sound between Copenhagen and southern Sweden—the Sound of Sounds, as it came to be known, and the principal link between the Baltic and the North Sea. Similarly, her maritime prowess in the Baltic remained impressive.

Under Christian the Danes embarked on an extended series of military campaigns against the Swedes. However, while the Danes were fortunate to have so outstanding a ruler in Christian, the Swedes were even more blessed. And in Gustavus II Adolphus, the Lion of the North who roared his way to the throne in 1611, they found themselves a ruler of outstanding military abilities, more than the equal of even one as apparently awesome as Christian IV.

Under Gustavus, Sweden swept confidently into the 17th century and her age of greatness, during which she defeated the Danes, driving them out of southern Sweden, and turned the Baltic into what was to amount to her own private preserve. In addition, the brilliant military campaigns waged by Gustavus were to ensure Sweden a decisive role in the complex entanglements of the Thirty Years War (1618–1648), in which the Catholic forces of the Holy Roman Empire, ruled by the Habsburgs, grappled brutally and somewhat pointlessly with the Protestant forces of northern Europe, represented principally by Sweden. By 1632, in fact, the Swedes under Gustavus had swept through the whole of present day Germany and were poised to take Austria, the heart of the Holy Roman Empire, when Gustavus was killed at the battle of Lutzen in 1632. The Swedes were victorious at Lutzen, but the death of their charismatic general and king broke the momentum of their campaign, and the battle was to mark the high point of the European adventures.

—Gustavus Adolphus was succeeded by his young daughter, the enigmatic and ambivalent Christina. In the early part of her reign, however, when Christina was still a child, the country was governed by a Council headed by the able statesman Axel Oxenstierna. Though Sweden under Oxenstierna remained a major military influence in the Thirty Years War, which, as it neared its climax, was to turn Germany into one vast and chaotic battlefield, Oxenstierna himself turned his attentions increasingly towards developments in the Baltic, seeking to establish Sweden as the pre-eminent power there. In this, as in other matters of foreign policy, Christina played no very significant role once she had come of age. Though a woman of striking intelligence (but of less-than-lovely appearance), Christina devoted herself almost exclusively to establishing luxury, elegance and learning in her court. Her reckless extravagance and neglect of matters of state, despite the warnings of Oxenstierna, were eventually to prove her undoing and in 1654 she was forced to abdicate. Her disgrace in the eyes of her



countrymen, who by now she affected to despise for their ignorance and crudity, was compounded by her subsequent conversion to Catholicism in Paris. She thereafter settled in Rome, living in the same house that St. Bridget had used, where she died in 1689.

However, the combined efforts of Oxenstierna and Christina's successors Charles X Gustavus and Charles XI Gustavus were equal to the task of ensuring that Sweden's dominant role in Scandinavia and the Baltic was continued. Indeed it was under Charles X in the Danish-Swedish war of 1657-60 that Sweden eventually reclaimed the remaining Danish territories in southern Sweden, confining Denmark once and for all to the areas west of the Sound.

By the end of the 17th century Sweden was again ruled by a man of outstanding military ability, the romantic soldier-king Charles XII Gustavus. He needed to be, too, for in 1700 Sweden was attacked simultaneously by the combined armies of Poland, Denmark and Russia. Despite the overwhelming numerical superiority of his enemies, Charles achieved a remarkable victory over the Russians at Narva in 1700, which effectively destroyed the enemy alliance. He subsequently marched on Moscow but was defeated—as much by the Russian winter as by the Russian army—at Poltava in 1709. Charles sought refuge in Turkey from where, extraordinarily, he continued to rule over distant Sweden. By now, however, Sweden faced an even larger alliance, made up of Russia, Poland, Denmark, Britain and two of the north German states, Hanover and Prussia. Hopelessly outnumbered, Charles then attempted to disrupt the alliance between Russia and Britain, to which end he returned, incognito, to Scandinavia in 1718. In the middle of these clandestine negotiations, Charles was mysteriously murdered in Norway, ending all hope of disrupting the powerful forces ranged against him. The Swedes were forced to capitulate.

Much of Sweden's Baltic empire was ceded to the Russians, including large parts of Finland, and by 1721 the once indomitable Swedes found that their empire had all but vanished leaving the way clear for the Russians, who soon after emerged as the dominant power in the Baltic.

### Rococo and Revolution

Though Sweden remained the dominant power in the 18th century among the Scandinavian nations, the period as a whole witnessed the gradual decline of Scandinavian influence. For example, while Denmark continued to enjoy considerable maritime prestige, she was also to fall increasingly under the influence of Prussia in northern Germany, a trend that continued into the 19th century. Similarly, Norway and Finland, the one still ruled by Denmark, the other partitioned between Sweden and Russia, remained obscure and generally insignificant lands. And Sweden herself was forced to watch the gradual erosion of what remained of her Baltic empire.

Nonetheless, it was in Sweden that the most interesting developments occurred, especially during the reign of Gustavus III, who came to the throne in 1771. He was responsible both for a radical reshaping of Swedish government—a vital early step in the development of democracy in Sweden—and for a great upsurge in the importance of Swedish arts. His marvelous palace at Drottningholm, just outside Stockholm, with its delightful Rococo theater, is eloquent proof of the artistic revolution that occurred under this most enlightened of Swedish kings. The period also saw Sweden

step into the intellectual and scientific limelight. Carl von Linné—we know him as Linnaeus—was the leading botanist of his day, whose revolutionary *Systems of Nature* pioneered the same essential system of classification for plants as that used today. Gustavus—a great admirer of all things French—also founded the Swedish Academy, modeled on its famous French cousin.

But in 1792 Gustavus was assassinated, a victim of the violent political opposition his far-reaching reforms had stirred up among the Swedish aristocracy. Yet to some extent even his death amounted to little more than a sideshow, for by the end of the 18th century, internal events in Scandinavia were being more and more overshadowed by the turmoil engulfing Europe as a whole following the French Revolution. As Napoleon and his revolutionary armies marched across the Continent, the Scandinavians found themselves inexorably drawn into the greater European conflict, with consequences that were to influence decisively the further development of Scandinavian history.

Thus in 1801, for example, Nelson attacked Copenhagen to prevent Napoleon obtaining the Danish navy for his intended invasion of Britain. Six years later, Wellington bombarded the capital again and seized the fleet himself. Similarly, Sweden under Gustavus IV Adolphus, having declared herself for Britain largely on the strength of her trading links, was attacked by the Russians in 1807 following a recent alliance forged between Napoleon and Russia. The Swedish-Russian conflict was in fact to have a number of very important consequences. Not only did Sweden lose her remaining Finnish territories to the Russians, she also found herself with a new, and very unexpected ruler. This was one of Napoleon's marshalls, one Bernadotte, who, with the active collusion of Napoleon (who saw Bernadotte as a swift means of obtaining control over Sweden), was elected king of Sweden in 1809. However, the French emperor's hopes were quickly dashed when Bernadotte revealed himself as both profoundly opposed to Napoleon's scheming and shrewd in the extreme. At the Congress of Vienna in 1815, which settled the fate of post-Napoleonic Europe, Bernadotte was able to obtain considerable compensation for the loss of Sweden's Finnish lands, and even more spectacularly confirmed the transfer of Norway, which had been ruled by Denmark since the 14th century, from Denmark to Sweden. Denmark meanwhile was left only with the politically and economically insignificant North Atlantic islands of Iceland, Greenland and the Faroes.

### Industrialization and Independence

More than the political map of Scandinavia was changed by the events of the first decades of the 19th century, however. By about 1820, it was evident that Scandinavia was economically crippled, unable to keep pace with the ever more rapid developments of the Industrial Revolution or to exploit the growing opportunities for trade created by the opening of new markets outside Europe by the leading European nations, among whom the Scandinavians emphatically no longer numbered.

The 19th century was in fact a generally dismal time for the Scandinavians. Lacking the capital to develop their own modern industries, their trade was gradually taken over by foreign concerns, causing a decline in home markets that made only all the more remote the likelihood of the industrialization that by 1850 had become long overdue. Simultaneously,

Scandinavian agriculture also declined, giving rise to wide-spread rural poverty which in turn led to massive emigration, particularly to America. This reached a peak between 1880 and the turn of the century.

But bankruptcy was in some senses the mother of Scandinavian invention, and from the middle years of the 19th century, a slow industrialization spread throughout the region. Such breakthroughs as Ørsted's in electro-magnetism helped the Nordic lands, lavishly endowed with water for electricity, to industrialize efficiently. Nobel's invention of dynamite changed the nature of war and mining. Similar inventive genius assisted in the growth of Danish dairying, Norwegian nitrates and Swedish ball-bearing factories. Developments in steamships helped found an expanding Norwegian merchant navy for fishing, world trade and, at home, provided the coastal services from Bergen to Kirkenes and back, forerunner of today's Coastal Express. Railways opened up vast interior tracts and serviced mines in Sweden and Finland, while canals bypassed the Baltic, linking Stockholm with Gothenburg through the great lakes. The Danes established Esbjerg in 1868 especially for trade with Britain, while the United Steamship Company was created two years earlier to link the nation's scattered areas, and is still with us as DFDS.

Scandinavians, with their small populations, were also among the first to realize the importance of an educated, fully participatory majority. Here the chief figure was the Dane Gruntvig (1783-1872), whose deep reading in the Sagas, widely-based religious views, boundless energy and patriotism led him to create the highly influential Folk High School movement. These schools, somewhat misnamed in English, offered "Education for Life"—culture, history and poetry, moral and practical subjects and economics for all.

While the latter half of the 19th century saw a slow rise in prosperity in Scandinavia and the political foundation of the modern Scandinavian states, it also saw the only serious foreign entanglement to befall Scandinavia since the end of the Napoleonic wars. This occurred on Denmark's southern border with Prussia in Germany, long a source of friction between Danes and Germans. By the 1860s, the Prussians, guided by their wily Chancellor Bismarck, had begun to cast covetous eyes on Denmark's border provinces, the acquisition of which they saw as the first step in the unification of Germany under Prussia. When war came in 1864 the military might of the Prussians was rapidly decisive and Denmark, having lost Norway only 50 years earlier, now found herself stripped of one sixth of her remaining lands. That the Danish monarchy survived such a crushing national humiliation spoke volumes for its stability and popularity. (Denmark's southern provinces were eventually restored to her in 1920).

The latter part of the 19th century was also marked by the growing spread of democratic and nationalistic ideals, culminating in 1905 with the dissolution of the joint kingdom of Sweden and Norway and the granting of full independence to Norway. Finland's independence from Russia in 1917, however, was achieved at much greater cost. All the Scandinavian nations had managed to remain neutral in World War I (though all, especially Norway, suffered considerable disruption of their trade). The Finns were thus well placed to take advantage of the Russian Revolution in 1917, which plunged an already war-torn Russia into terrible chaos, and declare themselves independent. Though the new Russian regime under Lenin soon recognized this independent Finland, a large body of opinion in Finland did not and civil war broke out; the "whites" favoring independence,

the "reds" continued union with Russia, or the Soviet Union as it had now become. The whites were quickly victorious, however, and in 1920 the borders of modern Finland were established.

### The Modern States

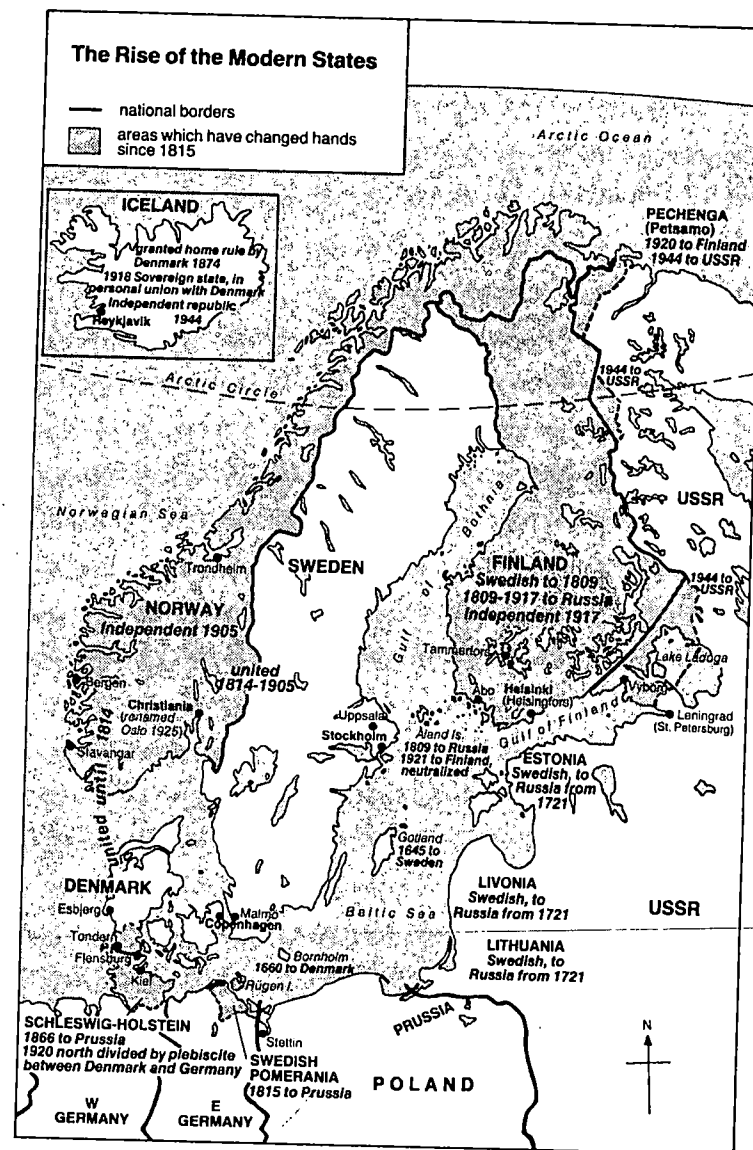
The Scandinavian nations continued on their peaceful course until the late '30s, all by now determinedly neutral and essentially removed from the growing tensions in Europe caused by the rapid rise of Nazism and the Soviet Union. But in 1939, despite their professed neutrality, the Finns were invaded by the Soviet Union, with whom they had signed a pact of non-aggression in 1932. Remarkably, Finland resisted the vast but disorganized Soviet army for over 100 days before capitulating in March 1940. Under the terms of the subsequent peace treaty the Finns were obliged to cede large parts of their eastern lands to Russia.

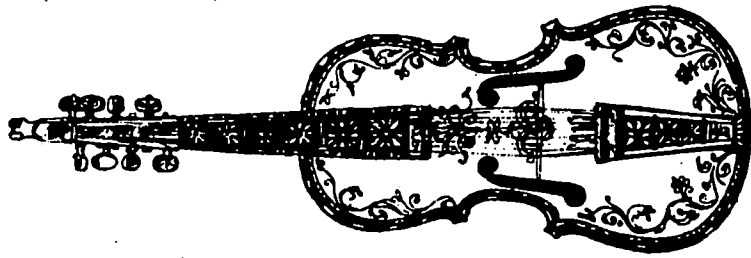
This, however, was only the beginning of Scandinavia's troubles. As in World War I, all the Scandinavian nations attempted to remain neutral following the outbreak of World War II. The Swedes alone succeeded in doing so. Both Norway and Denmark were invaded by Nazi Germany in April 1940, while Iceland was occupied by Britain and, later, by the Americans who used it as a vital staging post for ferrying men and supplies across the Atlantic. Finland, meanwhile, then sided with the Nazis; not, as they are quick to point out, for any ideological reasons but because they saw the Nazi invasion of Russia in 1941 as an ideal opportunity to regain the territories lost in 1940. In this they were singularly unsuccessful, and ended the war by fighting the Russians and the Germans. Though non-combatants, the Danes and, even more particularly, the Norwegians, had suffered almost equally grave destruction by the end of the war. To some extent the very effectiveness of the Resistance movements both spawned was responsible, provoking the occupying Nazis into terrible acts of reprisal.

By 1945 Norway, Denmark and Finland were all seriously weakened, the Finns in addition having lost again to the Russians all the territory they had regained following their initial invasion with the Germans. Even neutral Sweden ended the war with severe economic problems caused by the disruption of her trade and the expense of the rapid armaments program she had been forced into in order to maintain her neutrality.

Thus it is really only in the immediate post-war period that Scandinavia has grown into the plenty and excellence that so distinguishes her today. Politically, the major developments of this period were the granting of full independence to Iceland in 1944, followed by the granting of full autonomy to Greenland in 1979. 1956 saw the formation of the Nordic Council, a loose grouping of all the Scandinavian states designed to further co-operation and development. Still a thriving organization today, it expresses eloquently the new and happy unity of this much-troubled region.

Yet even in today's affluent society—and Scandinavia seems to have weathered the recessions of the '70s and early '80s better than most—there are many reminders that the Scandinavia of the past, the vast and trackless land that even the Romans failed to penetrate, lingers on, a permanent reminder of an ancient people. In the far north Eskimos still hunt seal and polar bear where best they can be found, and Lapps still wander in search of fresh pastures for their reindeer. They may have walkie-talkies and central heating, but their lives are otherwise little changed from those of their ancestors two thousand years ago.





## SCANDINAVIAN CULTURE

### *A Subtle Taste for Living*

by  
ANDREW BROWN

*Andrew Brown is an Englishman who has lived in Sweden for the last decade, with his Swedish wife. He has traveled widely in Scandinavia as a journalist and is a regular contributor to many English papers and magazines, notably the London Spectator.*

The chief modern cultural product of Scandinavia is children's stories. Though one expects "Scandinavian Culture" to be a quite exceptionally gloomy affair, it is really quite hard work to find the gloomy bits nowadays. And even harder to take them seriously once you have.

But almost everyone has read Scandinavian children's stories with pleasure: Hans Christian Andersen, Astrid Lindgren, Tove Jansson (the inventor of Moomintroll)—even the Norwegians have produced the delightful stories of "Old Mrs Pepperpot"; and all these sell in vast quantities throughout the world. They deserve to, too. It is a considerable compliment to Scandinavian culture in its broadest sense that children's literature flourishes here as it does. Good children's books are not less important or easier to write than good books of any sort, and most of us can far more easily remember the books that we read as children than the books we read last week.

Nonetheless, it is surprising that so little that is worth the attention of grown-ups should nowadays be produced in Scandinavia, when one considers that writers, musicians, sculptors and architects as good as any in the world were flourishing here as recently as 50 years ago. This is a point to which I will return; for the moment, it's worth concentrating on what is good now.

### The Idyll of Spring

Scandinavian children's books are for the most part idyllic: they are set in small, isolated communities in the country. Very little machinery is involved: and when it appears it is always quaint and unimportant. What really matters is the weather. Astrid Lindgren and Tove Jansson, for example, are both extraordinarily sensual writers, in the pristine sense of the word. "Sensual" on a book-jacket nowadays is merely a code-word for "steamy," as if all skin were good for were the transmission of sexual excitement. But children's skin is good for a great deal more than that, and both Astrid Lindgren and Tove Jansson write as if they can still feel the exhilaration that each fresh summer brings to your skin: cool water; the thin, refreshing scent of wild-flowers borne incongruously on warm air; the smell of mushrooms poking through pine-needles after rain.

Perhaps all these things are the gift of winter: for four months a year there are no smells and no sounds in the Scandinavian forests at all. Only when the snow melts and the earth warms do the smells return, and then the migratory birds start singing. Everything drips, trickles or gurgles for a fortnight. You can walk for hours in the woods just listening to the noises snow makes when it melts. Each one seems to promise deliverance, and, sure enough, when all the snow has gone, you feel as if you were stepping onto some undiscovered, paradisaical planet after several million years in suspended animation in a very old and creaky spaceship.

This sort of overwhelming change is something denied to the adult inhabitants of more temperate places, but childhood anywhere is full of times like that: and by close concentration on the seasons Tove Jansson and Astrid Lindgren can perfectly reproduce the child's sensation of exhilarating uncertainty. Tove Jansson's "Moomintroll" books tend in fact to be named for the seasons; in Astrid Lindgren the weather is less prominent than the adventures of the hero or heroine, but without it almost all the emotional color would be lost, and you would be left with a comic-strip.

But these books are set in a hermetically sealed world. It is not sealed off from adults. On the contrary, the books allow us to rediscover our own childhoods; but it is sealed off from the present as tightly as, say, P.G. Wodehouse's world is. In the "Moomintroll" books, the characters are not even clothed in human form. A Filijonk or a Hemulen are both far more accurately described human types than you will find in most "serious" adult novels, but they are both animals about six inches high, living in hidden valleys along the Baltic coast of Finland. Astrid Lindgren's families live in a rural Sweden that has now quite vanished: even the food they eat is never nowadays cooked because it's too much trouble.

### Meetings in the Potato Patch

Yet as soon as one comes to the present, it seems that Scandinavian literature has wholly lost its power. Leaving aside Ingmar Bergman's film

scripts, hardly anything has been written in any Scandinavian language of any real quality since about 1950. This is all the more extraordinary because of the great importance Scandinavians attach to culture. They read more books and newspapers than anyone else in the world: their libraries are flexible, imaginative, and rich; their museums are marvelous; culture is even news, so that a new book or play will be announced and discussed on the primetime television news. And it's all rubbish. The student of modern Scandinavian fiction can weep tears of pure joy if he encounters even competence, let alone interest or quality. This has at least one reassuring feature for the traveler: you need not feel you are missing anything because you are unable to read Scandinavian languages. What hasn't been translated isn't worth it (except for some poetry that couldn't be translated anyway).

Yet the reasons for the current cultural drought in Scandinavia are worth examining, if only because what came before was so very good indeed. It is difficult to believe that a region which produced Selma Lagerlöf, Ibsen, Knut Hamsun, Strindberg, and Hjalmar Söderberg, to mention only the writers, should have so thoroughly collapsed in the following generations.

The first reason was Adolf Hitler. With Stalin's help, he completely destroyed the German cultural hegemony in Central Europe: and it was from there that Scandinavian culture had traditionally been influenced. Stockholm, Helsinki, and Oslo were all largely built by German architects; German was the first foreign language of any educated Scandinavian; and in a longer perspective, German traders and missionaries had done much of the work of civilizing and Christianizing Sweden, Denmark, and Finland. After 1945, all this was gone. The Germans had invaded both Denmark and Norway; the Finns had troubles of their own, and the Swedes were extremely anxious to prove that they had had nothing to do with the losing side in the war that had just ended.

Into the vacuum created by the disappearance of the once-dominant German influence, poured Anglo-American culture, and this, for a variety of reasons, had an almost wholly corrupting effect on the native product. The two elements just haven't blended, instead they've curdled, like badly-made mayonnaise, so that the biggest-selling author in Sweden at the moment writes (quite good) copies of Kerouac, 30 years after the thing was first done. Others, more in fashion, copy Latin American authors, and so on.

But the second, and perhaps most important reason, is the importance that Scandinavians allow to culture. They devote to their own efforts an attention that would shame a population six or seven times their size. All this attention must have something to feed on, so a great many books get published that would never have seen the outside of a publisher's rubbish basket in most countries.

Gradually—or not so gradually—the average standard sinks, until only the most exceptional writers could hope to be published in a foreign country, but these too are corrupted by the great Scandinavian culture hunger.

Imagine the feelings of the reviewer who spends his time, week after week, writing things like, "X's new novel deals with sexual frustration and religious mania in Lapland at the turn of a century. Signhild, a farmer's daughter, is courted by Thorbjörn, an itinerant pedlar. But soon the dark influence of Edgar, an evangelist preacher, makes itself felt. Edgar and Thorbjörn confront each other in the market at Gnarp. Thorbjörn drowns

himself. Edgar rapes Signhild, to symbolize the triumph of religious repression, but in the process her back is broken on a nearby cartwheel. Their child has many problems."

I should add that this plot is quite genuine, and such a book really has been published. I have even attempted to read another novel by X. In chapter one the characters stood around exchanging significant silences in a frozen potato patch. In chapter two they were doing the same thing a month later in the same potato patch. I cannot really comment on the following chapters.

Anyway, there you are, reviewing this sort of thing week after week, and fighting off the mounting temptation to follow Thorbjörn's example and drown yourself, when you come across a book that is both literate and interesting, if not very remarkable. Naturally, you overpraise it grotesquely: in order to show off your learning, you compare it with foreign models; and the poor author believes you. Why shouldn't he? No one else is likely to read his book and tell him otherwise; and so another promising young author is ruined.

Only Finland is free of this sort of thing, saved by the innate flamboyance of the Finnish character. And the Finnish author Henrik Tikkannen, many of whose books have been translated into English, is one of the real delights of modern Scandinavian writing.

### A Chronicle of Need

What came before 1950 will not enrich your experience of modern, Americanized Scandinavia, but it is well worth reading anyway. The plays of Ibsen and Strindberg should really be seen rather than read: which means that they should be seen before you travel, since they are seldom performed in English in Scandinavia, for obvious reasons. But the novels of Selma Lagerlöf, Hjalmar Söderberg, and Knut Hamsun can be read with pleasure and profit anywhere. They are three very different writers, and the differences between them make plain the difficulty of discussing "Scandinavian Culture." Quite apart from the fact that Hamsun wrote in Norwegian, and the other two in Swedish—this hardly matters in translation—the tones they adapt could hardly be further apart. What they do have in common is that they all wrote about the same sort of carefully stratified society, where you might not like your place but you knew it well. There, if you like, was a common Scandinavian culture.

Quality is always extraordinary, so perhaps one should regard Selma Lagerlöf as the strangest author of the three; but Knut Hamsun is the one who least resembles any other author (with the possible exception of the early George Orwell, which is odd, for Hamsun died a Nazi).

The book that made his name was *Hunger*, published in 1892. The title is not to be taken metaphorically: the book is a study of the effects of starvation on a young author in Oslo over a period of three months. It is, when you think of it, a subject so obvious that it is astonishing that no-one else before or since has dealt with it. Orwell tried to in his early work, but there was always a flavor of pity in Orwell's work: the sense that this was happening to other people too. Hamsun is truer to life in that his hero is intensely selfish: you cannot imagine Orwell's narrator in *Down and Out in London and Paris* fighting over a garbage can, yet this is the sort of thing that really hungry people do.

A mere chronicle of need would not be terribly interesting: what gives *Hunger* its peculiar power is the sense of personal outrage. Appetite eats

at the narrator like a cancer. "Erst kommt das Fressen, dann die Moral," wrote Brecht, (First you must pig yourself; then think of morality). With Hamsun you can see it happening. And just as the narrator's own body rebels against him, demanding food when he would rather consider morality, so he rebels against the social organism surrounding him. The society of Hamsun's day was still extremely formal: you will find traces of this in modern Finland, but nowhere else in Scandinavia nowadays. The pressures of good, or respectable behavior are as great as the demands of hunger, and together they grind at the narrator like the jaws of a pike.

A little of this crushing movement tends to be lost in translation, for a technical reason that must also be borne in mind when reading Selma Lagerlöf: Swedes, and Scandinavians generally, swear religiously, rather than sexually, as Anglo-Saxons do. So when characters in these books go around exclaiming: "The Devil!", as they are prone to do, this should be understood as something a great deal ruder and more shocking in English. It is anything but quaint in the original.

### Tale against Saga

Geographically speaking, the nearest great novelist to Hamsun was Selma Lagerlöf, whose stories are set in Värmland, a hilly, forested, and exceptionally beautiful province of Sweden along the southern edge of the border with Norway. Värmland remains an untamed place to this day: the last thriving family of wild wolves in Sweden lives on elk and sheep in the forests there now. It is the sort of place where children walked seven or eight miles to school every day through the forests, with their coats turned inside out as a charm against trolls. The towns and settlements are isolated and hierarchical places, almost like ships in the unfriendly wilderness. The likeness is deliberate, since from this unpromising countryside, Lagerlöf was able to extract much the same lessons as Joseph Conrad drew from the Far East. Both writers are concerned with courage more than anything: not the histrionic, mannered courage of Hemingway, where the hero can always expect an opportunity to be brave, even if no one (except five million readers) is watching him, but the more difficult exercise of bravery when there seems no reason or opportunity for it. Gösta Berling, the alcoholic priest in *Gösta Berling's Saga*, has much in common with Lord Jim. I can see them together drinking in a bar in Penang, though they would not need to say much to each other. Berling, a priest and an educated man, was at least as strange to his parishioners as "Tuan Jim" was to his Malay tribesmen.

The likeness between Selma Lagerlöf and Conrad should not be driven too far. Lagerlöf has a much less involuted style, for one thing; then there is a difference in the time their stories cover: Gösta Berling's *Saga* as against *A Tale of the Islands*. Selma Lagerlöf's characters have children, which Conrad's seldom do, and this gives a quite different significance to their actions.

Conrad, too, had a political understanding and interest that you would not find in any Scandinavian (or native English) writer: only someone born in Central Europe could have written *Under Western Eyes*. But the comparison is still worth making, if only because it may suggest just how good Selma Lagerlöf can be.

### An Urban Miniaturist

Hjalmar Söderberg is an altogether more delicate writer; almost a miniaturist. He is the most urban and civilized of the three: equable, detached, and clear. His effects are gained by exact concentration on small things, like a masterless dog wandering loose in the streets. All through the story in which the dog appears, its master has been a brutal boor, cowering and beating the animal whenever he gets the chance. The narrator is refined and disdainful as he watches this. Then the master dies, unmourned and the dog runs howling through the streets all night, not because he was happy with his treatment, but because any master is better than none at all: nothing could be more terrible than to be a dog for whom no one cares. If one considers the English writer who could have written such a story without sentimentality, it becomes clear that Kipling or Jack London would have made it a story about the dog, about suffering and loyalty, and living up to your allotted fate. Graham Greene would have made it a story about the boorish master—in fact this situation does appear in one of his short stories, set on the Mexican border. Söderberg makes it a story about the narrator, or you and I, who so dislike the squalor of other people's lives. The dog's ridiculous and humiliating longing is no more incongruous or avoidable than any of our aspirations; and they are just as likely to be arbitrarily crushed as the dog's was.

This sounds a very "Scandinavian" plot. It doesn't read like that at all. Söderberg's style is far too poised for melodrama or vulgarity. You don't notice the barb until it cannot be extracted, just as the beautiful color of the blood in a Renaissance painting disguises the fact that its subject is a crucifixion.

Another point in Söderberg's favour is that he wrote short stories, which make ideal reading on journeys. Perhaps *A Masterless Dog* would be a little overpowering in an airport departure lounge, which makes most people feel like that anyway; but even the best-planned journeys involve a certain amount of waiting in pointless places, and a volume of Söderberg's short stories makes a splendid charm against such horrors.

### Visual Delights

There are of course other Scandinavian authors worth reading than the five I have discussed, but those you will have to discover for yourself. It's easy enough when once you've started, but the difficulty is beginning. All that a guide book can achieve is to point out things that are known to be good, without pretending to give a comprehensive coverage. Besides, few visitors will spend more than a month in Scandinavia, and there's a limit to what anyone can read in a month.

Language forms another limiting factor. The rhythms of Scandinavian languages are sufficiently strong to make the accurate translation of poetry into English extremely difficult. Similarly, the language barrier cuts one off from the theater. Swedish and Finnish drama is very good indeed: the production and the acting can be as good as anything you could see in London or New York. And the theater—and films—give great scope to the Swedish talent for collective belief.

Fortunately, there are theatrical experiences that are not dependent on language. Both opera and ballet thrive in Scandinavia. The best—and most

expensive—performances, are to be seen in Copenhagen. You must book in advance for them, but it is well worth doing so. The Swedish equivalent would be the little theater at Drottningholm, a perfectly restored 18th-century Court theater, set in a palace on an island just outside Stockholm. This is where Ingmar Bergman's production of *The Magic Flute* was filmed, and it's hard to think of a more perfect setting for Mozart than Drottningholm. It is another place that can be difficult to get into because it seats so few people, but if you have any feeling for the theater at all, it is worth making very strenuous efforts to get to Drottningholm.

Finland presents a more difficult case. This is not because it is an uncultured country—on the contrary, the arts are in a better condition there than anywhere else in Scandinavia. But the Finns will speak Finnish, which makes their culture difficult of access. What is the point of knowing that there are five good theaters in Helsinki when you cannot understand a word that is said in any of them?

But there is hope for the traveler in music and architecture. Musically—obviously—there is Sibelius, though other Finnish composers well repay attention. There is also a considerable tradition of Russian music in Finland, and this can take unexpected forms. The Finnish equivalent of the Drottningholm theater—in as much as it is the perfect marriage of what you see with what you hear—is a high mass sung in the Russian Orthodox cathedral in Helsinki.

But in addition, the old town of Helsinki is itself a considerable aesthetic experience. Whether it is "Scandinavian" is another matter—it was built by German architects for a Russian Tsar: but it would be worth traveling to see even if it had been built on the moon by Martian trilobites. Those looking for a specifically Finnish cultural experience should try for the annual Arts Festival at Jyväskylä in the forests of Central Finland. The town of Jyväskylä is perhaps the best showplace for modern Finnish architecture, while the festival itself is famous, among other things, for the performance of that traditional Finnish music—jazz.

### The Richest Scandinavians

The point behind these observations is a serious one: there is no longer any such thing as a specifically Scandinavian high culture. Such experiences are available, and I have tried to suggest some. But they are not greatly different from things you can find elsewhere in Europe. Yet if culture is taken in its broadest sense—as all organized human activities that tend to make life more worth living—then there does exist a specifically Scandinavian culture, and one which is very enjoyable. That is why children's books are important: they suggest the sort of areas where Scandinavian culture should be sought.

It is a cliché that the culture of any society tends to reflect the interests and concerns of the most powerful groups in the society, but it is an instructive cliché; and, by comparison with the rest of the world, it is women and children who are the most powerful and the richest Scandinavians. In consequence, you will find what the Scandinavians do best in the sort of places where women and children spend their money. The effort that in other countries is devoted to the arts is in Scandinavia used to make homes. What flourishes here is not so much culture as taste, and Scandinavian taste is easily acquired. Anything woven, sewn, or crocheted that can be used to brighten up a home will be done beautifully in Scandinavia.

Glass, tableware, even the most humble piece of kitchen equipment, all show a perfect balance between form and function. Such things may not seem terribly important, but they do make a tremendous difference to one's day-to-day mood, and they are the things that Scandinavians make excellently.

It is significant that the most popular museum in Scandinavia is the open-air adjunct of the Anthropological Museum at Skansen in Stockholm. What Skansen commemorates is the lives and homes of ordinary people through the ages. Whole houses from all over Sweden have been moved and rebuilt there, so that visitors can peek around and see how other people made their homes. This is the culture that the Scandinavians really care about, and there is more to be seen in the Anthropological Museum itself.

Here—in a neat touch—you can buy the patterns to weave or sew the clothes you see; while tucked away in the basement are the exhibitions about the the Lapps. They are really another story, stemming from a quite different tradition, but their artefacts are the strangest and most beautiful to be found in all Scandinavia.



## FOOD AND DRINK

### *How to Skål and Survive*

Although the Viking custom of drinking toasts out of somebody else's skull went out of fashion quite some time ago, it's only fair to warn you, as a visitor to Scandinavia, that you're still in danger of losing your head. But the threat to the visitor is more subtle these days, as you'll discover when you first slide your feet under a Scandinavian table.

#### When Do We Eat?

The first thing which will puzzle you as you edge uncertainly towards the *spisesal* (dining room) is the question of mealtimes. Breakfast, of course, is a natural, and is consumed sometime between the early morning bath and a glance at the newspaper. But now the difficulty begins. The next meal of the day defies definition. Some Anglo-Saxons are tempted to call it dinner, counting the sandwiches and glass of milk that many businessmen eat at their desks around noon as lunch. There are even those who stick by this theory doggedly, refusing to notice that the clatter of silverware against china, which starts up around 4.30 P.M. and becomes deafening towards 6.00 P.M. has completely disappeared, in Norway at least, by the dinner hour. The Scandinavians, being practical people, avoid the dispute by calling it *middag*. We advise you to do the same, thereby working for peace in a troubled world.

Instead of sowing discord, the Scandinavians are interested merely in making maximum use of the long and bright summer evenings. Accordingly, families sit down to the main meal of the day as soon as father comes

home from work, somewhere towards the tag end of the afternoon. The great advantage of this arrangement is that, once *middag* is over, everyone is free for the rest of the day. If you come hotfoot from South Dakota or South Kensington with a hatful of introductions to near relations or business acquaintances, you can turn this custom into a game. Don't refuse three or four dinner invitations you received for the same day. Just fix a different hour for each.

While you have your napkin unfolded and are wondering who's going to eat all that food, we should urge you to save some room for *aftens* or supper, the final meal of the day, not counting incidental snacks. This may be no more than cakes and coffee or it may consist of no less than a complete cold buffet, depending on the circumstances and whether or not your eyes have the socially-accepted glaze. No one is looked down upon for starting this as early as 7.00 P.M. although, at a formal party, it might well not appear until midnight.

With this overall timetable in mind, let's get down to particular dishes. The typically Scandinavian breakfast is more varied than the typical English or American one. The larger hotels, accustomed to catering to visitors from abroad, will be able to offer you bacon and eggs, though this honorable combination is not indigenous to the Scandinavian ménage. Instead, eggs, cheese, cold meats, herrings in a number of guises, jams, and fruit are all likely to make their appearance, in addition to less usual items such as cereals, porridge, hot meatballs, and salad. These you'll discover together with a great variety of bread, many kinds rarely found in other countries. One of them, *Knekkebrød*, is of the hard, unleavened type which you've undoubtedly seen elsewhere under the proprietary name of Ry King. Unless you specify otherwise, your egg will normally be served soft-boiled and still in its shell.

By the time you've tried everything, chances are you'll have a solid foundation which will carry you through to mid-afternoon. But if you find your fancy gradually turning towards thoughts of food around about noon, you have a number of choices. In most of the bigger cities there are sidewalk stands displaying signs reading *Pølser* or *Varm Korv*. At these you will be able to buy hot dogs, often wrapped in what looks like a pancake instead of a roll. They are smaller than what you're used to, and you will probably agree that they taste better.

If all you want is something cool, look for another kind of sidewalk stand, marked *Is* or *Glass*. The name has nothing to do with the verb "to be" or with windowpanes, but informs you that here you can have ice cream. The Finns, incidentally, call it *jäätelö*.

#### The Mysterious Open Sandwich

Failing both of these (and still assuming you're interested), make for the nearest restaurant. If you see the word *smørbrød*, you're in luck, for this is Scandinavia's most typical dish (the Swedish spelling is *smörgasbröd*). The word means simply, "butter-bread," but there's nothing simple about it, as you'll discover when the waiter hands you a menu listing dozens of varieties.

*Smørbrød* is the rich uncle of its English or American nephew, the sandwich. Unlike the anonymous sort of thing served at garden parties or railway stations, it is a single-decker, and presents its offering naked and unashamed. Lobster, smoked salmon, prawns, shrimps, smoked herrings, all

appropriately and artistically garnished, cold turkey, chicken, roast beef, pork, a host of sausages, cheeses, eggs, and salads, all tastefully and appetizingly arranged. Various called *smörgås* by the Swedes and *voileipä* by the Finns, three of them taken with a cool lager are generally considered an excellent lunch, whether or not you abandon all caution and succumb to a piece of pastry for dessert. Hot food is available too, if you are still hungry.

Wherever you may be in Scandinavia, the sea is never far off, and this is a good thing to remember when you sit down to *middag*. Perhaps because the fish served in restaurants and hotels is invariably fresh, the Scandinavians are all great fish-eaters. Whatever the reason, their seafood dishes are justly renowned for their variety and excellence. Lobster, salmon, and trout are great favorites, but you will also have your choice of cured herrings, crayfish, crab, oysters, shrimps, prawns, hake, eel, and other sea-borne morsels. Boiled cod may sound unromantic, yet you'll find it transformed when served *à la Scandinave* with melted butter and parsley. In the summer the Swedes and Finns indulge in traditional crayfish weeks when you can go on eating these succulent little creatures until your conscience begins to bother you. In Denmark you'll compare the Limfjord oysters to the best that Baltimore or Colchester has to offer.

Then there are a number of fish dishes which only the bolder spirits are advised to try. The first of these is *rakørret*, which is trout that, like Keats' wine, has "lain long years in the deep-delved earth." There is actually much more to the preparation of this highly odiferous *spécialité de la maison* than burying it in the backyard, but it is undoubtedly an acquired taste. Next comes *surströmming*, another form of man's inhumanity to fish, except that this time it's a herring who suffers. As the name suggests, the taste is distinctly sour; that is, if you get that far. The third of our "don'ts" for cautious gourmets is *lutefisk*, which is codfish steeped in a lye of potash. The finished product has the consistency of frog spawn and a taste which can only be experienced and not described. The Norwegians who eat this "delicacy" anesthetize themselves with such copious drams of *akvavit* one might suspect that the *lutefisk* is only an excuse.

While we are on the subject of dishes which should be approached circumspectly, we may as well complete the story with a mention of *geitost* or goat's cheese, which has the hue of scrubbing soap or milk chocolate and the texture of plastic wood. Give it a try anyhow; you'll be called on for your own opinion sooner or later. And if you are too disappointed, all the Scandinavian countries produce excellent imitations of such well-known favorites as Roquefort, Camembert, Gruyère, and even England's Stilton. Danish Blue is another local variety with which no cheese-lover could possibly quarrel.

Scandinavian cooks use margarine or butter for their cooking, and not oil as the Latins do. Game and roasts are usually served with a cream sauce which is delicious. In some cases, sour cream is used, and *ryper* (a variety of grouse or ptarmigan) prepared with this sauce and accompanied by cranberry jam is a rare treat.

By now you are doubtless wondering what has happened to the renowned Swedish *smörgåsbord*. It's doing fine, thank you. But let me first explain to the uninitiated that the *smörgåsbord* (called *voileipäpöytä* by the Finns) is a very special *hors d'oeuvre*, offering the diner a stupendous number of small dishes, each more calculated than the last to whet his appetite and make him forget all rash resolutions to respect his waistline. The beau-

ty of this institution is that it contains no *pièce de résistance* to dominate the table. You roam at will like the honey bee, savoring here a morsel of smoked eel, there a little lobster, and roving through the delicacies of the animal kingdom, with regular rounds of *akvavit* and beer to give you fresh incentive. These days, the *smörgåsbord* is seldom the prelude to a four-course dinner in private homes, but some restaurants feature it as a specialty, maybe on a certain day in the week.

Desserts do not run to the English or American pattern. Neither the English pudding nor the American ice cream desserts are as prevalent as soufflés, large, tiered cream cakes, and berries in season. Strawberries reach the table somewhere around the end of June and manage to survive for a commendable number of weeks. Later on in the year, Finland, Norway and Sweden offer a delicious wild berry which is hardly known elsewhere, the cloudberry, called *suomuurain* or *lakka* in Finnish, *hjordron* in Sweden, and *multer* in Norway. In appearance rather like an overgrown unripe raspberry, it has a delicate aroma which is unique. Incidentally, the Finns make a delicious liqueur from the juice of this berry.

Speaking of liquid refreshments, we should note that the Scandinavians are coffee-drinkers rather than tea-drinkers, and they make their coffee good and strong, in the best Continental tradition. In Denmark and Norway, coffee is somewhat expensive, and families who drink a lot have to make up for it with some sort of substitute. This trend has, of course, resulted in an increase in tea-drinking, but on the whole the Scandinavians have not yet acquired the English touch. So be sure to emphasize that you want your tea strong. Don't expect to find that the cult of tea has made the Scandinavians tea-conscious. The buttered toast, crumpets and muffins of Belgravia have no afternoon counterpart in Bergen or Bornholm. Instead, look for a restaurant-type of place with the sign "*Konditori*" over the door. The waitress will bring cakes to your table along with tea, coffee, milk or a soft drink. You'll be hard put to choose among the several delicious varieties.

### Skål

Scandinavia's local brand of firewater is known as *akvavit*, and a glass of this is known in Denmark, Sweden and Finland as *snaps*, whereas the Norwegians call it a *dram*. Served at the beginning of the main meal of the day—at the *hors d'oeuvre* stage, or occasionally with the first course—it is invariably taken with a beer chaser. *Akvavit* emphatically is not a drink for the tyro toper and you'll find it takes a little practice to attain proficiency in the local ritual of gulping it down without falling off your chair. The mysteries of the *skål* or toast, apart from regional variations, are too complicated to explain here, but you won't go far wrong if you stick to the following procedure.

First, at the start of any meal, wait for someone to give the signal. At a formal party, the host, after clearing his throat ominously or belaboring the nearest piece of china or crystal with a soup spoon, will seize his glass and launch into a *velkommen til bords* speech. All this means is "welcome to the table" and you may even find it a gracious gesture of hospitality. Anyhow, the crucial thing is to listen intently for the word *skål*. This is your cue. Seizing your own glass, you hold it firmly in a position of tantalizing proximity to your parched lips, though preferably far enough away from your nose to avoid asphyxiation. Then you nod your head north,

south, east, and west as you echo "*skål*." Now, and not a moment sooner, your *akvavit* starts its downward journey. This is the supreme test. As all hell breaks loose somewhere in your gullet, you may be tempted to reach convulsively for the beaker of cool beer that beckons by your plate. Not so the trained snapper. He returns his glass to its original position just south of his chin, nods blandly to the four points of the compass while simulating an air of complete indifference to the fires consuming within, and then sends a mouthful of malt brew in pursuit of the *akvavit*.

When the urge to wet your whistle descends on you, don't try a surreptitious drink on your own, but pick up your glass boldly, fix a fellow diner with a purposeful stare, pronounce the word "*skål*," and proceed as above. Anyone is fair game for this except your hostess; after all, someone has to keep track of the time. Apart from achieving a drink, you will undoubtedly have won the undying gratitude of your friend across the table, who was almost certainly contemplating a similar move. Remember that husbands are expected to *skål* their wives, who, if slighted, are entitled to collect a pair of stockings by way of damages.

Although there are so many striking points of similarity between the food and drink of each of the Scandinavian countries, it is surprising that in a few unimportant details, which only indirectly affect the table, there should be some startling discrepancies. For example, one may say without any risk of offending the Swedes and the Danes, that the Finns and Norwegians make infinitely better dessert and eating chocolate. On the other hand, the Danish Aalborg *akvavit* and the Swedish Norrland *akvavit* can be said to be the best of its kind—but the Norwegians have gone one step further by producing their *linje akevitt*, which is stored in huge sherry vats of American white oak, and then sent on Norwegian cargo liners to Australia and back. It is said that the rolling of the ship, combined with the change of climate when crossing the Equator—the "*Linje*"—adds an unusual flavor to the "*scalplifter*." Lager beer in Scandinavia is of top quality, whether you drink Danish Carlsberg or Tuborg or Norwegian Ringnes or Schou, all of which are exported around the world.

There is, unfortunately, one more essential piece of advice to impart while on the subject of liquor in Scandinavia—namely, that it is very expensive. The Danes get away quite lightly in this respect, but in all the other Scandinavian countries, alcohol, especially the imported variety, is very, very pricey. And just to add insult to injury, you'll also discover that, except for the carefree Danes, the Scandinavians, like the British, have strict and inflexible licensing hours, outside which it is not possible to buy so much as the humblest glass of beer. Don't say you haven't been warned.

### A Final Word

You will find that the Scandinavians have elevated the culinary arts to a high place among the graces which add flavor to life. Wherever you dine you will discover that the serving is on a par with the cuisine. Helpings are generous, dishes and drinks which are supposed to be hot really are hot, and iced drinks never arrive in a semitepid state. This is only natural where hospitality is regarded as one of the supreme virtues.

After finishing a meal in Scandinavia, it is a time-honored custom for the hostess to stand near the door of the dining room. The guests, one by one, shake her hand on their way into the living room and pronounce

the words, "*takk for maten*." Badly translated, this means "thank you for the food." A phrase well-worn by usage, perhaps, but nonetheless welcome from those who have dined well in congenial company.

Lapp languages. It is also very distantly related to Hungarian. But it is quite unrelated to the other Scandinavian languages. Nor would the Finns have things otherwise. They think of their language as far more flexible and expressive than either Swedish or English—and most Finns speak both these languages.

### Flamboyant Savagery

Language is not the only thing that sets Finland apart from the rest of Scandinavia. Helsinki is probably the least Americanized city in capitalist Europe. The other Scandinavian capitals all have their natures partially concealed by modern buildings. Helsinki remains as it was, and very beautiful. Everything *works* with Scandinavian efficiency, but it all *looks* central European. There is a flamboyant savagery about the Finns quite alien to the rest of Scandinavia: a Finnish writer was once approached by a broke colleague for a loan.

"I can't," he said, "I'm broke myself." And to prove his point, he took from his wallet his last hundred Finnmark bill, tore it into shreds, dumped them in the ashtray—this happened in a pub, of course—and set light to them. This is the sort of behavior one would expect from a Polish or Hungarian nobleman between the wars, not from a phlegmatic Scandinavian. But then, the Finns are anything but phlegmatic. If they seem to accept their appalling history calmly, this is not indifference, but tough-mindedness. They could say with Bishop Burnett that "Things are as they are. They will be as they will be. Why, then, should we wish to be deceived?"

This tough-mindedness sets them apart from practically everyone else in the world; but even if Finland is not like anywhere else—and that is one reason why it is worth visiting—you can at least partly prepare yourself for it by imagining a Central European country that has been shifted 500 miles north into Scandinavia.

The countryside is Scandinavian: smallholdings set among the lakes and forests of the interior, and along the coast the marvellous Baltic archipelagoes. It is a tourist cliché to speak of the lakes and forests of Finland, just as one cannot mention Lapland without talking about the Midnight Sun. But in fact these things do not reward the traveller. They are indeed beautiful, and entirely overwhelming, but once you have seen them that is that; they are not stimulating in themselves. Unless you have business in the forest, or beneath the midnight sun, you will very rapidly get bored. You get nothing for free in Finland, and if you wish to be interested in the wilderness, then you must bring your own interests to it. If you can do that, then you will be repaid handsomely. The fisherman, the hunter, and the botanist will all find their heart's desire in the Finnish wilderness.

### Life and Death on the Lakes

The Finnish smallholder must have all these skills and more. It is through this sort of pioneer farming that the Scandinavian element has impressed itself upon Finnish culture. Even well within modern times, times in Finland were very difficult, and the memories of extreme poverty remain potent. A sense of being crushed by unending, almost fruitless toil is perhaps the proper explanation of "Scandinavian gloom." It is an emotion that has little to do with long winter nights—then at least you can



## PRELUDE TO FINLAND

### *Scandinavia's Rich Secret*

by  
ANDREW BROWN

Finland is the toughest of the Scandinavian countries. It is tough in both senses of the word: resilient and difficult. For foreigners it is difficult: Finland is the only European country that had a common border with Russia in 1939 and yet remains independent today. It is also the only country in the world to have fought Communist Russia to a standstill—in the Winter War of 1939–40; and though the Finns lost the "Continuation War" of 1941–44, when they fought alongside the Germans against the Russians, Finland survived even this loss. The Russians annexed a great deal of territory; installed a Proconsul, and extracted very heavy reparations from their defeated foes. But they did not absorb all Finland. The Proconsul went home after three years to die of cirrhosis; the refugees from the ceded territories were settled; the reparations were duly paid. Finland survived and prospers.

But such a history leaves scars: the Finns are nowadays both fiercely patriotic, and quite free of aggressive nationalism. They are not proud of their wars, though they are proud of the way in which they have subsequently learned to live in peace with Russia. They remain resilient, and very difficult for foreigners to understand. The language is part of this difficulty. Finnish is partially comprehensible to Estonians, and related to the

rest—and a great deal to do with constant physical fatigue. Even now there are stories where the darkness of the forest seems to douse and choke the clear aseptic brightness of modern life.

Consider the life and death of Lauri Rapala. He was born in 1907, in great poverty. His father was unknown, so he was given the surname of Rapala—the name of the village where he was born. After a spell as a lumberjack, he set up as a freshwater fisherman, using nets and standing lines in the lakes of the interior. It was not a profitable life. For 21 years he lived with his wife—and, eventually, seven children—in a one-room cabin the size of a modern Finnish living-room, with only one bed. So as not to waste time while rowing between his nets, he whittled small fish out of spruce bark, stuck hooks in them, and towed them behind the boat while he rowed. These “wobblers” caught a great many fish, and Rapala started to make a little extra money by selling them.

Then the war came. He spent five years on the Russian Front, and survived. He returned to his old way of life: fishing all day, and in the evenings whittling his “wobblers.” He had posted some to Finnish friends in America, where they began to sell. The hobby had become a business, and then an enormous success. By 1964, Lauri Rapala had set up a factory, and was selling 800,000 a year. He was rich, though still generous, and he could move his family to new houses. And then, one night in 1965, his youngest son drowned in one of the lakes where the original wobblers had been tested. The circle was closed: the lakes that had first kept the Rapala family alive, and then made them rich had claimed their price. After the accident, Lauri Rapala set out to drink himself to death. It took him nine years: he was a strong man. He is buried beside his drowned son. The business flourishes still.

It is a very Finnish story: one of toughness, and almost unimaginable resilience; hard work, success, and finally vodka. But anyone who thinks it shows an unreasonable gloominess, should consider what vast reserves of courage and cheerfulness Lauri Rapala must have had to get as far as he got.

### Neighbors and Colonizers

In the plain of Western Finland, along the Baltic Coast, another Scandinavian influence is felt. These are the Swedish-speaking regions. The Swedes and Finns have had a long and complicated relationship, that somewhat resembles that between England and Ireland. The parallels cannot be drawn too far, but they are nonetheless illuminating. They help one also to understand the relationship between Finland and Russia. The frontier that Stalin drew in 1940 is almost exactly the same as the frontier that Peter the Great drew up when Finland was still a Swedish colony in 1721.

In the beginning, the Swedes were military colonizers. The Finnish-speaking tribesmen of the interior traded in valuable furs, and the Swedes wished both to control this trade, and to profit from the valuable fishing in the gulf of Bothnia. These were the days before there were any Russians. The word “Russian” itself comes from the name that Swedish Vikings foraging eastwards gave themselves—“Rus.” Then the Swedes settled, like the Normans in Ireland. They formed the land-owning, aristocratic classes, divided by languages from the peasantry that worked for them. And, just as in Ireland, it was among these settlers, absorbed in the country yet still remote from the indigenous population, that nationalism first be-

came an articulate political force. As early as the 14th century, the Swedish ruling class in Finland were championing Finnish interests against central authority.

The differences start in the 16th century, with the Reformation. The Finns did not retain a separate religion to their conquerors, as the Irish did, and this homogeneity of religion helped to preserve the separate languages. When the Swedes and Finns adopted Protestantism, the Bible was translated into Finnish, and this was to prove crucially important. Finnish nationalism in modern times is based on the Finnish language, and without a Finnish Bible, it is questionable whether the language would have survived, any more than Gaelic for example has. Nor have the Finns fought the Swedes as the Irish fought the English. But the two countries have had a long, intimate, and fertile connection, and the Swedish-Finns, like the Anglo-Irish, have made contributions to literature and the arts quite out of proportion to their numbers, which are tiny.

### Architecture and the Realities of Life

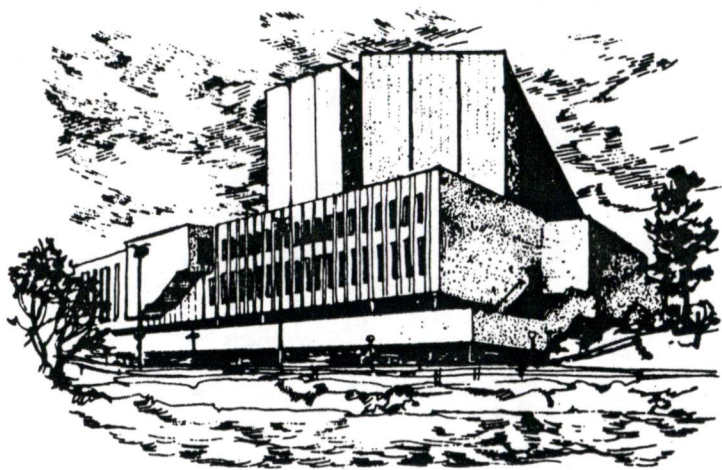
Culture returns us to the Central European, German influence. This is apparent to the visitor in at least two ways. The first is the astonishing beauty of Finnish buildings. Architecture is an art in Finland, with a power comparable to that of any other art form, and it is taken very seriously. The results do not much resemble anything anywhere else in the world. All one can say about Finnish taste is that it owes nothing to anyone else's ideas of what is beautiful. When it works, it enlarges our ideas of what can be beautiful—and what more can any art achieve? Even when it fails, it both expresses and transmits strong, clear emotions. There is a building in Helsinki that appears to be modelled on the architect's worst hangover: life-sized, or slightly larger, rendered in grey and brown knobly concrete. No one could call it beautiful, but it is one of the most eloquent buildings you could ever hope to see.

The German influence, too, is apparent in the formality of Finnish manners. Flowers for the hostess at a dinner party; little formal speeches of thanks; a certain reserve symbolized by the use of a formal and an informal pronoun for “you”:—socially Finland remains a very old-fashioned place.

A very old-fashioned place, but also a very civilized one. History and geography have forced the Finns to face some of the nastiest aspects of human life. They have faced them with great courage and a certain elegance. Just as their proximity to Russia sharpens their appreciation of the value of their own freedom, so the ghastliness of Finnish history has reinforced their appreciation of the arts of peace. There are a score of theaters and stages for the performing arts in Helsinki, a city of scarcely half-a-million people which also contains the largest and best bookshop in Scandinavia.

Denmark may be more comfortable, and Norway may be more beautiful. Sweden is richer, and easier for the visitor to appreciate. But Finland is the strangest and the most civilized of all the Scandinavian countries, as well as the toughest. It is quite unique; and when you have peeled off all that is Scandinavian, and all that is Central European, there remains a quality that is as rich and secret as the language. You would have to live there for years to discover quite what the secret is—and when you had discovered it, you would probably find it incommunicable.

FINNISH  
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## HELSINKI

### *Broad Avenues and Bright Prospects*

Helsinki (Helsingfors to the Swedish-speaking minority) is very much a city of the sea, sprawling over peninsulas, curving round bays and spilling out across islands that are linked by bridges, causeways or even by boat to the central hub. This hub fills a chunky peninsula where, somehow, without overcrowding, are to be found the single-chamber Parliament, or Eduskuntatalo, the leading technical and educational institutes, art galleries, theaters, museums, business houses, the great Olympic Stadium (scene of the 1952 Olympic Games and 1983 World Athletics Championships), much outstandingly good architecture, the head offices of every big industrial enterprise—in fact all that constitutes the legislative, cultural, scientific, commercial and economic life of the country. And still there is space left for airy parks and broad streets.

Helsinki owes its origin to the chance whims of two monarchs, and its development has largely been the result of a series of accidents. Some 400 years ago King Gustav Vasa of Sweden ordered the citizens of four Finnish towns—Porvoo (Borgå), Tammisaari (Ekenäs), Rauma and Ulvila (Ulfaby)—to leave their homes and proceed to a place on the rapids of the river Vantaa. There they were to build a new town to attract the trade of the Estonian city of Tallinn, thus challenging the power of the Hanseatic League. Like many another city of this period, Helsinki's growth was interrupted by wars, plagues and fires. Not until 1809, when Finland became an autonomous Grand Duchy of Russia, was Helsinki really able to start developing; then three years later, it became the capital of Finland, primarily because the Czar found Turku (Åbo) was too far away from Russia

and too close for comfort to Sweden to remain the capital of his newly-acquired territory.

The first of the accidents which stimulated the new capital's growth was the Great Fire in Turku. So much of the latter city was gutted that the University was moved bodily to Helsinki, which at once became the cultural as well as the political center of the country. In 1808, thanks to chance again, another Great Fire played a part in the young city's future. This time it was Helsinki that burned, allowing the German-born architect, Carl Ludvig Engel, an opportunity to plan the rebuilding of the city practically house by house and stone by stone. It is to Engel and to his partner, Ehrenström, that Finland must be grateful for her beautiful capital.

Around the Senate Square which Engel designed stand the Tuomiokirkko or Cathedral, the University and the State Council Building—a group built in one of the purest styles European architecture can boast. Perhaps it was Engel's inspiration, but from his day Finland has always had good architects. Two of them, Eliel Saarinen and Alvar Aalto, became world famous. You can hardly walk down any street in Helsinki without seeing splendid examples of the work of modern architects whose fame is already spreading beyond the frontiers of Finland, such as Heikki and Kaija Sirén, Rewell, Ervi, Petäjä, Pietilä, Penttilä.

Under the protective shadows of the island fortress of Suomenlinna (Sveaborg), Helsinki developed rapidly during the 19th century. The lovely park-strewn suburb of Töölö, and the island residential districts of Lauttasaari, and Kulosaari came into being quite recently. Still newer suburbs grew up in the post-World War II period, and the city continues to expand, as indeed it must, for like most capitals, it has not enough accommodations for all who wish to live there.

### Exploring Helsinki

From the visitor's point of view, Helsinki has the virtue of compactness. Once you have oriented yourself and found out where you are on the city map, it will be difficult to get lost. The piers where ships from abroad dock, the railway station and, to a lesser extent, the air terminal, are all in the center of the city. So, however you come, you can start wandering around on foot at once.

It's an idea to begin by finding a good viewpoint from which to make your first survey of the city—such as the top of the Olympic Stadium Tower, the hill of Tähtitorninmäki, or comfortably installed in a top floor bar or restaurant as in the Tornio, Hesperia, Inter-Continental, Palace or Vaakuna hotels. Probably the first buildings you will notice are the Cathedral and the railway station, both in the center of the town, together with the House of Parliament and the Stadium Tower. The great broad street running from the center of town through the city and out to the main Turku road is Mannerheimintie, or Mannerheimvägen (*tie* in Finnish, and *vägen* in Swedish, mean street or road.) Along this broad avenue, named after Finland's great hero Marshal Mannerheim, you'll be able to pick out the Post Office, the House of Parliament, the National Museum (Suomen Kansallismuseo), the fine new Concert and Congress Center of Finlandia Hall, and the Olympic Stadium.

Another simple introduction to the city is to take the No. 3T or 3B tram which describes a figure of eight through the city, bringing you back to

where you started. No. 3T has a commentary in several languages in summer (see "How to get around" in the *Practical Information*). After that, as good a way as any of planning your sightseeing is to start in the middle and work outwards. In point of fact, by far the greatest number of interesting sights are contained in the central part of the city, branching out from the Market Square (or Kauppatori).

The Helsinki Tourist Office has an excellent free booklet "See Helsinki on Foot," detailing six walking tours with maps. Their premises are near the Market Square down by the South Harbor, a few hundred meters from some of the passenger quays. The colorful open-air market flourishes each morning, ending around 1 P.M. and reopening in summer from 3.30-8, when the emphasis is more on arts and crafts. Grouped around the striking statue of Havis Amanda, by Ville Vallgren, are the flower sellers, and the fruit stalls with their mountains of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, red currants and red whortleberries. You may even be fortunate enough to find the special cloudberry, *suomuurain*, which grows mostly north of the Arctic Circle and is ripened by the Midnight Sun. Fish are sold at the very edge of the harbor, straight from the boats in which they were caught earlier in the morning and so fresh they are still alive and flipping. Meat and dairy produce is sold in the covered market, just beyond the fish stalls.

Havis Amanda, incidentally, the beautiful lady loved by all Helsinkiites, is a center of *vapunaatto* (May Day Eve) revelry. She is crowned again and again on this festive night with the white caps of students who wade through the protective moat surrounding her and climb up to embrace her. Another statue of interest is the stone monument commemorating the time in 1833 when Nicolas I and his consort Feodorovna visited Finland. Known as the Empress Stone, it stands just opposite the quay used by the small boats which head out to the islands of the harbor archipelago. On the west side of the harbor is the Olympia Terminal where passenger and car ferries from Sweden, Poland, and Estonia dock—some of them huge vessels that loom as high as the buildings. Continue south and you come to the pleasant park and district of Kaivopuisto, where most of the embassies are to be found. On the shore, here and elsewhere, you will see small wooden structures from which some Helsinki housewives follow an old tradition of scrubbing their carpets in the sea (or lake, as the case may be).

Leading out of the Market Square are Pohjoisesplanadi and Eteläesplanadi (North and South Esplanades), with gardens running up the middle. Compositely known as Esplanadi, it is a favorite promenade and also features some of the display rooms and shops of Finland's top firms in porcelain, glass, fashion and crafts. Many of them are open on Sundays in July and August.

Along the edge of the Market Square facing the sea stands the President's Palace, with a sentry in field grey patrolling the entrance. Near it you can see the City Hall and various administrative buildings, and behind it towers Helsinki's most famous landmark, the Cathedral. Separating the North and South Harbors, the rocky headland of Katajanokka is dominated by the Orthodox Uspensky Cathedral with its gleaming "onion" domes. This rather neglected area of 19th-century warehouses and naval barracks has been given a new injection of life and is now a developing complex of shops, arts and crafts studios, and restaurants. Passenger ships from Sweden and Germany dock at the Katajanokka terminals on the South Harbor side of the headland.

### Senate and Railway Squares: Contrasting Hubs

Only a block away from the South Harbor market is Senate Square, one of the loveliest in northern Europe, with Engel's Cathedral and its domes soaring above it. In the middle of the square is Walter Runeberg's statue of Alexander II of Russia, the enlightened despot who was so well disposed to Finland.

On January 28, 1951, the great Marshal Baron Carl Gustaf Mannerheim, died in Switzerland. He was flown back to his native land and lay in state in the Cathedral for three days before his state funeral. The citizens of Finland were allowed to pay their last respects to him while he lay there in the dim vastness of this lovely church. Young war widows, children, officers and soldiers, who had fought in Finland's wars against Russia under Mannerheim's leadership, filed past in their thousands, and the only sound was one of weeping. Never in Finland's history has there been such an expression of national feeling.

Opposite the Cathedral the lively new Senaatti shopping center adds a new dimension to this gracious but rather quiet district. Most of the streets leading off the Senate Square contain government and administrative offices. Snellmaninkatu is named after J.V. Snellman, whose statue stands in front of the Bank of Finland. Known as the awakener of the Finnish national spirit, he was instrumental in persuading the Russian overlords to accept the idea of a separate Finnish currency and officially recognize the Finnish language. Nearby is the House of the Estates, site of Finland's Parliament during the Russian era, and now occupied by several scientific societies.

But let us leave the Senate Square and the "Whitehall district" of Finland and take a stroll up Aleksanterinkatu, the main shopping center of Helsinki. At its top end, where it runs into Mannerheimintie, is Stockmann's, Finland's largest department store. At this corner is the famous statue of the Three Smiths by Felix Nylund, a common rendezvous for people who have to meet somewhere in town.

Where Mannerheimintie meets Esplanadi stands the Swedish Theater where plays are given in the Swedish language. To reach its Finnish-language rival, the older National Theater, you must turn around and go back down Aleksanterinkatu to the first street on your left, which leads into the huge square in front of the railway station, which is also the hub of the city's impressive new metro network. Here the National Theater is overshadowed by the massive station itself, designed by Eliel Saarinen. Although he became an American citizen during the war, Saarinen's last wish was to be buried in his native country. His ashes were flown to Finland in 1950 and interred in the grounds of the beautiful home he built for himself along the shore of lovely Lake Hvitträsk.

Right opposite the Railway Station is the City Center, a complex of shops, restaurants, cafés, with underground passageway of shops leading to the railway station. Also on the opposite side of the Railway Square and facing the National Theater is the newly renovated Art Museum of the Ateneum (Ateneum in Taidemuseo), which houses specimens of the works of Finland's greatest painters. The paintings of Gallen-Kallela, Hugo Simberg, Albert Edelfelt, Eero Järnefelt, and Magnus Enckell are known far beyond the borders of Finland and are well worth a visit. You'll also find some sculptures by the world-famous Wäinö Aaltonen.

Just behind the railway station stands the Main Post Office. Opposite is Sokos House which contains a large hotel and restaurant, plus numerous business offices and shops. Nearby is one of Helsinki's latest shopping precincts, Kaivopiha, an attractive oasis linked to the railway station, with an entrance from Mannerheimintie.

The Post Office marks one boundary of the "downtown" part of the capital. Across Mannerheimintie from here is the bus station and, in the adjoining block, the glossy new Forum shopping center. A stone's throw north along Mannerheimintie is the House of Parliament, the impressive structure in red granite which seems so striking because of the ample space around it. It looks solid and, if you go inside you will agree that it is solid, built to withstand storms of debate within and criticism from without. It is lavishly and beautifully decorated inside, even to the special caucus room reserved exclusively for the three-score or more of lady representatives. Finland's 200 members of Parliament are elected by proportional representation.

### National Museum and Olympic Stadium

A short distance west of Mannerheimintie in Temppeliaukio is the Temppeliaukio church, one of Europe's most unusual modern churches, built into the living rock. Designed by the brothers Timo and Tuomo Suomalainen, it is also used as a concert hall. Returning to Mannerheimintie, just a few hundred meters from the House of Parliament is an odd-looking edifice with a tower which gives it a church-like appearance. This is the National Museum, which houses a large collection of ethnographical exhibits illustrating Finland's history. This area, round the shores of Töölönlahti Bay, is the site of the big new city plan designed by Alvar Aalto. Part of this is Finlandia Hall, the Concert and Congress Center, designed by him, which opened in 1971, close to the shore of the bay and not far from the National Museum. The Intercontinental Hotel is nearby, while the ultramodern City Theater, designed by Timo Penttilä, is across the bay.

About half a mile beyond Finlandia Hall, on the corner of Helsinginkatu, is the site of the glossy new Opera House due to open in 1992. Further along Mannerheimintie, not half an hour's walk from the railway station and but ten minutes by tram, rises the imposing tower of the Olympic Stadium. One of the finest views of Helsinki can be obtained from the top of this tower. Further north still and to the east of Mannerheimintie, less than two miles from the city center, is Helsinki's fine new International Fair Center, which opened in 1975. Exhibition halls, a restaurant, cafeteria and well-planned open spaces make it a showplace of its kind.

The street leading off at right angles from Mannerheimintie, Helsinginkatu, leads to the beautiful Botanical Gardens and the Water Tower, from which there is a fine view. Nearby is Helsinki's Tivoli, or permanent amusement park, called Linnanmäki, offering top-class entertainment of universal family appeal. Continuing along this street we come to the "East End" of Helsinki where there is little to see except proof of the fact that Helsinki has indeed no slums.

If you return to Mannerheimintie and cross the street, you will find yourself in the hospital center of the capital. Actually, it is still Töölö, the biggest residential district, but in this little section are concentrated most of the city's biggest and newest hospitals.

Although it may seem a startling suggestion, you next ought to go and see the Hietaniemi Cemetery. When you get there, you will realize why

it is a favorite rendezvous for a promenade, for it is a beautiful place. Marshal Mannerheim is buried in the military section. It is a custom to place candles on each grave on Christmas Eve, a moving sight.

Another place well worth visiting is Arabia. This is one of the largest pottery factories in Europe and can be visited by appointment. Although the Arabia plant is some distance out of town, a tram service runs practically to the gate.

### Helsinki's Islands

A number of Helsinki's most interesting sights are on islands, a major one being the fortress of Suomenlinna. In fact, this covers a series of inter-linked islands, and the entire Finnish army assisted in its construction, which began in 1748. Under the protection of this fortification, Helsinki first began to develop and flourish. Once called the Gibraltar of the North, it was indeed impregnable, never having been taken by assault. Twice, however, it was surrendered without a fight, first to the Russians in the war of 1808-1809, and then during Finland's war of independence when the German Baltic Division, assisted by the Finnish Civic Guard, captured the city of Helsinki. During the Crimean War a combined British and French fleet bombarded the fortress and the fires caused by the cannonade convinced the army that the fortress could not withstand modern artillery fire.

Yet Suomenlinna is more than an ancient military monument with several museums; its parks and gardens are lovely, especially in the spring. One of the forts near the historic King's Gate has an outstanding restaurant. Bearing the historic name of Walhalla, it has been changed as little as possible. This group of islands has now been developed into an all-purpose center for cultural and leisure activities. It includes the recently completed Nordic Arts Center, partly housed in a restored barracks dating from 1868, and focussing on exhibitions and the promotion and exchange of ideas on Scandinavian art.

Seurasaari, an island linked by bridge to the mainland, is another good spot to visit. It houses a delightful open-air museum which brings together houses, ranging from simple huts with turf roofs to lovely wooden villas furnished with original furniture, transported from various parts of the country.

Yet another island, Korkeasaari, houses Helsinki's zoo, reached by ferry from the South Harbor or by foot bridge from Mustikkamaa. The latter is the home of Helsinki's Summer Theater and is also an island, but accessible by road bridge. Close to Korkeasaari, the islet of Hylkysaari is the setting for the recently opened National Maritime Museum. Still more islands in this sea-girt city feature such amenities as bathing beaches, restaurants, yacht clubs.

### Environs

A trip round some of Helsinki's suburbs will give you a fine idea of that special Finnish talent for creating imaginative residential districts in harmony with nature. These provide the theme for some sightseeing tours, but if you want to explore independently, head for Tapiola Garden City, situated in the forests and close to the sea, to the west of town.



## THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

### *Way of Poets and Pioneers*

Romantics sometimes speak of "the land of a thousand lakes," but they don't even come close. A recent re-count puts the figure at 187,888, comprising in all nearly a tenth of the Finnish countryside. Much of the rest of the land is covered with forests. In the midst of all this, the Finns have somehow managed to find space for their cities, homes and farms. Yet though they have built well and solidly, though they have bent the land to their will, Nature is still triumphant. Indeed the magnificent and sometimes wild country Finland possesses is perhaps its most notable attraction. The constant theme of lake and island, forest and ridge may sound potentially monotonous, but the variations are infinite, and the interplay of light and color at different seasons and different times of day provides endless permutations.

Since one of the greatest attractions this nation offers the visitor is the opportunity to come really close to nature, you would be wise to allow a little time to savor the true delight of life outdoors, even if it is just to slip away from your hotel and walk in the forests which will almost certainly be on the doorstep. For the more ambitious, there are plenty of marked trails.

### Exploring the Central Provinces

As a first destination we suggest Hämeenlinna, with a couple of stops along the way, just off the main road. The first is Hyvinkää, with its forested ridges and one of Finland's most fascinating museums for railroad

buffs, the Railway Museum. Among the exhibits are the two Imperial carriages used by the Russian czars. The second stop is at the outstanding Glass Museum at Riihimäki.

The town of Hämeenlinna, birthplace of Jean Sibelius, boasts a castle, the oldest part of which probably dates from the crusades which Birger Jarl led into Finland in 1249. Ten km. (six miles) away on the road to Tampere is Hattula Church, built of stone about the year 1250. The few remaining old country churches in Finland are well worth visiting because of their unique interior decoration, dominated by paintings covering the walls and ceilings. Artists of those days had a firm belief in all the horrors of hell fire, and spared no pains in depicting their beliefs with the brush. Hattula Church also has some fine wood carvings. Just outside Hämeenlinna is Aulanko National Park, where there is an excellent hotel.

From Hämeenlinna you can travel on to Tampere by one of the sleek water buses of the Finnish Silver Line, a full day's cruise described below under Tampere. If you're motoring, make a point of stopping off at one of Finland's top glass works, Iittala, 20 km. (12 miles) north of Hämeenlinna. Guided factory tours are arranged and there's a museum and shop with irresistible bargains.

### Tampere, the Weaving Wonderland

Almost every book, pamphlet, brochure, and guide will inform you that Tampere, the country's second-largest city, is Finland's Pittsburgh. However, the resemblance begins and ends with the concentrated presence here of industry—the settings are quite incomparable.

From about the year 1,000, this part of Finland was a base from which traders and hunters set out on their expeditions to northern Finland and even to Lapland. But it was not until 1779 that a Swedish king actually founded the town of Tampere. Some 41 years later a Scotsman by the name of James Finlayson came to the infant city and established a factory for spinning cotton. This was perhaps the beginning of "big business" in Finland. The firm of Finlayson exists today and is still one of the country's leading industrial enterprises.

Artful location is the secret of Tampere's many factories. An isthmus little more than a kilometer wide at its narrowest point separates the lakes Näsijärvi and Pyhäjärvi, and at one spot the Tammerkoski Rapids provide an outlet for the waters of one to cascade through to the other. Called the "Mother of Tampere", these rapids provide the power on which the town's livelihood depends. Their natural beauty has been preserved in spite of the factories on either bank, and the well-designed public buildings of the city grouped around them enhance their general effect. Also in the heart of town is Hämeensilta bridge with its four statues by the well-known sculptor Wäinö Aaltonen. Just to the south of this is the Tourist Office, close to the glossy high-rise of Hotel Ilves in a newly restored old warehouse area. You'll find some interesting boutiques, art studios and restaurants around here and, close by, the bustling quayside of Laukontori, terminal for the Finnish Silver Line and sightseeing boats.

The high ridge of Pyynikki forms a natural park near the center of town, and on its top is an outlook tower commanding a view of the surrounding countryside. At the foot of this Pyynikki Ridge is the Pynikki Open-air Theater with its revolving auditorium which can be moved even with a full load of spectators to face any one of the sets ready prepared by nature.

On the Särkänniemi peninsula to the north, the even higher, modern observation tower of Näsineula soars above the lake, forest and town, topped by a revolving restaurant. The same building houses the first planetarium in Scandinavia and a well-planned aquarium and, close by, is the Sara Hildén Art Museum set in its own sculpture park on the lake shore. It's a fine modern building with superb changing exhibitions, if you've a taste for the avant-garde.

A number of museums include a pleasantly-situated provincial museum, a good art gallery, the charming Haihara Doll Museum just outside town, and the Lenin Museum (it was in Tampere that Lenin and Stalin first met in 1905). One of the most imaginative museums of all has the unpromising name of The Workers' Museum of Amuri, west of the center. In fact, it's just a block of old timber houses, showing just how the original tenants lived up to 100 years ago—so well done that you expect them to return at any moment.

Tampere Cathedral, a little northeast of the center, is comparatively modern (completed in 1907), but it houses some of the best-known masterpieces of Finnish art, including Magnus Enckell's fresco, *The Resurrection*, and two works by Hugo Simberg, *Wounded Angel* and *Garden of Death*. Further east, beyond the railroad station, is the startling, modern Kaleva Church, designed by Reima and Raili Pietilä. It looks rather like a grain elevator from the outside, but is all soaring light and space within. Outside of town, there are one or two fine 15th-century characteristic small stone churches.

Tampere is a terminal for two major lake routes. To the north, the "Poet's Way" route lies along Näsijärvi, as far as Virrat. It passes through the charming little town of Ruovesi where J.L. Runeberg, Finland's national poet, lived in his student days. At Petoniemi Mansion he collected the material for his famous *Tales of Ensign Stål*. Not far away, artist Akseli Gallen-Kallela built himself a castle-like building in Kalevalan style, alas not open to the public.

North of Virrat is Ähtäri. Here, in a fine forested setting, is Finland's first wildlife park and "Mini Suomi," the latter representing all the regions of Finland and their main features, including many highly sophisticated working models and audio-visual displays. Intended to be educational, it is also fascinating. The extensive Ähtäri complex includes an extraordinary hotel built into the living rock and designed by the Suomalainen brothers, who created the TempPELLIAUKIO rock church in Helsinki.

The second route, that of the Finnish Silver Line, offers two alternative schedules to Aulanko and Hämeenlinna. One features Kangasala, immortalized in Z. Topelius' poem, *A Summer Day at Kangasala*. (The poem has been set to music and is one of the loveliest of many haunting Finnish songs.) Along the way the modern water bus passes by Valkeakoski, a town typical of the many Finnish industrial communities which are set in idyllic surroundings. The other route takes in the home and studio of the sculptor Emil Wikström.

### Lahti, Gateway to Central Finland

Let's look now at the center of the country, starting with a short trip to the modern town of Lahti. Located at the southern end of one of Finland's largest lake systems, Vesijärvi-Päijänne, this community is now the sixth-biggest town in the country, with rapidly expanding industries. Its

City Hall was designed by Eliel Saarinen. But there are a number of notable modern buildings, including the Church of the Cross by Alvar Aalto, and a fine theater. The town is also noted for the nearby athletic academy of Vierumäki, possessing an international reputation and an unsurpassed location.

Lahti is better known, however, for winter sports. Good enough, in fact, to have been selected for the 1958 and 1989 World Ski Championships. In general, Finland is comparatively flat, but running across the country is the very prominent Salpausselkä Ridge formed during the Glacial Age. Where this crosses the town boundaries, it has given its name to winter games which attract thousands of Finns and many foreigners every March. In an attractive rural setting only a few miles west of Lahti, the old manor house of Pyhaniemi houses an art gallery, and not far away is the beautiful 15th-century church of Hollola with a separate bell tower designed by Engel. Across the road from this a fine timber building in National Romantic style is now a coffee house offering delicious home-made refreshments.

Twice a week in summer (Sunday and Thursday), a venerable steam train, the *Pikku-Jumppu*, chuffs along the one-hour route from Lahti to Heinola to the northeast. Each journey has a different theme (Wild West, Train Robbery, etc.), complete with appropriate costume, and passengers have the option of returning the same way or by boat. Heinola itself is an extremely pleasant small town on an adjoining lake system and has particularly good facilities for canoeing, with a network of paddling routes that include a 360-km. circuit of great variety through some of the loveliest scenery in unspoiled rural Finland. Right in the heart of town, at Siltasaaren Lohjapaja, you can borrow a rod and hardly fail to make a catch from a pool jam-packed with rainbow trout, which will then be smoked or salted for you to take away or eat on the spot.

At the northern end of Lake Päijänne lies Jyväskylä. Known as a cultural center Jyväskylä was the first to establish a secondary school that used Finnish as the language of instruction and now has its own university by Aalto, who also designed the City Theater. The town has an attractive open-air museum and, on the outskirts, the well-equipped sports center of Laajavuori.

Jyväskylä is also an important woodworking center for it is right in the forested heart of Finland. The whole region and Vitasari to the north has been developed as a holiday area with delightful holiday villages in log-cabin style scattered about the vast, deeply forested and lake-strewn region. The holiday villages offer sports facilities as well—and also a good opportunity to probe deep into Finland's "off-the-beaten-track." Jyväskylä's annual Arts Festival in summer has become a major event, and the town is also important as a terminal for boat trips to Lahti down Lake Päijänne, the second-largest in Finland. During the early part of the journey the scenery is wildly beautiful, with forest-covered ridges and completely uninhabited rocky shores. The landscape grows milder and more serene as you travel south, and numerous villas are scattered along the banks or built on the many islands that punctuate the lake throughout its 113 km. (70 miles) length. If you're traveling between Lahti and Jyväskylä by car, the eastern route is the more beautiful and takes you through Sysmä, near which is the delightful Suvi-Pinx open-air art exhibition (summer only) in a beautiful forest setting. It has a restaurant and amusements for children.



## OSTROBOTHNIA

### *Rural Plains to Forested Ravines*

The flatlands of Ostrobothnia are the least visited by tourists, with some reason since they lack that primeval wilderness quality with which so much of the rest of Finland is endowed. Yet there is quite a lot of interest, especially if you want to get to grips with Finnish history and, not least, if you have a taste for huge sandy beaches that you can enjoy with very little interference from other humanity. The coastal towns vary from charming backwaters to busy bustling places, but most of them have played their part in one way or another in shaping Finland's destiny at some time. The land itself, by the way, has noticeably risen over the centuries so that quite a few harbors are now some miles from the modern nucleus of the towns.

Much of the hinterland is agricultural and nearly all of it flat with one notable exception. That is the north-eastern part of the region, close by the Soviet border, where there is as wild and rugged an area as you could wish to meet in the vicinity of Kuusamo.

As many of the coastal towns have a substantially Swedish-speaking population, the Swedish name is also given where appropriate in this section. It is, incidentally, from this province that so many Finns have emigrated to the United States.

#### Coast and Plains

You may find yourself entering Ostrobothnia either from Turku to the south or from Tampere and the neighboring province of Häme to the

southeast. Almost due west of Tampere on the coast is Pori, the biggest industrial town and harbor on the Gulf of Bothnia, and famous for its annual Jazz Festival. This is one of the places where the retreat of the sea is most noticeable. About 19 km. (12 miles) away, the long beach at Yyteri is a favorite summer resort—the sands are really superb and there are all kinds of sports facilities as well as a splendid hotel there. The old fishing communities of Reposaari, an island accessible by road, are other points of interest about 32 km. (20 miles) away. Two charming coastal towns are worth mentioning to the south of Pori, though strictly speaking they are outside Ostrobothnia's boundaries. These are Rauma and Uusikaupunki in both of which some fine old wooden buildings have managed to survive the hazards of fire.

Or you may come into Ostrobothnia further north, taking in on the way Finland's first wild-life park at Ähteri, (see page 176) due north of Tampere and on the boundary of the two provinces. Your first major coastal town then is likely to be Vaasa (Vasa) and, on the way, you will observe how the country begins to flatten out and finally becomes a succession of rolling plains. There is open country in northern Finland too, but nowhere the cultivation that can be seen here. The whole landscape takes on a new aspect, one unlike any in the other regions of Finland: even the houses are different, generally two-storied.

Vaasa is an important port, with regular passenger services across to Swedish ports. After the disastrous fire of 1852 (a few interesting buildings of Old Vaasa can still be seen) the town was moved nearer the sea and given a Russian name. During the 1918 war of independence Vaasa became the capital of "White" Finland, the country's official government having moved there from "Red" Helsinki, and to commemorate the event the city was allowed to include Finland's Cross of Liberty in its coat of arms. In fact, South Ostrobothnia seems to have taken a prominent part in Finnish politics on several occasions. Besides being the site of a Russian defeat in 1808-9, the parish of Lapua is the place where the anti-Communist Lapua Movement originated in 1930. Spreading quickly all over the country, it reached a climax in the so-called Peasants' March, when 12,000 men from all over the country gathered in the capital and forced Parliament to declare Communism illegal.

The plains of Ostrobothnia are strewn with the battlefields of one or another of the numerous wars that the Finns have fought, first against the Swedes, then against the Russians, and for a brief while even among themselves. The coastal scenery is lovely, and there is good sailing in the Gulf of Bothnia. Apart from Vaasa, there are only two other towns of any size in this part of the province: Kokkola (Gamlakarleby) and Pietarsaari (Jakobstad), lying on the coast to the north of Vaasa. Pietarsaari is an attractive place with strong associations with the national poet Runeberg and has an active, modern trade center. Among the smaller coastal towns, Kristiinankaupunki and Uusikaarlepyy are both charming, with a good crop of ancient wooden houses. For beaches, go to Kalajoki where the sands are truly glorious and there are good amenities in the way of accommodations and sports facilities, set amidst the dunes.

Kokkola has one sight of particular interest to English visitors. On the banks of the small stream which runs through town is the English Park, and here in a small building is an English pinnace captured during the Crimean War when a landing was attempted near here in 1854. One British officer and eight seamen fell in the engagement, and they are buried

**Lokalahti Church.** Wooden church from 1763. 15 km. (9 miles) from town.

**Old Church.** From 1629. Open Mon.–Sat. 11–3, Sun. 12–4.

**Myllymäki Park.** With four old windmills. Open 10–8.

**Pyhämaan Uhrirkirkko** (Sacrificial Church of Pyhämaa). Wooden church from the early 17th century 20 km. (12 miles) from town.

**Vaasa. Art Hall** (Taidehalli). Changing Finnish and foreign exhibitions.

**Brage Open-air Museum.** Hietalahti; seal hunting and folk museum. Open Mon. to Fri. 4–7, Sat. and Sun. 1–4.

**Mustasaari Church.** Old Vaasa. Open daily 9–4.

**Orthodox Church.** Kasarmintori; includes items from Valamo Monastery. Open Tues. to Sat. 10–3.

**Ostrobothnian Museum.** Museokatu 3; gentry and folk museum; also fine art section. Open Mon. to Fri. 12–8, Sat. and Sun. 1–6.

**St. Mary's Church.** Ruins in Old Vaasa. Dates from 14th century.

**Stundars Handicraft Village.** Solf. Open daily 12–6. 17 km. (11 miles) from town.

**Vaasa Church.** From 19th century with altar-piece by A. Edelfelt. Open Tues. to Fri. 10–3 and 6–8, Sat. 10–2.

**Vaasa Court of Appeal.** With fine portrait collection.

**Wasastjerna–House Museum.** Special section of Ostrobothnian Museum in Old Vaasa. Open daily 12–6; closed Mon.

**SPORTS. Boating.** Rowing boats are available at Kokkola, Oulu, Pietarsaari, Rauma, Uusikaupunki, Vaasa. There is excellent and varied canoeing and kayaking in the Kuusamo area.

**Golf.** There are 9-hole courses at Kokkola, Oulu, Pori, and Vaasa.

**Riding.** Facilities at Kalajoki, Kokkola, Oulu, Pietarsaari, Rauma, Seinäjoki, Uusikaupunki and Vaasa.

**Swimming.** Finland's finest sandy beaches are to be found on the west coast, some stretching for miles. Kalajoki and Yyteri, near Pori, have excellent tourist facilities.

**Windsurfing.** Facilities at Kalajoki, Oulu, Pietarsaari, Pori, Rauma, Seinäjoki, Uusikaupunki, and Vaasa.

**Winter sports.** Top center of the region is Rukatunturi, near Kuusamo, with ski trails, ski lifts, ski school and all kinds of excursions organized. Winter fishing through the ice and snow safaris are also arranged.



## FINNISH LAPLAND

### *Arctic Contrasts*

Lapland is a twofold miracle, a product of man and nature working in close harmony. Nature fashioned a wilderness of endless forests, fells, and great silences. So often the human footstep has obliterated all that came before, but here man has walked gently and left the virgin solitude of this country almost unspoiled. Now easily accessible by plane, train or bus, this Arctic outpost offers comfortable hotels and modern amenities, yet you won't have to go very far to find yourself in an almost primordial solitude.

### **Exploring Finnish Lapland**

The oldest traces of human habitation in Finland have been found in Lapland, and hoards of Danish, English and even Arabian coins indicate trade activities many centuries ago. The origins of the Lapps themselves are lost in the mists of history. There are only some 2,500 pure Lapps still living here; the remainder of the provinces' population of some 220,000 are Finns. Until the 1930s, Lapland was still largely unexploited, still a region where any trip was an expedition of exploration. Then the Canadian-owned Petsamo Nickel Company (now in Soviet hands) completed the great road which connects Rovaniemi with the Arctic Sea. Building activities increased along this route (later to be known as the Arctic Road), the land was turned and sown, and a few hotels were built to cater to the increasing numbers of visitors.

Next came World War II with the Soviet Union still the enemy. In September, 1944, in conformity with the terms of the Armistice Treaty with their foe, the Finns started to drive out the considerable number of German troops then stationed in Lapland. Methodical to the last, they retreated destroying all they could. The capital Rovaniemi was levelled; almost every farmhouse, cottage and cattle-shed was burned down or blown up.

Barely giving the ruins time to cease smoking, the Finns started back again in a few weeks to create modern communities out of the desolation. Certain areas of Lapland had to be ceded to the Soviet Union (the Arctic coastline, Petsamo, and part of the Salla district on the east frontier), but their inhabitants were settled within the new boundaries. They included some 250 Skolt Lapps, a unique Lapp tribe, who were settled at Sevettijärvi on the northern shores of Lake Inari.

### Along the Arctic Road

To get down to rather more practical details for the intending visitor, let us find a base in Lapland itself from which we can explore the country. The southernmost town of the province, Kemi, is somewhat south of the Arctic Circle on the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. But practically on the Arctic Circle is the "Gateway to Lapland," Rovaniemi, the administrative hub and communications center of the province where the Ounas and Kemi rivers meet.

In the process of post-World War II rebuilding, Rovaniemi's population shot up from 8,000 to its present 33,000, so don't expect to arrive in a backwoods shanty town. This modern city on the edge of the wilderness comes as a surprise to most people with its excellent architecture and amenities—quite a lot of it, including the layout of the town, the work of Alvar Aalto. Note especially Lappia Hall, the concert and congress center which also houses the Lapland Provincial Museum, the world's northernmost professional theater, and the Library, both beautifully designed by Aalto. Also based on Aalto's plans is the new City Hall next door.

Quite a lot of light industry has come to Rovaniemi, too, and with all the varied amenities it has to offer, it attracts visitors from all over the province on business or pleasure, for health or further education, or simply because it has the best selection of shops of anywhere on or north of the Arctic Circle. Among other places to visit here are the modern church with its impressive mural, and various museum collections devoted to the region and its different features. Local sightseeing also includes summer trips on the Kemi river.

But interesting though it is, Rovaniemi is by no means typical of Lapland and to explore the province you have several alternatives. If you're in search of adventure, a number of small firms in Rovaniemi arrange safaris of up to one week with themes ranging from summer hiking or canoeing to winter reindeer or snowmobile trips into the wilderness. There are also a number of packages from Helsinki or from Rovaniemi that take in some of the Lapland highlights, albeit at greater speed than is ideal. There are even one-night trips by Concorde ex-London to see the midnight sun at midsummer or meet Santa Claus at Christmas. From Rovaniemi, independent travelers have various options. One is to fly or take the Arctic Road from Rovaniemi to Ivalo, the main artery of central and northern Lapland and, like other roads in the region, an important post-bus route. Ten kms. (six miles) from Rovaniemi, on the Arctic Circle, is a restaurant and—no

less—Santa Claus' village and workshops where gifts can be bought in midsummer for mailing any day you like, with Santa Claus Land stamp. Santa Claus himself is in daily attendance year round. In the same Arctic Circle complex are the Hundred Elves' House illustrating Christmas celebrations in different countries, a glassworks, and a reindeer farm. A lot farther north at Sodankylä (where there is also a Northern Lights Observatory) is an ancient wooden church under which mysterious mummies were discovered. The nearby fells have been developed into a holiday area; and at Vuotso, further north still, you can even try your hand at goldwashing for an hour, a day or several days under expert guidance at Tankavaara, about ½ km. (¼ mile) east of the Arctic Road there is now an extremely well arranged Gold Museum here, with a restaurant and self-catering accommodation.

Goldwashing is also practised on remoter parts of the Ivalojoiki river to the northwest where a goldwashing station, built as long ago as 1870 at Kultala, still stands. Most of the Ivalojoiki passes through remote landscapes, but from just south of Ivalo township it flows alongside the Arctic Highway for a while. It's an excellent canoeing river and there are now arrangements for renting canoes to paddle down to lake Inari, returning by bus to holiday centers such as Saariselkä.

The latter lies a little north of Tankavaara and is an expanding complex in a fine setting, with a varied range of accommodations from which to embark on lone or guided trips into the true wilderness. Over 2,500 square km. (965 square miles) of this magnificent area has recently been named the Urho Kekkonen National Park after Finland's former president. Further north, the sprawling small township of Ivalo is a main center for northern Lapland with a top class hotel and all the amenities of a modern community.

The huge island-studded expanses of Lake Inari, north of Ivalo, offer endless possibilities for wilderness exploration, and the village of Inari on its southwest shore is a good center from which to radiate in almost any direction. It has a charming modern church and sightseeing cruises on the lake are arranged in summer. West of it lies the Lemmenjoki (River of Love) where there is a small holiday village from which wilderness treks or boat trips are organized, including into a remote goldwashing district where a few hardy souls are still trying their luck.

In recent years, a growing number of small holiday villages have blossomed on or near the Arctic Road near Inari and to the north of it, usually with a small restaurant and shop attached. Amenities are simple, but the situations are often magnificent and bring you very close to the true pulse of Lapland. Usually there will be a boat at your disposal, fishing possibilities and the experience of preparing your own sauna. From Kaamanen, north of Inari, a side road leads to Sevettijärvi, home of the Skolt Lapps, and eventually into Norway.

Further north still is Utsjoki, a most straggling village on the Norwegian border. This is the country's northernmost parish in which you can travel by boat on the Teno river—famed for its salmon waters and called Finland's most beautiful river. Should you wish to take a trip into Norway, you can drive over the border at Nuorgam northeast of Utsjoki, or from Karigasniemi over the Norwegian Arctic Highway, eventually returning into Finland at Kilpisjärvi in the far northwest, though this is a very long detour. However, Utsjoki and Karigasniemi are now also linked by a minor road following the Teno river, a road which continues further south

still along the border with Norway to Angell from which you can return east to Inari, so that there are now several round-trip possibilities of various lengths.

### To the Three Countries Boundary

Another alternative from Rovaniemi is to head via Pello and the Tornio valley or Kittilä into western Lapland, reaching right up to the meeting point with Norway and Sweden near Kilpisjärvi. Along minor roads about 60 km. (37 miles) to the west of Kittilä, the rural community of Äkäslompolo has blossomed into one of the best-equipped summer and winter resorts in Lapland. It is located by a small lake at the foot of the fell of Yllästunturi, at the hub of a network of walking trails. You'll pass another well-equipped tourist complex 20 km. (12 miles) north of Kittilä, at the foot of Levitunturi near Sirkka. It's of a particularly attractive design and caters especially to health fanatics.

The fells are higher and the scenery more impressive on this side of Lapland, and the fell group of Pallastunturi and the villages of Enontekiö and Kilpisjärvi are particularly recommended. A superb wilderness trail, about 96 km. (60 miles) long, links Pallastunturi and Enontekiö across the fells, with unattended huts along the way in which to overnight. To the east of the fells, a relatively recent minor road passes through Raattama and a number of hamlets whose remoteness at that time protected them from war devastation so that a number of farm buildings survive from quite ancient times. Enontekiö straggles along a lake shore and from it a road leads to Kautokeino in Norway, eventually linking up with the rest of the Norwegian road network. The road from Muonio to Kilpisjärvi, paralleling the Swedish border, is known as the Way of the Four Winds (after the four points of the male Lapp headgear). Along this route, Kare-suvanto is well placed for excursions into the wilderness and trips over into Sweden. From Kilpisjärvi itself, a popular excursion is to the simple granite Stone of the Three Countries, marking the boundary of Sweden, Norway and Finland. There are marvelous views for those with energy to climb Saana fell, looming over Kilpisjärvi and, to the northeast, rise more fells including the highest in Finland, Haltia at over 1,220 meters (4,000 feet).

### The Wild and Not-So-Wild

But what are those special features that draw some people back to Lapland again and again? It is difficult to put your finger on them for they are made up of many factors as intangible as the Northern Lights that send their flickering veils of color weaving across the winter sky. If you can take the intense but dry cold, winter is a fascinating time in Lapland, not only for the Northern Lights, but for experiences such as the unique reindeer round-ups.

Depending how far north of the Arctic Circle you go, the sun doesn't rise for anything up to several weeks around mid-winter. Don't imagine it is pitch dark, though. There is reflected light from the invisible sun below the horizon during the middle hours of the day, and a luminosity drawn from the ever-present snow.

From December to March, reindeer owners round up their herds all over the Lapland map, and collect them in their thousands into huge cor-

als. Sometimes dressed in their colorful costumes, the Lapps and also many Finns lasso the reindeer in true Wild West fashion, recognizing their own animals by brand marks on the ear. Once sorted into individual herds, they are counted, some selected for slaughter and the rest go free again. The round-ups are also attended by many buyers, for reindeer meat is considered quite a delicacy not only for eating locally, but for "export" to the south and even abroad.

To get to some of the remoter round-ups you may have to travel by taxi plane, though other corrals are near the road, especially around Ivalo, Inari and Enontekiö. Most Lapps and northern Finns get there on skis or by one of those motorized sledges which rather sadly have replaced the much more attractive (and silent) reindeer-drawn *pulkka* (a kind of boat-shaped sleigh on one runner). In southern Lapland especially, an increasing number of round-ups occur in the fall. Finding out exactly when and where a round-up is taking place is not easy, for much depends on the whims of the weather and the reindeer, so you must check locally. The information offices in Rovaniemi, however, will be able to give some guidance.

A few words should be said about the Lapps—a proud, sensitive and intelligent people some of whom, with justification, resent the attitude of those visitors who regard them as a tourist attraction put there for their benefit. The word for Lapp in their language is *Same* (pronounced Saa-me) and this is how they prefer to be known. Remember this is their country and they have an ancient culture, language and customs of their own. Modern influences (and intermarriage) have rather regrettably changed many aspects of their traditional way of life; for example, the attractive costumes are less frequently seen, except on festive occasions. The young especially have been affected by the changes and many of them are far more interested in becoming teachers, lawyers or engineers than breeding reindeer or hunting from their remote homesteads. Yet others have found profit from selling souvenirs to the tourists. But most prefer to go about their daily life minding their own business. The Lady Day Church Festival in Enontekiö in March and Easter Church Festival in Inari are particularly colorful events, attended by many Lapps in their most brilliant costumes, and usually featuring reindeer racing or lassoing competitions.

Of other winter attractions such as skiing, reindeer safaris and dog sledge tours, more has been said under *Winter Sports* at the end of this section. Summer has the blessing of daylight up to 24 hours long, and often beautiful weather to go with it, but beware of the mosquitoes. In the fall—usually early September—the colors are so fabulous that the Finns have a special word for it—*ruska*.

So the new and the old intermingle in this remote northern corner of Europe. The new Lapland is a place of modern techniques in which careful management is gradually driving back the wilderness and creating cornfields beyond the Arctic Circle. The forests are being exploited and managed with expert care, and light industry and hydro-electric projects have added their mark to the Lapland map. Yet goldwashers still wash the gravel of the Lemmenjoki river, cut off from the world except for occasional visitors and the aircraft that swoop down with their mail and provisions, and the rhythm of the seasons still governs the life of all those connected with reindeer. And the experienced traveler who would like to roam through the wilds for days on end without meeting a fellow human being can still do so without any problem at all. Be warned, however, that cli-

**United States  
Information  
Service**

Embassy of the United States of America  
P.O. Box 256  
Kaivokatu 10 A  
00101 Helsinki

Telephone: 176 599  
Telefax 656 846



TELEFAX MESSAGE

MESSAGE #: 587  
DATE: Sept. 5, 1990

TO: WHITE HOUSE SPEECH OFFICE  
FAX #: (202) 456-6218

ATTENTION: JENNEFER GROSSMAN

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR WEINMANN'S BIO

FROM: UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE  
HELSINKI, FINLAND  
FAX # 358-0-656 846 (Int'l)  
90-656 846 (Finland)

REPLY TO: WILLIAM P. KIEHL

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

THERE FOLLOWS THE REQUESTED BIO. HOPE MY SUGGESTIONS WERE  
USEFUL FOR THE DRAFT REMARKS AT THE EMBASSY. REGARDS.

John Giffen Weinmann was born August 29, 1928, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He received his B.A. in 1950 and his J.D. in 1952 from Tulane University. He is retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve (Lieutenant). Mr. Weinmann is married to the former Virginia Lee Eason and has five children: Winston Eason, Robert St. George Tucker, John Giffen Jr., Mary Virginia Lewis and George Gustaf.

During the 1988 Presidential campaign, Mr. Weinmann was a member of the National Finance Committee, George Bush for President; and was the Louisiana State Finance Chairman, George Bush for President/Louisiana Victory 88. His diplomatic experience includes his appointment as Commissioner General of the United States for the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition (1983-85) and his tenure as Chief Delegate of the United States to the Bureau of International Expositions, Paris, France 1983-84.

*when  
he hosted  
Bush*

Mr. Weinmann's business activities have included: management of family investments which operate under the name of Waverly Enterprises and which include Waverly Oil Corporation and Waverly Drilling Partnership, 1977-1989; Chairman of the Board of Eason Oil Company, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1977, (Director 1961-80); President and Director, Waverly Oil Corporation, 1979-1989; Director, the American Life Insurance Company of New York, 1981-88; Director, First National Bank & Trust Company of Oklahoma City, 1978-84; Director, Rathborne Land Company, Harvey, Louisiana, 1968-80; General Counsel for the Rathborne Land Company, 1968-80; and General Counsel for the Times-Picayune Publishing Corporation, 1968-80. He also practiced law with the firm of Phelps, Dunbar, Marks, Claverie & Sims, 1953-83; Partner, 1955-80; Counsel, 1981-83; and also 1985-1989. Mr. Weinmann is involved in numerous activities related to Tulane University, including member of the Board of Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund since 1981; and member of the Board of Governors at the Tulane Medical Center, 1968-81.

Mr. Weinmann was nominated by President George Bush to be the U.S. Ambassador to Finland March 17, 1989, and confirmed by the Senate on October 7, 1989. He presented his credentials to President Mauno Koivisto on November 10, 1989.

conversation w/ Bill Kiehl

Bush & Amb Wienmann v  
- were friendly  
- Amb. W. was Chm of the Fundraising  
Committee for Bush  
for Pres

- when VP, <sup>Bush</sup> came to New  
Orleans, W. hosted him  
when he was Commissioner General of N.O. World  
Fair  
Wienmann was  
- lawyer & bus man

→ last here in '83 as VP,  
slept in Ambassador's residence  
on compound

- when he was there last he  
had an opportunity to experience  
Finnish (Saw-NAH) \* <sup>cold</sup>  
& plunge into the Baltic water

→ important to  
Finnish that this  
be perceived  
correctly

- dictated talking points, will see if he can  
bind

Ams & Finns as former DCM  
himself, he realizes the

plusses & minuses<sup>^</sup> of And can appreciate  
the hard work gone in at  
last minute work  
by Amst & fins in <sup>accommodating</sup> ~~arranging~~  
this visit.

This summit was decided upon  
- was last minute, part of  
reason he chose Helsinki  
was it has a reputation  
for so smoothly & graciously hosting summits

- Since he's coming directly from  
Presidential Palace, emphasize Finnish hospitality  
(Maw-no) KOIVISTO (Koy-vis-to)  
Maunne

& the wisdom  
that makes it useful  
to have discussions  
w/ the Finns

- Press: protective pool covering

- just a drop-by 2 pants

→ 1/2 of pants - Am  
coments

↳ Share words  
w/ industrial  
Firms

- Not a hardship post, so no into  
jobs to keep them alive, but

→ Fourth of July they  
served chocolate chip  
cookies + one of

'union stuff' Officers was  
caught in film pocketing the cookies

→ I understand at you  
parties they disappear  
" very quickly"

to: "I was disappointed  
to ~~see that~~ find  
that you're not sewing!  
there are none of you  
former chocolate chip  
cookies ...."

→ if we see talk points, will

Mobile Phone

949 - 506 - 440

17718

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 7, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

DAVID DEMAREST *DD*

FROM:

DAN MCGROARTY *DMcG*

SUBJECT:

HELSINKI ARRIVAL STATEMENT

I. SUMMARY

On Saturday, September 8, at 11:10 a.m., you will make an arrival statement at the Helsinki-Vantaa Airport. President Koivisto will be there to greet you.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks (5 min./cards) focus on the summit agenda, including especially the Persian Gulf crisis.

# # #

McGroarty/Dooley  
September 7, 1990  
11:30 am  
[HELSINKI.ARR]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ARRIVAL STATEMENT, HELSINKI SUMMIT  
HELSINKI, FINLAND  
SEPTEMBER 8, 1990  
11:10 AM

President Koivisto. Members of the Finnish Government: the city of Helsinki has often been a meeting place for nations seeking to advance the cause of peace. My thanks to the people of Finland for hosting this meeting -- and for setting an example to all the world in your resolute commitment to liberty and independence. //

When President Gorbachev and I met last in Washington, we discussed the possibility of meetings such as the ones we'll hold here tomorrow. We agreed that the U.S. and USSR had reached a stage in our relations where meetings could occur more frequently, with less fanfare -- working meetings, held as circumstances might dictate. / Our aim was that these meetings be unstructured and informal -- with an open agenda, and maximum opportunity to exchange views on issues of mutual importance. //

In keeping with that aim, here in Helsinki President Gorbachev and I will focus on a full range of issues. We seek continued movement towards the new Europe, whole and free. We seek to advance the pace of arms control -- strategic and conventional. / I want to hear about the progress of Soviet reform -- and explore other issues of interest to our two countries. //

And, of course, we will devote a large part of our time together to the situation in the Persian Gulf. //

I have said many times this past year that we have entered a new era in world affairs. This meeting comes at a critical time -- at a moment **when the actions we take can shape this new world for years to come**. //

In the past, many regional conflicts have played themselves out against the background of the larger conflict of the Cold War. Renegade regimes and unpredictable rulers resorted to force -- counting on **superpower stalemate** to frustrate a united response. International law and international organizations were often paralyzed -- powerless to prevent conflict or restore the peace. //

But the international response to Iraq's invasion proves **how much has changed**. // Here in Helsinki, President Gorbachev and I meet, to strengthen our common approach to this unjustifiable act of aggression. //

Much is at stake -- and there is much the world stands to gain if we succeed. / If the nations of the world -- acting together -- isolate Iraq, and deny Saddam the fruits of aggression, we will set in place the cornerstone of an international order more peaceful, stable and secure than any we have known. //

To our Finnish hosts, let me say that I intend to take full advantage of this brief but welcome opportunity to renew America's warm friendship with Finland. I meet today with

President Koivisto, whose counsel I have always valued. I look forward to hearing his views on the many issues I've just mentioned. //

Finland has long been a voice for peace and stability between nations: In the councils of the CSCE -- as a member of United Nations Peacekeeping forces. / And today, at this time of challenge -- Finland once again stands with the forces of peace. / I thank the government of Finland for its staunch support, as a member of the U.N. Security Council, upholding international law in the face of Iraq's unwarranted aggression.

Together with the nations of the world, I am confident we can reverse the dangerous course of events brought on by the actions of Saddam Hussein -- and restore peace, stability and respect for the rule of law. // Thank you -- and may God bless the people of Finland.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TENTATIVE

September 5, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
ANDREW CARD  
JAMES CICCONI  
DAVID DEMAREST  
MARLIN FITZWATER  
BOYDEN GRAY  
EDE HOLIDAY  
FRED MCCLURE  
BONNIE NEWMAN  
ROGER PORTER  
SIG ROGICH  
BRENT SCOWCROFT  
CHASE UNTERMEYER  
SUSAN PORTER ROSE  
ED ROGERS  
JOE HAGIN  
DAVID CARNEY  
CHRISS WINSTON  
BOBBIE KILBERG  
SICHAN SIV

PATTY PRESOCK  
LINDA CASEY  
BRUCE CAUGHMAN  
WILLIAM KRISTOL  
ROSE ZAMARIA  
PAUL BATEMAN  
RICHARD TREFRY  
DAVID VALDEZ  
BILLY DALE  
JOHN HERRICK  
LAURIE FIRESTONE  
PEGGY SWIFT  
KIM BRADY  
TOM HUFFORD  
DEB ANDERSON  
TONY BENEDI  
USSS/PPD OPS  
WHCA AUDIO VISUAL  
WHCA OPERATIONS  
WHTV  
MEDICAL UNIT  
PRESIDENTIAL  
DOCUMENTS

THROUGH:

SIG ROGICH  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
PUBLIC EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

FROM:

JOHN G. KELLER, JR.  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVANCE

SUBJECT:

TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT TO HELSINKI, FINLAND  
ON SEPTEMBER 7 - 9, 1990

For your use and planning purposes, the attached is a preliminary outline schedule for the Trip of the President to Helsinki, Finland, on September 7 - 9, 1990. Please keep in mind the following information has not been finally approved and is subject to change.

Attachments

**PRELIMINARY OUTLINE SCHEDULE**

**Helsinki, Finland**

**Friday, September 7, 1990**

**GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 5:30 pm Baggage Call. Please place all unlocked baggage outside Room 89 1/2, OEGB, at this time.
- 6:55 pm Vans depart West Basement en route Andrews Air Force Base.
- 6:55 pm Those Guests and Staff with own transportation and baggage should arrive Distinguished Visitor's Lounge, Andrews Air Force Base.
- 7:15 pm Those Guests and Staff with own transportation but without baggage, should arrive Distinguished Visitor's Lounge, Andrews Air Force Base.

7:45 pm MARINE ONE departs White House en route Andrews Air Force Base.

7:55 pm MARINE ONE arrives Andrews Air Force Base.

8:00 pm AIR FORCE ONE departs Andrews Air Force Base en  
(E.D.T.) route Helsinki, Finland.

(Flying Time: 8 Hours 10 Minutes)  
(Interchange: None)  
(Time Change: Ahead 7 Hours)

Saturday, September 8, 1990

11:10 am  
(4:10 am  
E.D.T.)

AIR FORCE ONE arrives Helsinki-Vantaa Airport,  
Helsinki, Finland.

- \* ARRIVAL STATEMENT  
(11:15 am - 11:25 am)
  - Open Press
  - Anthems/No Honors
  - Brief Remarks

11:30 am

MOTORCADE departs Helsinki-Vantaa Airport en route  
Presidential Palace.

(Drive Time: 20 Minutes)

Note: Mrs. Bush will assume a separate  
schedule at this time.

11:50 am

MOTORCADE arrives Presidential Palace.

- \* PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOIVISTO  
(11:55 am - 12:10 pm)
  - Photo Opportunity at beginning only
- \* WORKING LUNCHEON  
- Closed Press  
(12:15 pm - 1:25 pm)

**U.S. Participants**  
THE PRESIDENT  
Ambassador Weinmann  
Governor Sununu  
General Scowcroft  
Condoleezza Rice (Notetaker)

1:30 pm

MOTORCADE departs Presidential Palace en route  
U.S. Embassy.

(Drive Time: 10 Minutes)

1:40 pm MOTORCADE arrives U.S. Embassy.

- \* AMERICAN EMBASSY GREETING  
(1:45 pm - 2:05 pm)
  - Open Press
  - Brief Remarks

Note: Mrs. Bush will rejoin schedule at this time.

2:10 pm MOTORCADE departs U.S. Embassy en route Kalastajatorppa Guest House.

(Drive Time: 20 Minutes)

2:30 pm MOTORCADE arrives Kalastajatorppa Guest House.

- \* PRIVATE TIME/TRIP BRIEFINGS  
(2:35 pm ~ RON)

RON HELSINKI, FINLAND

Sunday, September 9, 1990

Note: Mrs. Bush will assume a separate schedule at this time.

9:35 am MOTORCADE departs Kalastajatorppa Guest House en route Presidential Palace.

(Drive Time: 20 Minutes)

9:55 am MOTORCADE arrives Presidential Palace.

- (T) \* BILATERAL MEETING WITH  
PRESIDENT GORBACHEV  
(10:00 am - 12:30 pm)
  - Photo Opportunity
  - Simultaneous Interpretation

*187th & 194th*

**U.S. Participants**

THE PRESIDENT  
Secretary Baker  
Governor Sununu  
General Scowcroft  
Notetaker  
Interpreter

(T) (B) \* LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRESIDENT AND  
MRS. KOIVISTO  
(1:00 pm - 2:00 pm)  
- Photo Opportunity  
- Consecutive Interpretation

(T) \* BILATERAL MEETING WITH  
PRESIDENT GORBACHEV  
(2:30 pm - 5:00 pm)  
- Simultaneous Interpretation

**U.S. Participants**

THE PRESIDENT  
Secretary Baker  
Governor Sununu  
General Scowcroft  
Notetaker  
Interpreter

5:05 pm MOTORCADE departs Presidential Palace en route  
Finlandia Hall.

(Drive Time: 5 Minutes)

5:10 pm MOTORCADE arrives Finlandia Hall.

Note: Mrs. Bush will rejoin schedule at this  
time.

\* PRIVATE TIME: 20 MINUTES  
(5:10 pm - 5:30 pm)

\* JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE  
(5:35 pm - 6:30 pm)  
- Open Press  
- Brief Remarks  
- Question and Answer Session  
- Simultaneous Interpretation

6:40 pm MOTORCADE departs Finlandia Hall en route  
Ambassador's Residence.

6:55 pm MOTORCADE arrives Ambassador's Residence.

\* MEETING WITH SECRETARY MOSBACHER AND  
VISITING COMMERCIAL DELEGATION  
(7:00 pm - 7:15 pm)  
- Closed Press

7:20 pm MOTORCADE departs Ambassador's Residence en route  
Helsinki Airport.

(Drive Time: 20 Minutes)

7:40 pm MOTORCADE arrives Helsinki Airport.

7:45 pm AIR FORCE ONE departs Helsinki, Finland en route  
(12:45 noon Andrews Air Force Base.  
E.D.T.)

(Flying Time: 8 Hours 45 Minutes)  
(Time Change: Back 7 Hours)  
(Interchange: None)

9:30 pm AIR FORCE ONE arrives Andrews Air Force Base.  
(E.D.T.)

9:35 pm MARINE ONE departs Andrews Air Force Base en  
route White House.

9:40 pm MARINE ONE arrives White House.

# Man At His Best

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO QUALITY AND STYLE

**O**ff the plane in the middle of a cool June afternoon, you figure Helsinki this way—stable, serene, maybe *too* sober, if anything. Just look at what a stately town it is, the last European capital designed as a work of art, filled with teens so dour they don't move their heads when they disco. Look at the amusement park—so uptight that customers ride the roller coaster mutely and play the slot machines without expression. Imagine an entire Coney Island carrying forth in grave and measured silence. Here, you swear, is the dictionary-perfect vision of “un-crazy....”

Until 10:00 P.M. You are just polishing off your piece of arctic cloudberry pie when a series of shrieks rocks the restaurant. What concerns you is not so much that the dowager at the next table is belting out the flats of the Finnish national anthem. It's that no other patrons seem to notice. Stepping outside, you see a cityscape transformed: the sidewalk is a *Marat/Sade* stage set, the boulevard against the Baltic is bumper-car heaven. All those parks and squares, neo-classical and grand? Echoing now with the screams of bankers pulling themselves along, clown-like, by their ties.

Welcome to Finland's Mid-summer Festival. Like many northern lands, Finland celebrates the ides of June—the time of midnight sun. You think the Irish can put it away? You think Eskimos enjoy a party? You ain't seen a frat blast till you've seen the Finns howl.

Of course, that's only half the story.

Deep-down decent in some fundamental way, the Finnish people are not only more affluent than Americans (the Finnish idea of a run-down cab is a Mercedes whose phone's on the blink), they're also more gracious



THE ENLIGHTENED TRAVELER

## Those Wacky Finns

BY DANIEL ASA ROSE

(bricklayers who make \$45 an hour would never dream of sitting on the bus while a lady stood). Even their dogs seem classier than ours, with forty “hound parks” in Helsinki alone—humans whistle Sibelius while their pets squat and sniff.

What's more, exactly half the population are spellbinders: shopgirls so mannequin-perfect you do a double take every time

you see the mirror image of one dressing a dummy in a department-store window. Stewardesses, with their elbow-length black leather gloves and silver-blond skin so fair you can trace the capillaries, resemble a first-class airline dessert—as delectably asexual as a meringue. The men, too, announce themselves as slightly chill, with the unyielding air of being wrapped in cello-

phane: time and care are required before they reach room temperature.

Dignity, in a word. The Finns have it.

Which is why the midsummer fest comes as such a shock. By midnight, you are rattled enough by the spectacle of handsome

**Imagine an entire  
Coney Island  
carrying forth in  
grave and  
measured silence.**

Nordic faces going to goo, as young and old take this yearly license to get tanked, that you look for someplace to hide: But how? Every means of getting there looks deadly. Car? So many vintage Chevys (souped-up Americana is the rage), are revving their engines that you visualize them in grainy black and white—tomorrow's newspaper disasters. Rail? Rumor is that the trains have added special jail cars to contain the drunks (a spin on the concept of “bar cars”). And to top off the gaiety, prisons are reported to have released inmates so they, too, can join the fun.

So where can you escape?

The countryside. To its eternal credit, Finland provides the built-in solution to its own excess: its beautiful outdoors. The largest forest in Europe, it's a vast unspoiled playground for trout fishing, mushroom gathering, clean living. No need to avoid Finland in June—all you do is wait till the Finns have slept off their holiday cheer, then steal away in a vehicle made for the purpose: a motor home with bunks and silverware, fully loaded and ready to go at a number of Finland's airports.

Renting a motor home proves just the ticket for a couple of rea-

EDITED BY ANITA LECLERC

# Man At His Best

sons. It's the cheapest way to see this expensive land (\$1,100 buys you a six-sleeper for a week, complete with shower, kitchen, and two thousand free kilometers). Even better, each hamlet takes you farther from the hang-

**At 2:00 A.M. in  
the Finnish woods,  
the campfire  
roars under a sky  
as bright as day.**

over of Helsinki. In the peaceful countryside, opera wafts over open-air markets, art galleries cohabit with tackle shops, and the last great wilderness on the Continent opens in a profusion of wild flowers. (Toward Lapland, especially, berries grow in almost hallucinogenic profusion. The lichens are positively trippy. Untrampled by the few people who live at this latitude, they cover fields, swallow tree stumps, and take on hues you normally see only in black light. Pastels that crunch.)

The last night finds you canoeing down a river so clean you use it for your tea. Camping on a foot-thick cushion of purple-pink lichens, you roast dough sticks, succulent rye stuffed with seven varieties of smoked fish, and surprisingly tender beaver garnished with a jelly made of pine needles. You relax like never before. It's 2:00 A.M. in the sanctity of the Finnish woods, the campfire roars under a sky bright as day, and from on high the birds twit their heads off, thinking it's noon.

Just remember that Finnish cuckoos, under the spell of mid-night sun, sometimes sing with such sweet northern abandon that they fall right out of their trees. Be warned.

For further information, you can write to Finland Touring Cars, Harkkokuja 2, 01510 Vantaa, Finland; or contact Finnair. Pickup can be arranged at most of Finland's airports. €



CLASSICS

## The Turtleneck

BY JOHN BERENDT

**A**fter his play *The Vortex* opened to acclaim in London in 1924, Noël Coward discovered that he was becoming as much an influence offstage as on. "I took to wearing colored turtle-necked jerseys," he recalled in his memoirs, "actually more for comfort than for effect, and soon I was informed by my evening paper that I had started a fashion. I believe that to a certain extent this was really true; at any rate, during the ensuing months I noticed more and more of our seedier West End chorus boys parading about London in them."

Coward hadn't created a new style so much as a new use for an old one. Turtlenecks had been around for about thirty years as an item of sportswear, but Coward did something that no one else had dared to do before: he wore them as a substitute for a shirt and tie. Whether he knew it or not, Coward had fired the

opening salvo in what has since become a long-running struggle against the tyranny of neckties. Chorus boys were not the only ones who joined the fray; artists and intellectuals took up the cause as well, and in addition to turtlenecks they wore scarves, neckerchiefs, and open-necked shirts. But the turtleneck was the boldest of all the affronts to the status quo. It was the picture of masculine poise and arrogance, redolent of athletes, sportsmen, even U-boat commanders. The simplicity of its design made neckties seem fussy and superfluous by comparison.

In subsequent years, the battle seasawed back and forth. Turtlenecks had a major resurgence in the 1960s. It was the height of the Peacock Revolution, and some of the fiercest skirmishes took place in better restaurants. Maître d's, standing guard at the velvet rope, glared icily at patrons who approached with turtlenecks peeping out from sport

jackets, blazers, and two-piece suits. Most maître d's swallowed hard and showed the upstarts to their tables; some, like Walter Weiss of "21," stood firm:

"Forgive me," Walter would say politely, "but our dress code is jackets and ties. Do let me offer you one of these." Walter would hand the gentleman a perfectly hideous, brightly colored tie to wear over his turtleneck. The look in Walter's eye foreclosed all possibility of argument.

"They either left the premises or put the tie on and felt ridiculous," he says. "Whatever they did, they never tried it again." You are probably wondering what Walter Weiss would have done if the Duke of Windsor had shown up at "21" in a turtleneck. "He wouldn't have," says Walter, "but if he had, I would have insisted he put on a tie."

Though the necktie's stranglehold on the male wardrobe has eased up considerably, departures that stray too far from the norm still get slapped down pretty quickly. Some seasons back, for instance, Lord Snowdon wore a white turtleneck with a formal dinner jacket; Esquire flirted briefly with the same idea, too, in its fashion pages. It's my guess that neither is likely to make the same mistake again.

Meanwhile, today—sixty-odd years since Noël Coward started his fashion—the turtleneck has successfully established itself as a "crossover" item of apparel. That's how the designer Halston likes to think of it. Halston's devotion to turtlenecks approaches the level of fetish; he generally wears a black one made of silk and cashmere. "Turtlenecks are the most comfortable garment you can wear," he says. "They move with the body, and they're flattering too, because they accentuate the face and elongate the figure. They make life so easy: you can wear a turtleneck to work and then afterwards throw on a jacket, and it becomes very dressy. You can go anywhere you like."

Well, almost anywhere you like. €

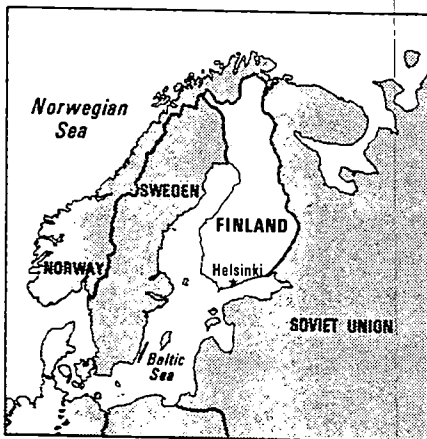
# background notes

# Finland



United States Department of State  
Bureau of Public Affairs

May 1988



**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** (1985): 4,913,300. **Annual growth rate** (1984): 0.35%. **Ethnic groups:** Finns, Swedes, Lapps, Gypsies, Tartars. **Religions** (1985): Lutheran 89.4%, Orthodox 1.1%. **Languages:** Finnish 93.6%, Swedish 6.1%. **Education:** *Years compulsory*—9. *Attendance*—almost 100%. *Literacy*—almost 100%. **Health** (1984): *Infant mortality rate*—6.6/1,000. *Life expectancy*—males 70.4 yrs., females 78.8 yrs. **Work force** (2,437,000): *Agriculture*—11.5%. *Industry, commerce and finance*—45.5%. *Services* (public and personal)—28.0%. *Government*—5.09%. *Transport* (storage and communication)—7.63%.

## 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, People's Democratic League (SKDL).  
**Central government budget** (1985): \$15.58 billion.  
**Defense** (1985): 1.5% of GDP.  
**Flag:** Light blue cross on a white field.

## Economy

**GDP** (1987): \$96.9 billion (at current market prices). **Annual growth rate:** 3.6% (GDP, at constant prices). **Per capita income** (1986 est.): \$11,900. **Inflation rate** (1987): 3.7%.

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

**Agriculture** (6.6% of GDP): *Products*—meat (pork and beef), grain (wheat, rye, barley, oats), dairy products, potatoes, rapeseed.

**Industry** (31.6% of GDP): *Types*—metal and steel, forest, foodstuffs, textile and clothing.

**Trade** (1987): *Exports*—\$21.3 billion: paper and paperboard, machinery and equipment, ships, lumber, woodpulp, chemicals. *Major markets*—USSR 15.5%, Sweden 15%, UK 11.2%, FRG 11%, US 5.1%. *Imports*—\$20.6 billion: fuels and lubricants, machinery and equipment, including motor vehicles, basic manufactures, chemicals, foodstuffs. *Major suppliers*—FRG 17.4%, 15%, UK 13.1%, Sweden 12.8%, US 5.3%.

**Official exchange rate** (Jan. 1988): 4.036 Finnmarks=US\$1.

**Fiscal year:** Calendar year.

## Membership in International Organizations

UN and its specialized and related agencies, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Development Association (IDA); European Free Trade Association (EFTA); European Community (EC)—free trade agreement; ADB; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); IDB; INTELSAT.



## GEOGRAPHY

Helsinki, Europe's northernmost capital, is on the southern coast of Finland. Finland lies almost entirely between the 60th and 70th parallels; one-third of its length is north of the Arctic Circle. Finland has frontiers in the west with Sweden (539 km., 335 mi.), in the north with Norway (729 km., 453 mi.), and in the east with the U.S.S.R. (1,268 km., 788 mi.). Its sea-coast is bounded by the Gulf of Finland in the south, the Baltic Sea in the southwest, and the Gulf of Bothnia in the west.

The land is generally lower than that of neighboring Sweden and Norway on the west and the northern U.S.S.R. on the east. The altitude, for the most part, does not exceed 182 meters (600 ft.) above sea level, and most hills, which are in the north, rise no higher than 460 meters (1,500 ft.). The highest mountain, in the northwest corner next to the Norwegian border, is less than 1,525 meters (5,000 ft.) above sea level.

Although Finland extends far into the frigid zone, its climate is moderated by three factors—the North Atlantic current off the northern Norwegian coast and the Baltic Sea in the south, its extensive forests, and its more than 60,000 lakes (9% of the total area).

## 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.

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

Finns are highly literate, and poetry has an important place in the Finnish national consciousness. Publication in 1835 of the Finnish national epic, *The Kalevala*, a collection in Finnish 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. This identification of human fate with impersonal forces 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.

For its size, 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 much 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 special prominence throughout the world.

Finland's population is ethnically homogeneous with no sizable immigrant population. Few tensions exist between the Finnish-speaking majority and the Swedish-speaking minority, which is being gradually assimilated (down from about 15% at independence in 1917 to about 6% in 1985).

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 covering the entire Finnish population.

In the mid-1970s, the Finnish 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, children may elect to drop out of school or to continue their education along an academic (*lukio*) or vocational (*ammattikoulu*) line. Few children in Finland end their education after the basic school; most pursue vocational studies. About one child in four receives a higher education. The number of openings in higher educational institutions is less than the demand.



Finnish folkdancing.

## HISTORY

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

In 1809, Finland was conquered by the armies of 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 has colored its domestic policies to the present day.

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.

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 Finland, and other territory along the former eastern border. Another provision, terminated in 1956, leased the Porkkala area near Helsinki to the U.S.S.R. 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.

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 U.S.S.R. 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-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.

## 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 with no legal limit on successive terms, 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.

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.

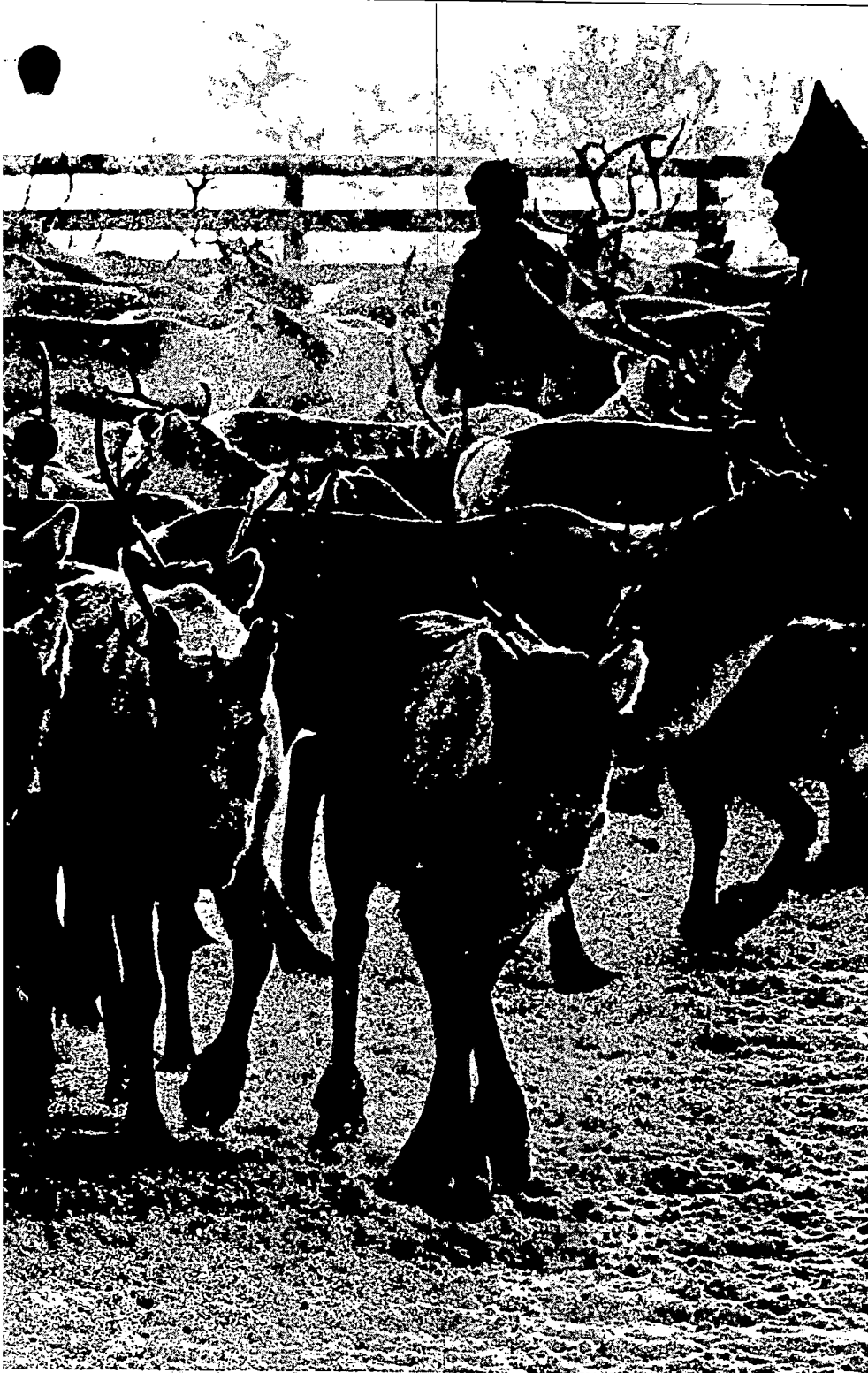
The *Eduskunta* is elected on the basis of proportional representation. All persons 18 or older, except military personnel on active duty and a few high judicial officials, are eligible for election. The regular parliamentary term is 4 years; however, the president may dissolve the *Eduskunta* and order 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, formal charges must be brought within 3 days of detention on suspicion. Courts of first instance must hear a case within 8 days of arrest. 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 Aland (*Ahvenanmaa* in Finnish), 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 Aland Self-Government of 1951. The islands are further distinguished by the fact that they are al-





Lapland, the land of the midnight sun, northern lights, and reindeer, is the northernmost province of Finland. Here, Lapp reindeer are rounded up for branding.

most entirely Swedish speaking. Government is vested in the Provincial Council, which consists of 30 delegates elected directly by Aland's citizens.

#### Principal Government Officials

President—Mauno Koivisto  
Prime Minister—Harri Holkeri  
Foreign Minister—Kalevi Sorsa

Ambassador to the United States—  
Paavo Rantanen  
Ambassador to the United Nations—  
Klaus Tornudd

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

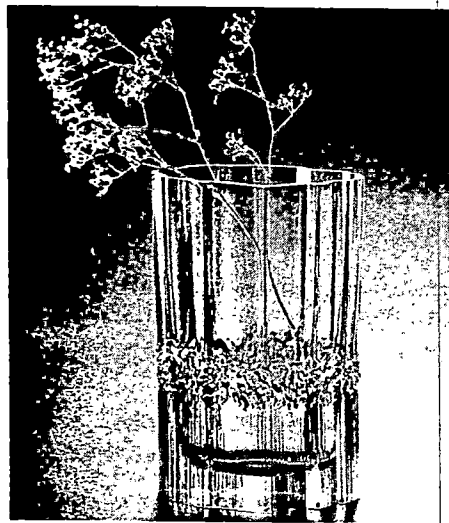
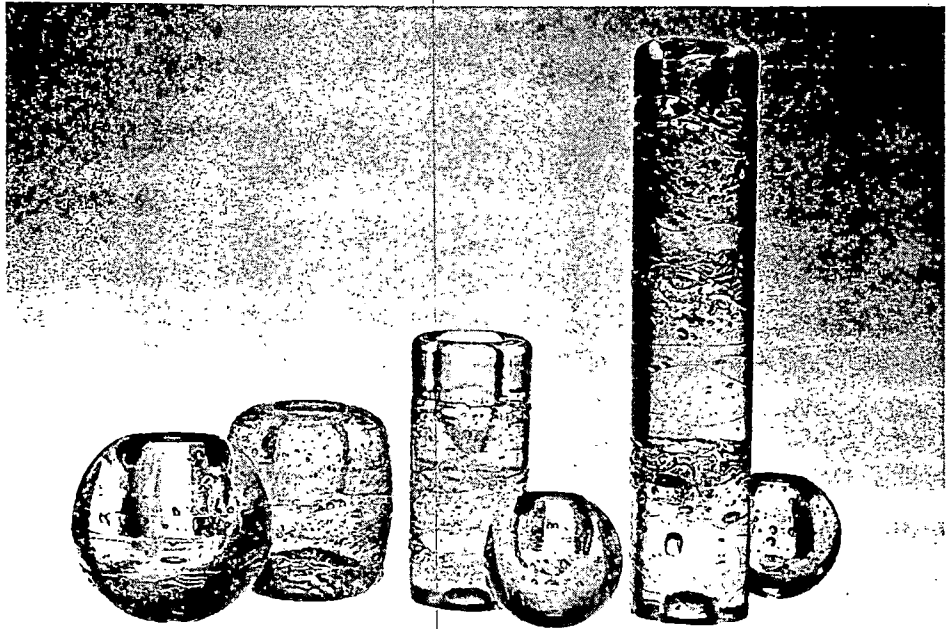
#### POLITICAL CONDITIONS

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. Since then, although four major parties have dominated the political arena, none has a majority position. The largest is the Social Democratic Party (SDP), which commands the support of about 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 People's Democratic League (SKDL), the parliamentary group in the *Eduskunta* that represents the Finnish Communist Party. The SKDL attracts votes from the working class and several protest groups. The SKDL's parliamentary effectiveness and potential participation in government are 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. The parties, in



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

approximate order of their respective seating placement, listed from the left to the right of the political spectrum, are as follows:

Democratic Alternative	4
People's Democratic League	16
Social Democrats	56
Rural Party	9
Center Party	40
National Coalition Party	53
Swedish People's Party	13
Greens	4
Christian League	5
Total	200

## ECONOMY

Finland has a dynamic industrial economy based on capital investment and new technology. During the first half of the 1980s, Finland's economic growth rate was one of the highest in Western Europe. Trade is important, with export of goods contributing about one-quarter of gross national product (GNP); the combined export of goods and services amounts to about one-third of GNP. Wood and steel are the main industries; however, a wide range of other industries produce everything from electronics to motor vehicles. Finnish-designed consumer products 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 are small but have sizable timber stands, felled 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 needs in 1985. Oil imports met 34% of Finnish requirements, while nuclear power met 16%, coal 13%, and natural gas 3%. Domestic energy sources include hydroelectric power, peat, and wood products.

## 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. It maintains a trained and equipped reserve force of roughly 700,000. A major task of this defense force is to ensure defense readiness as one means of deterring involvement in war. This task supports the basic tenet of Finnish security policy—that, while foreign policy is a primary component of national security, the ability to defend the nation is a prerequisite for a successful policy of neutrality.

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

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## U.S.-FINNISH RELATIONS

Relations between Finland and the United States are cordial. It has long been U.S. policy to express support and understanding for Finnish neutrality. The United States also favors maintaining and reinforcing Finland's historic, cultural, and economic ties with the West. Economic and trade relations between Finland and the United States are active. President Reagan has proclaimed 1988 the Year of U.S.-Finnish Friendship.

The U.S. 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 U.S. loan made in the aftermath of World War I.

## 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 on a par with those in the US. Tapwater is potable. Medical facilities are good.

**Telecommunications:** Telephone and telegraph services, domestic and international, 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. Pan American Airlines now serves Finland, and Finnair flies to and from New York several times a week and directly to Los Angeles; 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, is popular.





A view of Helsinki's neo-classic center.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Finland's basic foreign policy goal since 1944 has been to stay out of great-power conflicts and to build mutual confidence with the Soviet Union. Although the country is culturally, socially, and politically Western, the Finns realize they must live in peace with their Eastern neighbor and not take any action that the U.S.S.R. might interpret as a threat to its security.

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, developed this policy further, stressing that Finland should be an active rather than a passive neutral. This policy is now popularly known as the "Paasikivi-Kekkonen Line."

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 cul-

tural 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 peace-keeping activities since 1956; Finns are currently serving with UN forces in the Middle East and with the UN good offices mission in Afghanistan.

Finland seeks in other ways to play an active role in the international community and has hosted 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.

## Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—Rockwell A. Schnabel  
 Deputy Chief of Mission—Michael S. Durkee  
 Chief, Political Section—Paul Hacker  
 Public Affairs Officer—William P. Kiehl  
 Chief, Administrative Section—Ruth L. Willow  
 Chief, Economic Section—Lawrence E. Butler  
 Defense and Air Attache—William A.J. Mackie  
 Commercial attache—Kenneth Norton  
 Consul—Elokai Ojamaa

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Published by the United States Department of State · Bureau of Public Affairs · Office of Public Communication · Editorial Division · Washington, D.C. · May 1988  
 Editor: Juanita Adams

Department of State Publication 8262  
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For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402

TALKING POINTS: GREETINGS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY  
HELSINKI, FINLAND \ SEPTEMBER 8, 1990

*will be  
intro?*

\* BARBARA AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN  
FINLAND, AND WE THANK OUR OLD FRIEND JOHN [AMBASSADOR  
WEINMANN] FOR THAT WARM INTRODUCTION. I NEEDED THAT  
WARMTH WHEN I VISITED THIS EMBASSY BACK IN '83 ... I'LL  
NEVER FORGET YOUR SAUNA (SOW-NAH) AND THEN THAT PLUNGE  
INTO THE ICY BALTIC WATERS.

- 2 -

\* WE REALLY WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU IN THE  
DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY -- OUR AMERICAN STAFF, OUR FINNISH  
FRIENDS, AND ALL OF YOUR FAMILIES -- FOR WELCOMING US  
WITH SUCH OPEN ARMS. I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE THE  
PARTICULAR BURDEN PLACED ON YOUR EMBASSY'S RESOURCES BY  
THIS IMPORTANT SUMMIT -- AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE  
EFFICIENT GENEROSITY OF YOUR RESPONSE.

\* THESE ARE TOUGH TIMES FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES -- THE U.S. DIPLOMATS IN MANY OF OUR MIDDLE EAST POSTS -- THEY'RE COMING THROUGH THEIR ORDEAL WITH THE USUAL FOREIGN SERVICE DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM.

\* YOUR WORK AT PUTTING THIS MEETING TOGETHER ON SHORT NOTICE HAS BEEN FIRST CLASS. AND BELIEVE ME, I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT AN EMBASSY SURVIVING A VISIT FROM A PRESIDENT -- WE HAD ONE IN BEIJING WHEN I SERVED AS AMBASSADOR.

*will everyone find this funny?*

\* I MUST SAY, THOUGH, I WAS DISAPPOINTED TO FIND YOU WEREN'T SERVING ANY OF YOUR FAMOUS CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES. BUT THEN, I UNDERSTAND THAT AT YOUR PARTIES THEY DISAPPEAR PRETTY QUICKLY.

*right word?*

\* ONE OF THE REASONS WE DECIDED TO HOLD THE SUMMIT HERE WAS FINLAND'S REPUTATION FOR BEING SUCH A WONDERFUL HOST. I JUST MET WITH PRESIDENT KOIVISTO [KOY-VIS-TO] AT THE PALACE, AND MY RESPECT FOR FINNISH HOSPITALITY AND WISDOM HAS BEEN RECONFIRMED.

\* SO, AS THESE TALKS BEGIN, THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL OF YOUR EXTRA WORK AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP. I ASK FOR ONE MORE THING: THAT WE ALL SAY A PRAYER IN THE SILENCE OF OUR HEARTS FOR OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN SAUDI ARABIA; AND FOR OUR DIPLOMATS, THEIR FAMILIES AND ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS BEING DETAINED IN KUWAIT AND IRAQ. GOD BLESS THEM AND ALL THE WORLD'S NATIONS UNITED FOR PEACE.

# # #

EMBASSY GREETINGS

CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY PAO

- 4) SINCE PRES WILL BE COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND HIS MEETING WITH FINNISH PRESIDENT KOIVISTO ('KOY-VIS-TO), THE PRES MIGHT EMPHASIZE FINNISH HOSPITALITY AND WISDOM, WHICH HAVE ALWAYS MADE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FINNS IMPORTANT TO THE U.S.
- 5) THIS IS JUST A DROP BY IN TWO PARTS: LARGELY HIS MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN AND FINNISH DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY; ALSO, HANDSHAKING WITH SEVERAL INFLUENTIAL FINNS.
- 6) JOKE: AS THIS IS NOT A HARDSHIP POST, IT ISN'T AS IF INSIDE JOKES WERE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING MORALE, BUT THERE IS ONE: AT THE LAST FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES WERE SERVED, AND ONE OF THE JUNIOR STAFF OFFICERS WAS CAUGHT ON FILM POCKETING THE COOKIES.  
A FUNNY MIGHT GO: "I WAS DISAPPOINTED TO FIND YOU WEREN'T SERVING ANY OF YOUR FAMOUS CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES...I UNDERSTAND AT YOUR PARTIES THEY DISAPPEAR PRETTY QUICKLY" "I MEAN, WHERE DID THIS GUY THINK HE WAS, KUWAIT?"--NO, DON'T USE THAT

EMBASSY GREETINGS

CONVERSATION WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY HELSINKI PAO WILLIAM KIEHL

- 1) BUSH AND AMBASSADOR WEINMANN ARE FRIENDLY, THE AMBASSADOR WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LOUISIANA FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE FOR BUSH FOR PRESIDENT. WEINMANN ALSO HOSTED BUSH, THEN V.P., IN NEW ORLEANS WHEN WEINMANN WAS COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF NEW ORLEANS WORLD FAIR..
- 2) BUSH WAS LAST AT AMEMB HELSINKI IN '83, AS V.P. HE SLEPT IN THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ON THE COMPOUND. HE ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE FINNISH SAUNA (VERY IMPORTANT TO FINNISH THAT THIS WORD BE PRONOUNCED CORRECTLY: "SOW-NAH") AND THEN PLUNGE INTO THE COLD BALTIC WATERS.  
--RE COLD BALTIC WATERS: "SOMETHING I BET OUR BOYS OVER IN SAUDI WOULDN'T MIND DIPPING INTO RIGHT NOW..OR EVEN BETTER, DIPPING A CERTAIN IRAQI HOTHEAD INTO."
- 3) RE SURVIVING/PUTTING UP WITH/HOSTING/PREPARING A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: GIVEN HIS EXPERIENCE, THE PRES CAN APPRECIATE ALL THE HARD WORK GONE INTO (STRESS: HARD WORK BY AMERICANS AND FINNS) MAKING THE VISIT SMOOTH, PROFITABLE, AND PLEASURABLE. AS THE PAO MENTIONED, GIVEN THAT THE SUMMIT WAS DECIDED UPON LAST MINUTE, PART OF THE REASON THAT HELSINKI WAS CHOSEN WAS ITS REPUTATION FOR BEING SUCH A WONDERFUL HOST.

# SPEECH ELEMENTS

# FINLAND

- ① native anecdotes
- ② embassy anecdotes
- ③ Pres embassy experience,
- ④ The last time Pres was in Finland
- ⑤ Purpose of trip: summit
- ⑥ What's happened lately in Helsinki
- ⑦ Particular Thanks (?)  
(see Paris)
- ⑧ Closing - Paris has interesting story

2 standard lines, see speech

"I know what a burden Pres visit can be"

check Paris speech