

capital amount. I was told in the Swedish Foreign Office that there is genuine concern over the effect on Finnish public opinion from the fact of that country having with great effort settled its reparations obligations only to begin at once paying to Sweden what for Finland is a considerable amount.

17. As you know, Finland was a Swedish province for some 500 years until 1809. In consequence there are a very large number of people (now about 10%) in that country of pure or almost pure Swedish descent. The country is bilingual in that one may, for example, speak in the Diet in Swedish. The speech is, however, immediately translated to Finnish and speeches in Finnish are not translated in Swedish. There has been going, however, for the past several years a movement of Finnishization, if I may coin a rather ghastly word. In one or two cases the names of towns have actually been translated from Swedish to Finnish and in a great many cases Swedish families are using the Finnish equivalent of their names. I found, for example, an old friend in the Foreign Office who, when I knew him at school in Paris many years ago, was called Sohlman. I was unable to identify him until I met him as his name is now Solanko. The people in Sweden are on the whole rather more entertained than worried by this harmless outcropping of racialism.

18. I shall I am sure find great interest in comparing the attitude of the peoples of Finland and Sweden to the Soviet Union. Finnish people say that they can understand Swedish neutrality but they fail to understand the Western attachments and outlook of Norway and Denmark. Swedish people say that they can understand the Finnish attitude and state of mind as described previously in this despatch but that it is quite impossible for a Norwegian or a Dane to do so. The Swedish people therefore regard themselves as middle men between Finland and the other Scandinavian countries. It is always said that both the Finns and the Swedes claim to understand the Russians better than anyone else. Historically of course they should and to some extent after my limited experience with them I am inclined to think that they do. I have yet to meet, however, as I was told that I would, any indication of disregard of other people's views resulting from any consciousness of the effortless superiority of Swedish or Finnish knowledge of things Russian.

19. I apologize for the rambling character of this report. It is based more on impression than on fact derived from many, mostly short, conversations of, as I said, a very general nature with people whom I met during this visit of one week. On my next visit I hope to be able more intelligently to go into detail as between now and then I shall have had an opportunity to follow events in Finland more closely from day to day. Thanks to the courtesy of the British and American Legations, I am receiving in Stockholm daily translated summaries of the Finnish press.

20. I am sending copies of this despatch to our missions in Oslo, Copenhagen and Moscow.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Thomas A. Stone