

practical grounds for permanent Canadian representation in Helsinki and on those grounds this Division supports him.

3. There is the further consideration that relations between Finland and the U.S.S.R. offer an important field of investigation and political reporting particularly in these days of East-West tension. In Finland we have a small and sturdy nation living in uneasy proximity to the Soviet Union. Its whole economy is still heavily influenced by the necessity of delivering reparations to the U.S.S.R. and its political life is determined by its struggle to retain its independence in the face of Soviet interference expressed through threats, warnings and propaganda. Finland is perhaps the last country in Europe which the Soviet Union can take over without a struggle and without precipitating a world war. Yet the treatment which Soviet Russia metes out to Finland is puzzlingly inconsistent. It sometimes looks as if the Soviet Union wants to keep Finland as a horrid example of capitalist democracy in the process of disintegrating, a process which the Russians accelerate by devious rather than open means. There can be few Europeans with as intimate a knowledge of the ways of Soviet diplomacy as the Finns. A political observer permanently stationed in Finland would have an unrivalled opportunity of reporting at first hand on the spectacle of an independent David living on uneasy terms with his neighbour, Goliath. Mr. Stone has, for example, sent us a most interesting despatch (Finland Despatch No. 67 of December 21, 1950) on what he terms the paradoxes of Finnish neutrality and Finnish independence which he relates to Swedish neutrality. The excellence of the reporting on Finnish affairs makes us regret its relative infrequency.

4. The present coalition government is having great difficulty with the economic situation of the country as we learn from newspaper articles but not from our representatives in Stockholm. The latter obviously cannot look after all the work of the Canadian Legation in Sweden and do a good job of reporting from afar on the affairs of Finland, a country with more than half the population of Sweden, a difficult economic situation and a complex political life.

5. There can be no question that the Finns would welcome Canadian representation in their country. Mr. Stone does not exaggerate when he speaks of the "deep desire on the part of the Finns that we should as soon as possible open a permanent legation in their capital". The presence of the Western Allies in Berlin has enabled Germans there to give the most encouraging proof of their desire to line up with the forces of democracy; it has also given the Allies a foothold behind the Iron Curtain. A permanent Canadian representation in Helsinki would encourage the Finns, who live on one of the frontiers of the Atlantic Pact, and would give us a useful listening post near the Soviet Union in a country where the relations of the national Communist party to the Soviet Union are of an unusually interesting nature.

6. It is, therefore, recommended that in any plans for the expansion of Canadian representation abroad the claims of Finland should be given favourable consideration.

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