

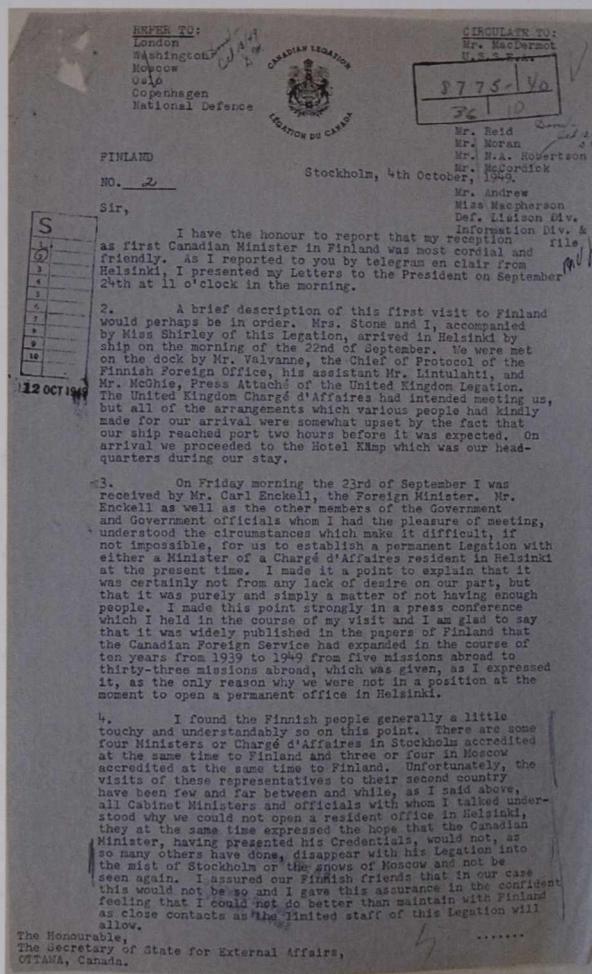
70 – 80,000 people has now, at the most 20,000 Russians. One Finn told me that he recently passed through, walked about a little (he was born there) and estimated that there could not be more than 5,000 people in the town, probably all garrison troops with very few women in evidence.

5. In Helsinki itself, as I said above, there seems to be plenty of food. Good meat, I was told, is sometimes hard to come by and good coffee was until recently, very scarce. I saw announcements in the press, and the event was important enough to make a long story on the front page, of the receipt of substantial shipments of oranges and lemons from Spain and Italy and of pears from Denmark. Dairy products, all I think from local sources, are plentiful and the quality of Finnish cheese, because of a higher allowable percentage of fat, is better than Swedish – at least in my taste. The immediate neighborhood of Helsinki (the only part of the country I have yet been able to see) has many and prosperous looking dairy farms. They are not so well groomed and manicured as are the farms in Sweden where the whole country looks like a government agricultural experiment station, but they compare favourably in appearance at least with farms in similar country in Canada.

6. These are a few rambling impressions. I shall now comment briefly on some of the larger and somewhat more specific matters of interest.

Finnish-Soviet Relations

7. The attitude of the Finn towards his "Neighbour" is a state of mind partly, I would say, deliberately developed to cope with the circumstances of the present and partly logically the result of the history of this people. It is a state of mind which enables the Finn to face the future realistically, to take into account the menace which hangs over him, to appreciate his impotence against this menace were it suddenly to change from threat to action, and at the same time to go about the business of rebuilding his country and his life quietly and efficiently, permitting himself neither the luxury nor the handicap – for it could be both – of worry. And other road could lead the whole people to insanity or a what-does-it-matter attitude, Finns have said to me, and it is not desirable that the end of the race, if it is to come, should come in that way. Should the end come by drowning in a Russian flood tide – well, it will come (but not without a struggle, I am sure) and that will be that. But in the meantime "we refuse to contribute to our own decline by permitting a state of mind which might result in people not sowing gardens, not building houses and factories, not creating in the arts and sciences, and not breeding children, just because it hardly seems worthwhile. Our history has been tough but in spite of it, all of these things have been worthwhile in the minds of our people for a thousand years and we intend to keep them so." There is no



Transmission to Ottawa (# 2) by first Ambassador accredited to Finland
Thomas A. Stone, October 4, 1949.