

5. There is no question in my mind that a junior officer who could act as Chargé d'Affaires in a permanent legation in Finland could find plenty to do to occupy his time. There is a certain amount of consular work and there is a wide open information field. There are also problems of registration of Canadian citizens and the determination of Canadian nationality in doubtful cases. In addition, as I suggested above, such an officer would be called upon very often to assist and advise visa officers if they were there, as they will probably have to be.

6. The arguments which I set forth above are for the most part almost self-evident truths, as I am sure you will agree. I appreciate, however, the two over-riding problems which you have to consider arising from shortages of officer personnel and the necessity for economies in the expenditure of funds at the present time. These I know must eventually determine any decision in this matter. I would venture to suggest, however, that if a visa office⁵ is to be opened in Helsinki, the relatively small extra expense to the Canadian tax-payer of sending a political officer along as well would be justifiable.

7. I understand that the establishment for the Stockholm mission recently recommended to Treasury provides for two junior political officers. In ordinary circumstances I would prefer to have the second junior officer resident in Stockholm, specializing to some degree on Finnish affairs and perhaps visiting that country regularly and perhaps more often than we do now. If, however, another Department or other Departments in Ottawa wish to have officers permanently in Helsinki, the best plan would be to establish a mission there to which they could be attached. If this were done, the Assistant Military Attaché could live in Helsinki in accordance with the original desire of the Department of National Defence.

THOMAS A. STONE

8. DEA/8775-40

*Note de la Direction européenne
pour la Direction de l'organisation et de l'effectif*

*Memorandum from European Division
to Establishments and Organization Division*

[Ottawa], March 20, 1951

I refer to your memorandum of March 15, 1951, enclosing a copy of Despatch No. 15 of March 1, 1951 from the Canadian Minister in Stockholm concerning the possibility of posting a political officer to Helsinki.

2. In view of Mr. Moran's comments it seems clear that we cannot this year appoint a political officer to Helsinki. It is, however, to be hoped that lack of funds and a shortage of personnel will not remain permanent obstacles to the expansion of Canada's representation abroad. Mr. Stone has put forward a strong case on

⁵ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

I think he means Immigration's office. I suggest we take this up with Citiz[enship] & Im[migration] Dept. See below. [Joseph Jean Martial Coté]