



*Governor General Ed Schreyer says farewell after his state visit to Finland this Spring.*

able development of trade with the Soviet Union, however, exports to and imports from that country account for only approximately 20 percent of total Finnish foreign trade. The fact this commerce involves no drain on Finland's hard currency reserves, while providing the main source of national energy requirements, gives it an importance for the Finnish economy greater than the percentage volume would indicate. It has helped give Finland the fastest-growing economy of all the countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) during the past 18 months — approximately six percent per annum.

Despite the advantages of its trade-balancing agreements with the U.S.S.R., Finland continues to rely on free-market trading with other countries for approximately 80 percent of the exports and imports which sustain the Finnish economy. Membership in the OECD, links with the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Community demonstrate Finnish freedom to trade energetically in both East and West. Sweden traditionally vies with the Soviet Union for top position among Finland's trade partners.

Distinctive achievements on the home front buttress Finland's claim to independent nationhood. Despite a multiplicity of political parties resulting from a proportional representation system of voting, most of the 200 members of the Finnish parliament invariably find themselves in agreement when questions of na-

tional interest are at stake. The majority wing of a divided Communist party is nationalistic in character. Parliamentary representatives of the nationalistic wing often are included with non-sensitive portfolios in the Centre-Left coalitions which have governed Finland almost continuously since World War II.

Transition from a basically agricultural to an industrial economy was achieved quickly after the war, partly as a result of Soviet readiness to accept machinery and ships in settlement of their reparations bill. Adverse soil and climatic conditions are responsible for exceptionally slow growth of trees in Finland. Advanced technology and heavy investment nevertheless have enabled its timber, pulp and paper industries to capture a substantial share of world markets. Reputations established internationally by Finns in the fields of architecture, design, construction and town planning have won them important contracts abroad, particularly in the developing world. The privately-financed "garden city", Tapiola, a suburb of Helsinki, is a magnet for town planners and sociologists from all parts of the world, including Canada.

Despite the recession in international trade, Finnish foreign industries are investing three billion dollars in new machinery. Unlike the United States, which invests heavily in Canadian industries, the Soviet Union has invested little capital in Finnish industry. Most of the money invested in Finnish industry in post-war years has been generated internally, a major achievement in the light of the chaotic conditions in