

Finland Remains Neighborly Toward Russia



By A. E. PEDERSON
**United Press International
 HELSINKI (UPI)**—An American visitor looked across the veranda where he was having lunch with a Finnish friend on a warm summer day toward the forested area of Porkkala, then a Soviet naval base.

"Just think," he remarked, "here we sit having lunch while just over there are the Russians."

"What do you expect us to do," retorted his host, "go without lunch because the Russians are only a mile away?"

No Novelty

Russians aren't the novelty they once were to much of the non-Communist world but the Finnish attitude toward them still holds. Being neighbors of the Russians is one of the fundamental acts of life for a Finn.

If ever a policy of "Love Thy Neighbor" made sense in this world, it is here in Finland. This is not to say that the Finns live in a state of political servitude. They don't.

Like Each Other

The Finns do well enough by the Russians and the Russians seem to have a genuine liking for the Finns. The Soviet Union last year supplied Finland with 14 per cent of her imports and took about 17 per cent of Finland's exports. Only Britain buys more from the Finns than the Russians do.

Member of EFTA

Finland has been allowed to lease, for 50 years, the lost half of the border-crossing Saimaa canal that drains the Saimaa Lake area of southeast Finland. Once it was an important waterway from the timber areas to the sea. Now, Finnish industrialists are not so sure. But as far as most Finns are con-



HERE IS FINLAND — Still relatively unknown by the outside world, Finland is expected to exceed 600,000 visitors this year. (UPI)

cerned, the important thing is that they get the canal back.

Finland is also an associate member of EFTA, the smaller of the two European trading groups. That was possible after Finland got both sides to agree

that the Russians would have the same trading privileges in Finland as would the EFTA members.

"We have noted here in Finland," President Urho Kekkonen recently told United Press International, "that the better our relations with the U.S.S.R., the better our relations remain with all other countries."

Relations Are Cordial

President Kekkonen has made it his business to see that rela-

tions with the Russians are as cordial as they can be, ignoring occasional comments that he goes too far in his search for friendship.

Finland today has a fairly healthy economy, paper and pulp sales have been weak for the past year, with increased North American supplies on the market. The cost-of-living index has gone up about six per cent in the past year. Free-spending Finns, still riding on the crest of the 1958-59 recovery, are importing more than they sell. Last year imports exceeded exports by about 130 million dollars.

Change Noted

The past six years have seen a remarkable change in Finland's appearance. Where once stores stocked pressure cookers from Israel, washing machines from Norway, and other products of bilateral trading, shops now stock the same broad multi-nations lines as do stores elsewhere in Europe. Finland has eliminated quota systems on practically all imports except autos, and importers may buy where they wish.

Helsinki Is Growing

Housing is going up on every vacant lot. For Helsinki is still growing, and there is no let up in the pressure for more and better homes. The crying need is for the two-or three-room flat

that a family with an average income can afford. Two rooms and kitchen nowadays means a monthly rental of about 350 new marks a month, or something over \$100. Even one room and kitchenette can set a family back the equivalent of \$70 a month.

Finland is creeping out of the shell that it developed for self-protection after World War II. President Kekkonen has visited a dozen countries during his seven years of office, most of these during the last three years. During the past year he has visited the Soviet Union, France, Yugoslavia and Hungary.

Finland is a member in very good standing in the United Nations, although she seldom votes on highly controversial issues. She works well with the other members of the Nordic council, which is still her main doorway to Western Europe. She has affiliated with EFTA and will have to make her peace with the common market when the time comes.

Relatively Unknown Country

Finland is still relatively unknown in the outside world. "Brave Little Finland" is a name that means something to an older generation, and in the United States, Finland is still known mainly as the debt-paying country of the Sauna.

But geography has placed Finland outside the main stream of things, and no one comes to Finland unless he or she wants to come to Finland, or is on the way to the Soviet Union. This year's tourist travel, for all that it is growing in a big way, will probably not add up to more than 600,000 visitors, most of these from neighboring Sweden.

For Finland appeals only to a certain type of tourist, the visitor who wants to get out on the water in a sailboat, go fishing in a river or lake, or drive through mile after mile of forest-covered country. This is an outdoor country, and despite the carefully guarded traditions of a few restaurants, Finland is not a country of good food and wine.

LOOK

DON'T MISS

Steven's Auto
 Moonlight Showing
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EDUCATION AT SEA — Freshman Dera Burkhardt of Denver, Colo., beams as she pours herself a milkshake on board the Holland-American Lines "University of the Seven Seas" before sailing from New York. Some 350 students from all over the United States are taking advantage of the new educational concept, which offers world travel along with academic courses on the 110-day voyage. Students taking courses will receive credits at their colleges or universities. The cruise terminates at San Diego, Calif., on Feb. 8, 1964. (UPI)

Russia and China Join Battle To Determine Kashmir's Role

By S. G. ROY
**United Press International
 NEW DELHI, India (UPI)** — India and Pakistan have been quarreling over Kashmir for 15 years, but now the argument has been taken up by Russia and Communist China.

The political football some times takes a strange bounce, and this is one of those times. Russia has lately been expressing its support for India in the smoldering dispute over Kashmir and at the same time the Chinese have been making friends with Pakistan.

Russia twice last month said it would continue to consider Kashmir as an integral part of India. Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev gave this assurance to Indian Ambassador T. N. Kaul during a private dinner in Moscow.

In New York, the leader of the Soviet delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, Andre Gromyko, repeated it to his Indian counterpart, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit.

Russia said it would veto any resolution at the security council on Kashmir which is not favored by India. The Soviet attitude, however, holds a more significant implication: Russia does not recognize as legal the recently concluded agreement between Pakistan and China which demarcated the boundary between old Kashmir state territory, now under the control of Pakistan, popularly described as 'Azad Kashmir,' and Sikkim.

India contends the border agreement gives China some 200 square miles of Azad Kashmir. India has protested saying Pakistan has no right to enter into an international commitment over territory to which it has no legal title.

The Chinese reply is that the agreement gives China some 200

subject to renegotiation after the status of Kashmir has been finally settled.

But even during the hey-day of "Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai," Peking never publicly supported India's case in Kashmir.

In 1955, Khrushchev declared that Russia considered Kashmir as an integral part of India. He had in mind only Pakistan's control of Azad Kashmir. He rejected Pakistan claims on any part of Kashmir, and this was later reaffirmed by the Soviet delegate at the security council.

The Chinese entry into the Aksai Chin area of Ladakh was not known then. Now the Red Chinese occupy 14,000 square miles of Ladakh.

Russia has not said so but Indian observers take it for granted that Russia recognizes the official map of India as setting out the limits of this country. The map shows the whole of Kashmir, including Azad Kashmir and Aksai Chin, as Indian territory. If that is the case, then Russia believes Pakistan illegally occupies a part of Kashmir along with China. Russia, therefore, considers China to be an aggressor in Ladakh.

Thus there is a new element in the three-power dispute involving Kashmir, and Indians recall Khrushchev's declaration at Srinagar in 1955 that "we are so close to you that if you should call we will hear you and come to your help."

At that time, the Soviet Premier was allaying India's apprehensions, over Pakistan designs. China was not then in the picture.

But his promise of help assumes new significance today.

Russian support may make Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru more resilient. He may still be prepared to settle the Kashmir problem with Pakistan on the existing ceasefire basis with minor adjust-

ments, but he will refuse to make any further concessions because of the pressure exerted on him by interested powers.

It was once believed that Nehru was not opposed to conceding portions of the Aksai Chin area to China in lieu of the latter's recognition of the international boundary marked by the McMahon line in that area.

That may be the ultimate situation one day, but it is quite possible, too, that Nehru is hopeful he will recover the lost territories in Ladakh if the Sino-Soviet conflict again becomes a hot war and results in the overthrow of present recalcitrant leaders of the Communist party of China.

In any case he does not lose anything if, with the backing of the Soviet Union on Kashmir, he awaits the outcome of the controversy between Russia and China.

Many Indians wish that Tibet once again would become independent. Only then will the territorial integrity of India against the designs of a strong China be ensured.

They hope that internal pressures and external events will enable the people of China to shake off their present regime. That would be the time for the Tibetans to assert their rights. Many Indians think that the Soviet support on Kashmir points to that direction.

Whether Nehru also shares this opinion, it is difficult to say. But his inclination to mark time before reaching a settlement with China on the border question indicates that he has not accepted the continuity of the present Chinese leadership or government.

At the same time, in the opinion of observers, Soviet support of India will act as a deterrent to Pakistan from joining with China in an adventure against India.

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Oregon Supreme Court Decisions

SALEM (UPI) — The Oregon Supreme Court today, in a 4-3 decision, ruled the state could not recover statutory penalties from the Portland Traction Company resulting from its abandonment of passenger service.

The high court upheld a ruling by Multnomah County Circuit Judge Herbert M. Schwab.

Previously the Supreme Court had held that orders of the public utility commissioner denying the company the right to abandon passenger service were unconstitutional.

The state claimed it was entitled to recover penalties between the date of abandonment of service, and the date the PUC order was declared invalid.

The majority opinion was written by Justice George Rossman.

Justice Kenneth O'Connell's dissent was joined by Justices Gordon Sloan and Arno Dencke. They argued that the PUC order, even if confiscatory, was enforceable until properly stayed.

The high court upheld a Marion County Circuit Court ruling by Judge George Jones clearing title to an estate left to the trustees of the Presbytery of Willamette for the maintenance and upkeep of the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church.

Also affirmed was a decision Evergreen Timber Company, Inc., clear title to land, and declaring a tax foreclosure void. The company had questioned the validity of the sale of property on foreclosure for delinquent taxes by Clackamas County.

In another action, the high court reversed in part and affirmed in part a decision in Yamhill County Circuit Court in action against Otto Heider of Sheridan for malicious prosecution and two charges of conversion. A \$36,000 judgment for Paul W. Gowin was reversed and remanded for a new trial, but judgments obtained by Gowin of \$2,000 and \$7,000 respectively, on the conversion charges, were upheld.

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