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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Finland/USSR	REPORT NO.	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 80px; height: 20px;"></span>	25X1
SUBJECT	Increased Soviet Emphasis on Trade	DATE DISTR.	2 April 1954	
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PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Communist propaganda in Finland during the past several months has featured the drive for peace and demands for increased trade with the Soviet Union. In addition, the Finnish communists have recently demanded the formation of a Big Three government in Finland.<sup>1</sup> If the propaganda practiced by the Finnish communists is coupled with that being practiced by the Soviet Union in all parts of the world in behalf of peace and trade, it is impossible not to conclude that the peace propaganda practiced for so long a period has had behind it a deliberate plan for the achievement of bigger world markets.
  
2. There is no doubt but that the Soviet policy of peace and trade is meeting with some success in Finland as well as throughout Europe. In a speech to a FCP group on 18 December 1953, Yrjoe Murto, a leading Finnish communist, stated that the hegemony of western foreign trade is creaking at the joints. During a similar occasion on 15 January 1954, Hertta Kuusinen stated that the western capitalists would learn within the next five-year period that the United States has lost all of its markets in the Eastern Hemisphere.
  
3. In accordance with the over-all Soviet emphasis on increased trade, it has been reported, although unconfirmed, that the Soviet-owned firm, Seximo Oy. in Helsinki, will not be able to handle the trade between Finland and the USSR because of the formation of a Finnish State agency which would act as the broker and agent in all transactions. Seximo Oy. has released several score of its workers and its business activity has noticeably decreased. It would appear that the Soviet Union has chosen an entirely new trade tactic in Finland which places more emphasis on the amount of goods sold rather than on who sells them. This is understandable in view of the inability of Soviet and communist owned firms to achieve the successful sale of eastern products to the Finnish people.

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4. The reduction in business activity on the part of Soviet and communist-owned firms means a reduction in financial support of Finnish Communist Party organizations. However, this aspect appears to have little effect on the Soviet Union. Financing of FCP activities will be arranged in other ways, particularly if trade between Finland and the East is increased.

25X1 [REDACTED] Comment. This refers to a government based on the three largest political parties in Finland, the Agrarians, the Social Democrats and the SKDL.

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