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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The only disease-carrying insects of importance in Finland are the housefly, head and body louse, and the malaria mosquito.

(a) Housefly (musca domestica).

The ordinary housefly spreads summer diarrhea (and occasionally dysentery) which is prevalent in July, August and early September in most parts of the country. Concerted efforts have been and are being made to exterminate the housefly, and much success has been achieved.

(b) Head Louse (pediculus humanus capitis).

Head lice still occur in rural areas and occasionally spread in outlying schools. During World War II (1942), a survey, [] on the prevention of head and body lice was made on 600-thousand cases scattered throughout Finland. At that time due to crowded conditions (one-half million people had been evacuated to the middle and western parts of Finland), approximately seven percent of the population had head lice, and at least one member in three percent of the households had body lice. The incidence in the eastern and northern provinces with its crowded and poor conditions, was twice as high compared to the southern and western parts of the country, where living and housing conditions were considerably better.

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(c) Body Louse (pediculus humanus corporis).

The last epidemic of typhus, transmitted by the body louse, occurred among the civilian population in Finland during the winter of 1936 and comprised of over five-hundred cases. Delousing was carried out in Finnish steam

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bathhouses, and the epidemic, which had been spread by traveling gypsies bringing the infection from the Russian border to the central part of Finland, was extinguished within a few weeks.

(d) The Rat Flea (*Xenopsylla cheopis*), and the Human Flea (*Pulex irritans*).

The rat flea in the past has been a vector of plague and typhus. The body flea is not a serious problem in Finland.

2. Finland has approximately one-half million steam bathhouses. Most homes in the rural areas have their own steam bathhouses, and even many homes in the cities have their own Finnish steam bath in addition to the regular bathtubs. Therefore, body lice today are rather rare except among the very poor rural inhabitants.
3. The Finnish Army was kept practically lice-free during World War II, using portable bathhouses and heating chambers for the delousing of clothes. Every battalion had at least one bathhouse and heating chamber and all men were required to use both, the bathhouse and heating chamber, at least once every two weeks, usually once a week.
4. Approximately one-thousand cases of typhus occurred in the displaced persons' and prisoner-of-war camps during 1943 and 1944, but this did not spread to the Finnish Army or the civilian population. These epidemics were extinguished in two or three months by using strict delousing measures, with bathhouses, heat chambers and cyanide-gas chambers.
5. Since the end of World War II (1945), DDT production has started in Finland. There are now two or three factories producing various DDT products, which have been distributed and sold throughout Finland, and to some extent exported.
6. The Malaria Mosquito (*Anopheles maculipennis*).

The mosquito carrying malaria does not normally cause very many malaria cases, due to Finland's short, cool summers. During World War II (1943-1944), malaria spread and there were at least one-thousand cases during the summertime, in the eastern and southeastern parts of Finland, evidently spreading from Russia where malaria was prevalent. This was controlled with quinine and acridine medications.

7. During typhus epidemics and in prisoner-of-war camps during 1943 and 1944, the delousing personnel had to wear protective garments, such as gloves and gowns made from closely-woven linen or cotton with sleeves and anklets pulled together with strings or rubber bands. Masks of various types were also used, as well as other headgear. Frequent cleanings were required of this equipment. This was done by placing all garments in portable heating chambers or in the gas chambers.

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