

REF ID: A6

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

*Trd
582*

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY **Finland/Sweden**
SUBJECT **The Sirola Foundation**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. **28 JUN 50**

NO. OF PAGES **3**

PLACE ACQUIRED **25X1A6a**
[REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. **25X1A6a**
[REDACTED]

25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. The Sirola Foundation, or Institute (known in Finnish as Sirola Opisto and in Swedish as Sirolastiftelsen), is located on the Vanaja estate, at Hameenlinna (Tavastehus), Finland, and is considered one of the more permanent training schools for functionaries of the Finnish Communist Party.
2. The Sirola Foundation was named in honor of Yrjo Sirola, one of Finland's leading Communists. He was Foreign Minister of the Finnish Red Government in 1918, escaped to Russia after the rebellion in Finland and became president of the National University for Minorities in Leningrad. Sirola was a Lenin Communist who was responsible for training Finnish Communists in a nationalistic viewpoint. During his tenure at the Leningrad University, he had a large number of Finnish Communists who were so trained. When the anti-nationalistic purge was carried out in Russia, the majority of these pupils were imprisoned and executed. Sirola himself was transferred to the Lenin University in Moscow, which operated directly under the Comintern. Sirola was an outstanding Marxist expert.
3. An unnamed informant of the source, who met Sirola personally in 1936 in Moscow, and who was well acquainted with him, said that Sirola was very bitter over the arrest of his students, because he was personally responsible for the indoctrination which was considered undesirable. Sirola expressed the opinion at that time that the GPU had deliberately failed to arrest him for the purpose of causing bitterness and strife among Finnish Communists of nationalistic sympathies. Sirola died a natural death in Moscow in 1936.
4. Throughout Scandinavia Folkhogskoler (public colleges) which specialize in adult education are fairly common. All enjoy government subsidies. In Finland such institutions are maintained by the Social Democrats and Agrarians as well as by the Communists. The curriculum at most

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB	DISTRIBUTION			
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Document No. 9
 No Change In Class.
 Declassified
 Class. Changed To: TS S C
 Auth: HR 10 2
 457R005000540009-5
 26 06 78
 By: 034

~~SECRET~~

25X1A2g

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

of the schools includes foreign languages, social sciences, the history of Finland, and in the case of the agrarian schools, practical agricultural training. The Sirola Foundation, a government-subsidized Folkhogskola, is openly and officially a Communist Party institution and maintains a curriculum mainly concerned with political science.

5. It is possible that Ture Lehen in his position as an expert on barricade street fighting, author of a textbook on such tactics, and a leading Communist Party tactician, may give courses in guerrilla or violence activities. In the opinion of the source, it is not likely that physical military training or training in weapons is part of the curriculum, as most of the students are young Communists who have already had military service. The source stated that institutions of this kind are required to submit an annual report to the government outlining their activities. The Sirola Foundation did not submit reports in 1947 and 1948. This failure caused considerable newspaper comment, but the source stated that the Finnish government officials did not feel that it would be wise at the time to take any punitive or restrictive action against the foundation.
6. Finnish Law provides that the faculties of such schools must be Finnish citizens and the president or rector of the school must have an acceptable academic background.
7. The present head of the school is Mrs. Aira Sinervo (married name Kolula). Her husband is a comparatively unimportant Communist probably identical with Veikko Viktor Kolula, who participated in the work of the Finnish Union of Communist Youth in 1933. While in military service in 1942, Kolula wrote letters to the government threatening to refuse to fulfill his military duties if his wife, who had been arrested for espionage, was not released. For this reason Kolula was detained by the military authorities and assigned to a special labor group. Mrs. Sinervo (who uses her maiden name) has an M.A. degree, has never been in the USSR but is an ardent Communist Party member. She resents the fact that she serves only as a "front" for the school and that she was chosen because the Finnish Communist Party is short of academically trained persons who could fulfill the requirements for the position. The vice-president (rector) of the school is Antti Hyvonen, a graduate of the Leningrad University for the Minorities and of the Lenin School in Moscow. Hyvonen is a Finnish citizen who formerly served on the faculty of the Lenin School.
8. Two other regular faculty members are Eino Nevalainen and Axel Modh, both with backgrounds and training similar to Hyvonen. In addition to the above-named four individuals who constitute the official faculty, the Sirola Foundation uses the services of a number of temporary lecturers including such well-known Finnish Communists as Ture Lehen, Inkeri Lehtinen, Armas Aikla and Herta Kuusinen.
9. The Sirola Foundation was founded in 1945 and was first located in temporary quarters at Herttonas, near Helsinki, Finland. At the time of the Peace Treaty with the USSR, the Soviets acquired a considerable amount of property in Finland formerly owned by German nationals, or persons who were so considered by the Soviets. Among such properties was the estate of Willi Dauge, the well-known international financier. This property was known as the Vanaja estate, located at Hameenlinna (Tavastehus), Finland, which is about two hours by rail from Helsinki. In 1947 the property was leased by the Soviet authorities in Finland to the Sirola Foundation, and is now used as the site for the school. It is a large beautiful estate, consisting of a number of houses and a considerable amount of land. It operates as a boarding school with facilities for 100 students. The regular course lasts from September to June, so that each year 100 fully trained propagandists are graduated.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 3 -

In addition, there are special summer courses of 2 to 3 weeks, so the total number of graduates of the school, including the short courses, is between 500 and 600 persons per year. The 100 who have taken the full training are presumably leaders and the others may be persons who have taken refresher courses or are receiving limited training. The Finnish Communist Party has on its permanent payroll 400 full-time propagandists. This is double the number employed by the Social Democrats.

10. The amount of the government subsidy received by the school represents only a fraction of the actual cost of maintaining the establishment. The balance is received from abroad in the form of subsidies from the Cominform and gifts from Communists in the United States. Actual cash transfers or payments are not used. Instead a gift of coffee, or some other scarce commodity, is received for which an import license is easily obtained inasmuch as no dollar drain on Finnish economy is involved. The coffee, or other commodity, is then sold on the open market at an inflated price and in this manner the actual dollar contribution may result in a net return to the Sirola Foundation of as much as 2000 Finnmarks to the dollar.
11. Direct subsidies and grants are given the Finnish Communist Party and the Sirola Foundation by certain Finnish businesses which were turned over to the Soviets in connection with the Peace Treaty at the end of the second war with the USSR. The boards of directors of such businesses usually consist of Soviet and Finnish citizens who are Communists. A substantial part of the profits of these firms may be diverted to Communist Party activities, if necessary. The source believes that as a result of these methods of obtaining funds, the Finnish Communist groups and organizations have more than adequate financial resources and can spend as much money as is necessary in carrying out their activities.
12. On two occasions in 1948 the Swedish Communist Party transferred money to the Finnish Communists. One transfer in the amount of 13,880 Swedish kronor was made to the Sirola Foundation, Kaisaniemenkatu 13A, Helsinki, as a gift to the Sirola Foundation from the Sirola Foundation Help Committee in Sweden. In March 1948 the Swedish Communist Party directly transferred 5,000 Swedish kronor to the Finnish Communist Party.
13. It is generally believed that the Communist front organ Finland's Democratic People's Organization (Finlands Folkdemokraters Forbund-FFDF) supports the Sirola Foundation.
14. Although the Sirola Foundation was originally intended to train the advanced party cadre, it has recently opened its doors to all Communist Party members in good standing. Karl Staff and Hilding Sarden of the Swedish Communist Party have recently attended the Sirola Foundation.
15. It was reported in February 1950 that another school, the Myllykallio School at Lautasaari (Drumso), Helsinki, is also in operation. This school, which is only intended for Party members in the Helsinki district, differs somewhat from the Sirola Foundation in that it mainly specializes in daily lectures and short evening courses, thus making it easier for the average Party member to attend. **

25X1A6a

** ~~_____~~ Comment. The source was unable to supply any additional information concerning the Myllykallio School.

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~