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## VISIT OF FINNISH DELEGATION TO VYBORG, USSR

During September-October 1952, a delegation <u>\_</u>not further identified from Vuoksenniska, Finland, visited the USSR. Upon their return, the members of the delegation gave the following account of their observations:

After the Leningrad express crossed the border from Vainikkala, Finland, the general impression created by the border landscape was that there was no resident population. Only a few dwellings appeared to be occupied, perhaps by the families of border guards. The fields were untilled and overgrown with trees on the edges. Signs of life began to appear near Viipuri (Vyborg, for example, in Hovinmaa and Tienhaara, where the delegates saw people in the fields and cattle in the pastures, and where there was the customary hustle of people in the stations. All these former Finnish stations now have Russian names.

During a 2-hour stop at Viipuri, the passports of the delegates were collected for stamping. Meanwhile, the delegates left the station to tour the city. They found the streets almost as busy as formerly, with all the rubble from the war cleared away. There had been no reconstruction of buildings, however, and the destroyed sections were merely fenced off. They found the streetcars well patronized.

The delegates stopped in some stores, which they found crowded with shoppers. Merchandise appeared plentiful, and the display windows were attractive.

The Viipuri railroad station, which was damaged considerably during World War II, is being reconstructed. Appearances indicate that it will be a magnificent building. The end of the building, which remained undamaged, still houses the station offices. No attempt has been made to reconstruct the bus station, which is in ruins.

Leaving Viipuri, the delegates found brisk activity on the remainder of the Karelian Isthmus. Some distance out of Viipuri, the railroad was joined by another line carrying electric trains filled with vacationers. The Terijoki vicinity in particular had an almost international atmosphere, owing to the popularity which it has attained as a summer vacation area. -- K. T.

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