

40)

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
JOHN A. VOLPE IN RESPONSE TO TOAST GIVEN AT FINNAIR LUNCHEON,
JUNE 10, 1969

Mr. Korhonen and Distinguished Guests:

I should like to express on behalf of myself, my wife, and all of your guests our gratitude to you for this pleasant occasion and your gracious hospitality. I had the opportunity to meet with some of you a few weeks ago when Finnair inaugurated its Helsinki-New York service. For those of you who were unable to come to the United States on the inaugural flight I should like to repeat my words of welcome to Finnair to the North Atlantic route and to wish all Finns traveling to my country a most hearty welcome.

This morning I had the honor to be received by my counterpart in the Finnish Government, Minister Aitio, by Foreign Minister Karjalainen, and then I had a most pleasant and productive talk with President Kekkonen. I brought to those gentlemen and I bring to you now warm greetings from President Nixon. Following my meetings with the two Ministers and President Kekkonen I am delighted to confirm the impression I had before coming to Finland that there are no outstanding problems between our two countries and there exists both in our official and our private relations an atmosphere of mutual cordiality.

I am looking forward later on this afternoon to the talks which are scheduled with your civil aviation officers. As the world continues to shrink and as more and more people are able to afford to travel long distances by air, we will continue to develop aviation routes to and from our various countries. In the United States we welcome such developments as the new Finnair route to New York as an important step in increasing contacts between Finland and America. We look forward to further developments in this field and we will be most interested to hear about Finland's plans for the future in air transport.

#####