



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE AT A LUNCHEON AT THE WARTSILA
SHIPYARD, HELSINKI, FINLAND, ON JUNE 11, 1969

Mr. Langhjelm and Distinguished Guests:

On behalf of my colleagues and myself I should like to express our heartfelt thanks to you for this excellent meal and also for the opportunity to visit your shipyard.

As Secretary of Transportation I have seen a great deal of modern technology in the field of transportation. Although I have only been in Finland for a short time, I am impressed by what I have seen of your accomplishments in this field and in the specialized sectors of shipbuilding such as Wartsila is engaged in. I have seen some of your icebreakers this morning and was very favorably impressed by them. I regret that I am unable at this time to report any progress with respect to the acquisition of Finnish icebreakers by the United States. It is heartening to see that Finnish technology in the field of ice strengthening is presently being employed by private American firms in planning for the transportation of petroleum from the Alaskan oil fields. This is a clear demonstration of the level of skill which has been achieved by the Finnish shipbuilding industry.

It is a privilege for me as Secretary of Transportation to be your guest in Finland at a time when the newly opened air route between Helsinki and New York and the Wartsila Esso contract for using Finnish technology in the strengthening of ships against ice have spotlighted the transportation sector. I hope that the future will bring many more opportunities in other sectors to strengthen the bonds between Finland and the United States.

#####