Records which would provide the information requested by the Department have never been maintained by the Embassy since the Embassy is only occasionally involved in cases of Soviet visa applications when an American tourist asks the advice of the Consulate.

The Finnish police authorities have confirmed that they also did not have pertinent records. It is possible that a reference to intelligence headquarters may produce samples of the desired information.

An Embassy contact has sought some information on Soviet visa application time-factors from three Helsinki travel agencies which are involved in the processing of applications for their clients. These agencies have reported that, uniformly for the five years from 1959 through 1963, the usual time required for the receipt of Soviet visas which have been applied for by Americans has been seven to fourteen days.

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