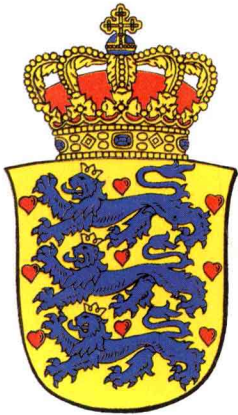


LIBRARY OF NATIONS

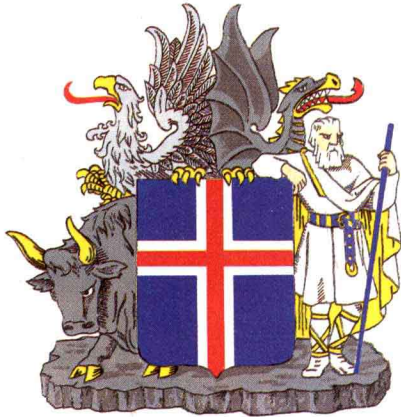


SCANDINAVIA

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DENMARK



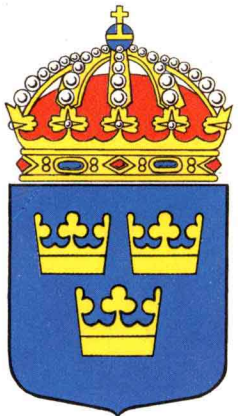
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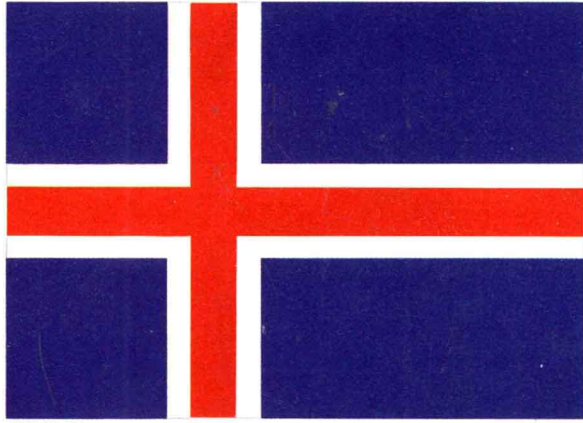
NORWAY



FINLAND

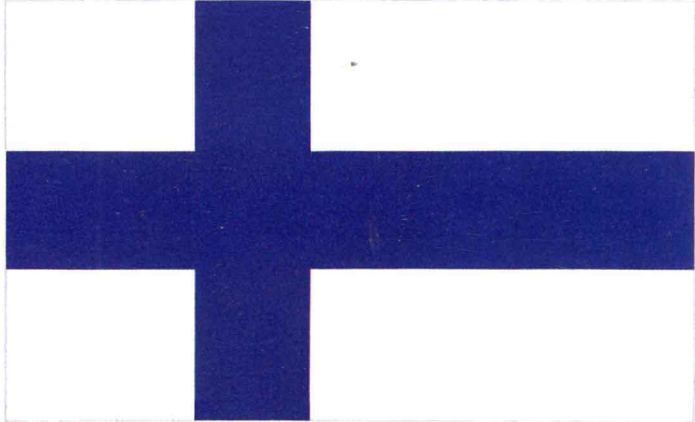
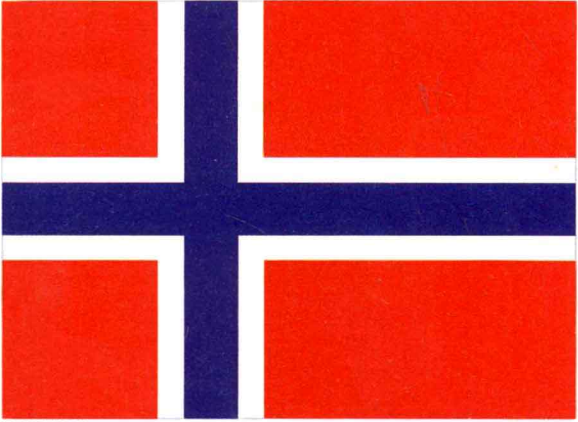


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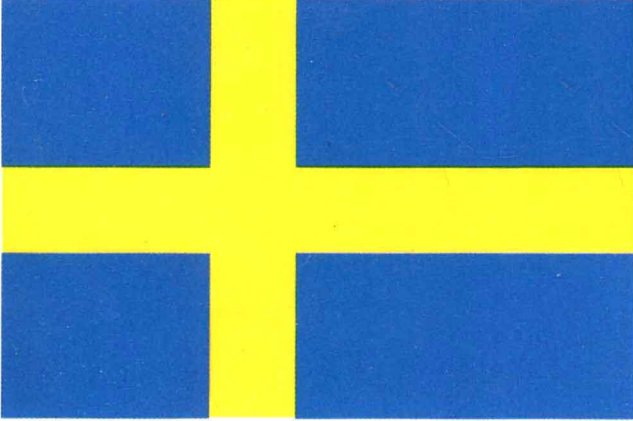
DENMARK

ICELAND



NORWAY

FINLAND



SWEDEN

SCANDINAVIA

By the Editors of Time-Life Books

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 LIBRARY OF NATIONS
 HOME REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT
 CLASSICS OF EXPLORATION
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CONSULTANT: Dr. W.R. Mead is Professor Emeritus of Geography at University College, London. He has written several books on Scandinavia, among them *An Historical Geography of Scandinavia* and *An Economic Geography of the Scandinavian Countries and Finland*.

Special Contributors: The chapter texts were written by: Windsor Chorlton, Michael Frenchman, Frederic V. Grunfeld, W.R. Mead and Barry Turner.

Other contributors: Patricia Clough and Hazel Evans.

Cover: Three pedestrians warmly wrapped against the winter cold make their way past the modern Tromsdalen Church in Tromsø, northern Norway. Built of concrete and glass, the structure is known as the "Cathedral of the Arctic".

Front and back endpapers: A topographic map showing the major rivers, lakes, mountain ranges and other natural features of Scandinavia appears on the front endpaper. The back endpaper shows the five countries of Scandinavia, with the principal towns and islands.

This volume is one in a series of books describing countries of the world—their natural resources, peoples, histories, economies and governments.

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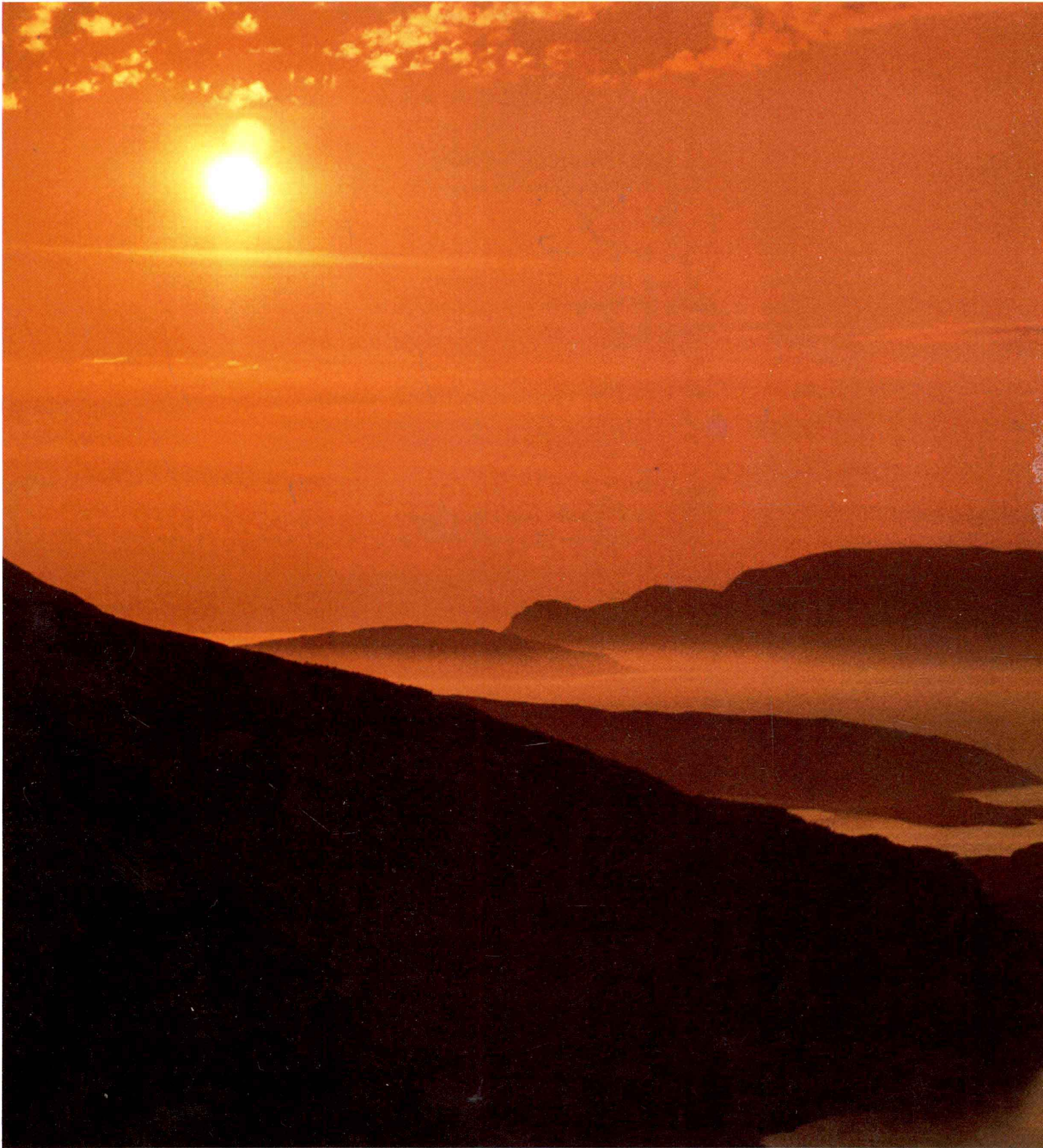
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A glowing sun, still hovering above the horizon at 1 o'clock in the morning, casts an eerie light over Reisafjord in northern Norway. The "midnight sun",

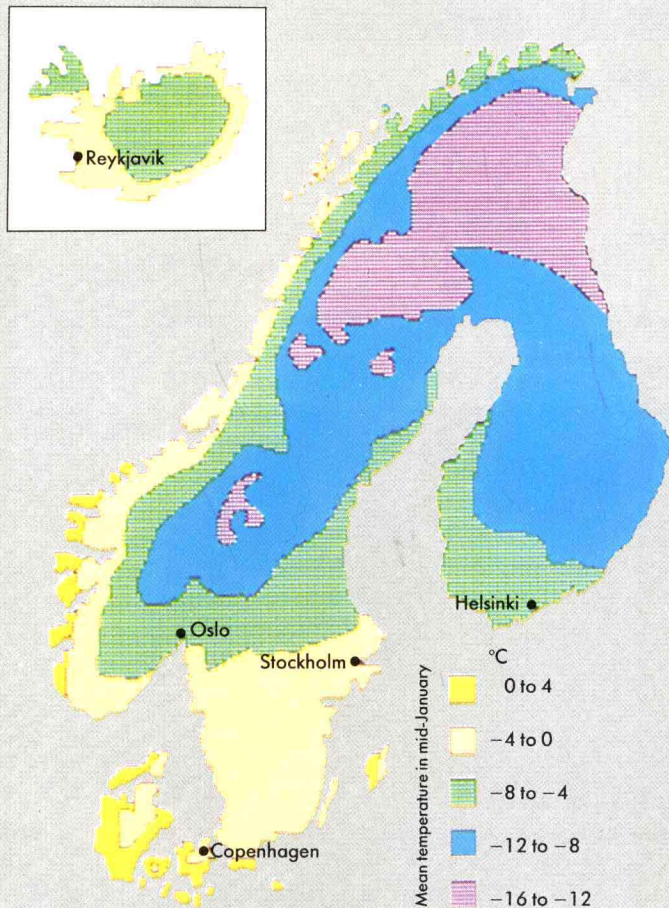
**BIG LANDS WITH
SPACE TO SPARE**

The bulk of Scandinavia's land area, which totals 1,257,284 square kilometres—about the size of the EEC countries, excluding Greece—is taken up by Sweden, Finland and Norway, respectively the fourth, fifth and sixth biggest states in Europe. Large areas of each country are sparsely inhabited, however, so population density figures are low—a characteristic even more evident in Iceland, which averages just 2 people per square kilometre. Only smaller, intensively cultivated Denmark has a density approaching the crowded Western European norm.

ICELAND	NORWAY	FINLAND	DENMARK	SWEDEN	
237,000	4.1 million	4.8 million	5.1 million	8.3 million	Population
2	13	14	118	19	Population density (persons per sq. km.)
103,000	324,219	337,032	43,069	449,964	Area (in sq. kms.)
Reykjavik	Oslo	Helsinki	Copenhagen	Stockholm	Capital

visible in midsummer in districts north of the Arctic Circle only, is one of the strangest and most distinctive features of the Scandinavian world.

WINTERS TEMPERED BY THE SEA



	°C
Moscow	-9.9
Helsinki	-5.4
Oslo	-4.7
Stockholm	-2.9
Berlin	-0.5
Reykjavik	-0.4
Copenhagen	0.1
New York	0.9
Tokyo	3.7
London	4.2

In spite of its northerly location, much of Scandinavia experiences relatively mild winters, as shown in the chart on the left, which compares January mean temperatures in various northern cities. In the west, this mildness is due to the relatively warm currents of the North Atlantic Drift and accompanying westerly winds, which keep the tidal, salty waters around Iceland, Denmark, Norway and south-west Sweden free of ice. To the east, however, high pressure ridges forming over Eastern Europe cause the brackish waters of the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland to freeze over. As a result, the north of Sweden and Finland are the coldest parts of the area in winter.



Warmly wrapped against the snow, a woman basks in the sun beside an annexe



to her wooden holiday cabin in Mörkedalen, a valley in southern Norway popular with skiers during the longer, late-winter days of March and April.



Seabirds flock around a trawler off the Westman Islands, south of Iceland. Although only 5 per cent of Iceland's work force are fishermen, their catch



provides the raw material for about three quarters of all exports both in the form of fresh and preserved fish, and as fish-derived meal and oils.



A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING WIDELY SHARED

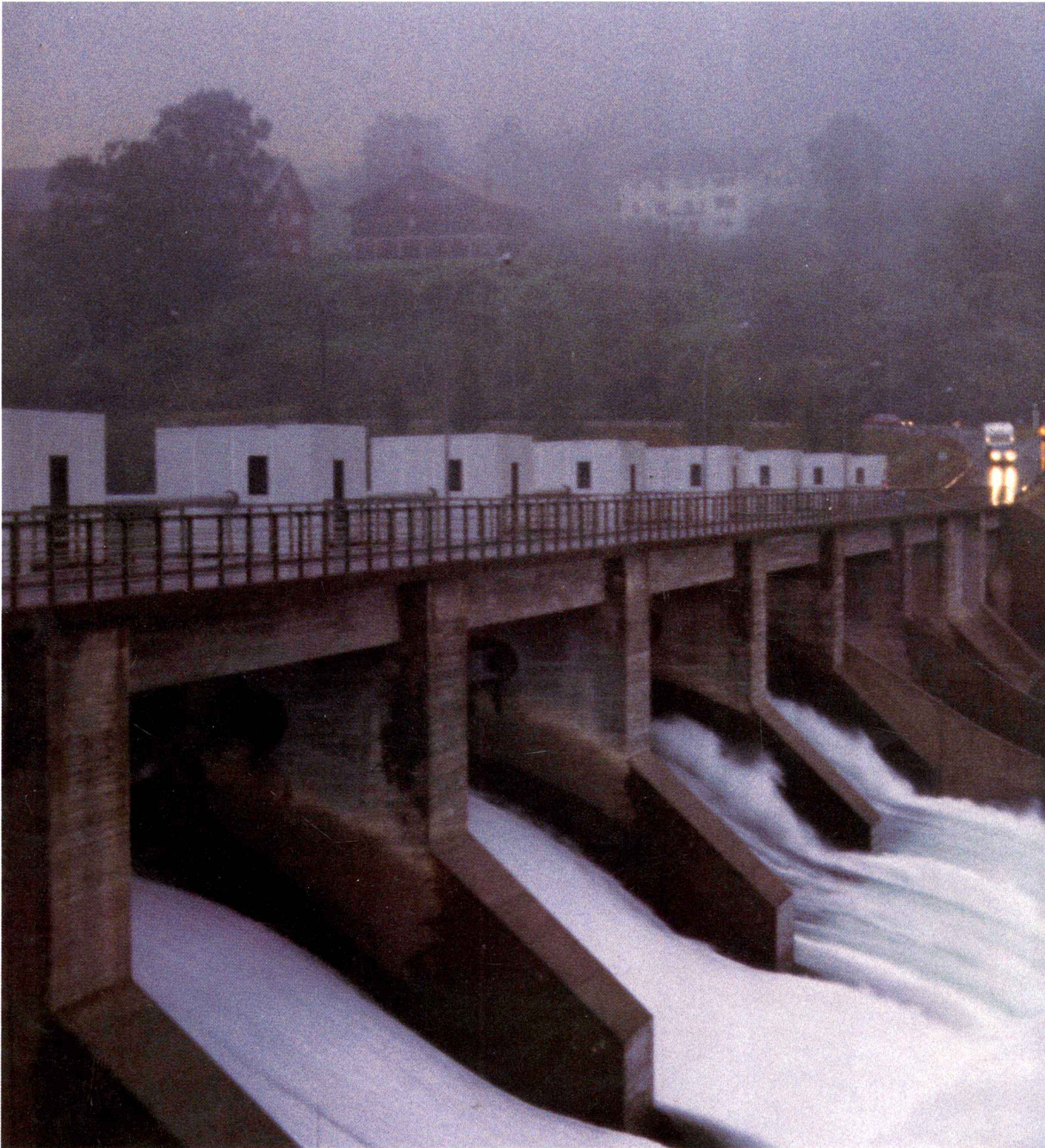
Thriving economies and an egalitarian spread of wealth—the income of a Swedish cabinet minister in 1984 was only about double that of a factory worker—have ensured a high standard of living for most Scandinavians. Figures for gross national product per capita are among the highest in the world. Sweden, once second in international terms only to Switzerland, was overtaken in the early 1980s by Norway, as the latter began to benefit from the exploitation of its North Sea oil and gas fields. Denmark at that time stood fifth and Finland 11th in the personal income league.

Such shared affluence has meant that expensive consumer goods such as colour TVs, refrigerators, freezers and cars are expected possessions for most Scandinavian families. Second homes, too, are increasingly common. Norwegians, for example, owned 300,000 holiday homes in 1984—one for every five households—as well as a quarter of a million pleasure boats. Nor is public spending neglected: a large proportion of personal income is diverted through taxation to finance social services that are among the most comprehensive in the world.

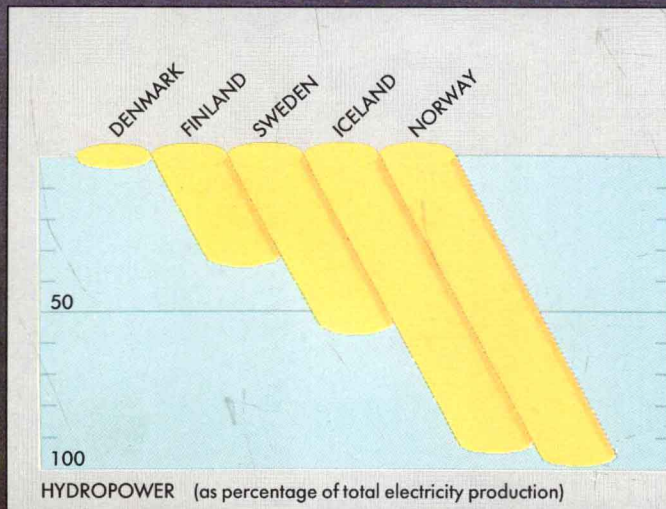
On an island in the Stockholm archipelago, two young women relax outside a holiday home. Behind them stands a sauna with a stockpile of wood stored



underneath it. The thousands of small islands that dot the Baltic to the east of the Swedish capital are popular locations for city dwellers' second homes.



Water from the River Lågen, swollen by rain, pours through the floodgates of the Hunderfossen Dam, a hydroelectric power plant near Lillehammer in



POWER FROM THE RIVERS

Water is the most important resource for generating electricity in Norway, Iceland and Sweden, where fast-flowing rivers have encouraged the building of hydroelectric power stations. In Norway, indeed, hydropower meets 99.8 per cent of electricity demand, and the figure is almost as high in Iceland, even though only about 10 per cent of the island's available water resources are exploited. Most of Sweden's hydroelectric potential is already developed; to meet extra demand, the nation currently depends chiefly on nuclear energy. Finland also gets much of its supply from nuclear reactors, while Denmark relies almost entirely on imported coal and oil to feed its electricity grid.

southern Norway. Most of the nation's hydropower schemes are sited in the south, where the rainfall is heavier.

1

