

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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COUNTRY China REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Dr. George Hatem, Father of Chinese Public Health/Possibility Hatem a Member of Chinese Central Committee DATE DISTR. 28 MAR 1972

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REFERENCES

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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MA Hai-te

1. Dr. George Hatem, a US-born physician who has resided in China since 1934, is responsible for establishing the current system of public health in China. Hatem oversees the entire health system and often is referred to as the Chinese Minister of Public Health; whereas in reality he does not hold this position but is the Father of Chinese Public Health. Hatem is known as Dr Ma Hai-teh, and his office is at the Fu Chen Men Wai Hospital in Peking and not at the Ministry of Public Health. Hatem stated that the Ministry of Public Health has the second largest budget in China, with the Ministry of Defense claiming the largest budget. He did not mention any monetary figures.
2. Hatem is basically a shy, retiring person who shuns publicity. He was Chou En-lai's personal representative sent to Switzerland to assist Edgar Snow and the Snow family, yet he remained completely in the background. stated that Hatem is a member of the Chinese Central Committee and the only foreigner to hold such a position. When Hatem was asked if he was a member of the Central Committee, he laughed and refused to confirm or deny the statement.
3. Hatem married a Chinese woman, and they have one son and one daughter. Mrs Hatem, Ma Su Fei, is a television producer in Peking. Their son, Ma Yuma, is a photographer for one of the Government magazines in Peking. Hatem did not mention his daughter's name or her job.

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