

CONFIDENTIAL

EDIC/ID-17
8 September 1955

NEW WESTERN MERCHANT VESSEL DELIVERED TO COMMUNIST CHINA

1. The first newly constructed Western-built merchant vessel is reported to have been delivered to Communist China. This vessel, ROSA (2345 GRT - 3200 DWT), flying the Finnish flag, departed Kobe in the Japanese Inland Sea on 6 August, declaring for Vancouver, B.C. On 9 August she was sighted in the Yellow Sea on a northerly course, and is believed to have been delivered to her new owners at Taku Bar on about 12 August. This vessel is the first in a series of three constructed under a 1954 Sino-Finnish trade agreement, and not only flew the Finnish flag but was operated by a Finnish crew. The Finns apparently were very careful to conceal the real nature of this vessel's voyage to the Far East. For all intents and purposes, she was a new Finnish vessel on a routine voyage to Japan from Abo via Hamburg and Calcutta.
2. The second vessel in this series is believed to be in process of delivery to Communist China at the present time. The RENATA, sister ship of the ROSA, departed Abo on 13 July, declaring for Colombo. The third vessel, RITA, title to which is reported to have passed to the Chinese at Turku during the week of 21 August 1955, was to have departed Finland on 6 September for India, Japan, and thence to China. According to reports, the crew of the ROSA returned to Finland via the USSR, and was to operate the RITA on her outward voyage.
3. In addition to the above vessels, it has been reported that Finland has contracted with Communist China for the construction of three additional cargo vessels of the above tonnage, as well as two tankers of 4200 deadweight tons under the 1955 Sino-Finnish trade agreement. Similar delivery tactics are expected for these vessels.

NAVY DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

CONFIDENTIAL