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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/USSR

SUBJECT Soviet Influence on Chinese Medicine and Biology

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DATE DISTR. 29 July 1954

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1. [Redacted] bacteriological research in China is concentrated in Harbin and Tsitsihar, directed and supervised from a large central installation at Sverdlovsk. The installations at Harbin and Tsitsihar are large-scale developments with extensive underground laboratories. Dr (fnu) Golovanoff, bacteriologist from the State Military Medical Academy in Leningrad is medical advisor in both cities, reporting to Sverdlovsk. He has 12 or 14 assistants. He is [Redacted] an outstanding figure in his field. [Redacted] his published works in the World Medical News and other abstracts [Redacted] scientifically sound, and in some cases indicative of original and valuable work. [Redacted]

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2. [Redacted] a most remarkable similarity both in the writing styles and subject matter explored in various abstracts published by the USSR and signed Golovanoff, Golovachoff and Grucheff. So remarkable, in fact, is the close integration of the various facets of the subject (a group of typhoid organisms) dealt with under these three names that [Redacted] the other two are pseudonyms of Golovanoff's. [Redacted] Use of pseudonyms would fall easily into the pattern of Soviet social controls in the scientific field. First class scientific talent is rare and it is not at all difficult to deduce that by virtue of a so-called "social order" Golovanoff was compelled to spread himself thin under three names for the benefit of Soviet prestige abroad.

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3. The anxiety of the USSR to establish such prestige probably accounts for the premature publication of experimental research by Dr Filatoff, dealing with the possibility that anti-biogenic stimulation may resorb scar tissue, in the field of ophthalmological surgery. The few rather promising observations in Dr Filatoff's early experiments justified further extensive work, but publication of the experiments on the premise that the proposed treatment had been proved efficacious was completely unjustified, and accounts in part for the widely acknowledged failure of the treatment as practiced in China. Its failure is further accounted for by its misuse by both Soviet and Chinese physicians and surgeons, who capitalized upon its publicity for their own profit and prescribed its use for every ailment from fallen arches to pharyngeal carcinoma. Publication of his experiments in this field at this premature stage was grossly unfair to Dr Filatoff who was one of the leading ophthalmologists and ophthalmological surgeons of the old school in Russia before the Revolution. His early work commanded high respect in Berlin and other western European medical circles, and although he is approximately 76 years old and has been discredited through no fault of his own by the failure of this experimental surgical treatment, he is still as highly qualified and valuable a Soviet scientist as any now at work in the USSR. It is impossible to imagine that Dr Filatoff would have consented voluntarily to the publication of his experiments in this early stage. Another example of Soviet social pressures in the scientific field is a USSR medical abstract titled "Transplantation of the Spinal Cord" and signed by the well known Soviet neuro-surgeon, Professor Levchenko, who visited the US in 1947. This is one of the most ridiculous medical abstracts ever published: [redacted] Dr Levchenko submitted [redacted] the work was published in response to a Soviet "social order." [redacted]

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4. Soviet medical literature has been completely prostituted by propaganda; current medical abstracts, treatises and textbooks are spoiled by nauseating prefaces extolling the new social order for encouraging vast achievements in scientific research. It is so rare that anything of scientific value is found in current medical literature that [redacted] almost ceased to explore it. Such propaganda is swallowed whole however by the new crop of Chinese medical students. All Soviet medical periodicals are translated into Chinese and circulated to medical schools free of charge, in addition to which selected Chinese abstracts are translated into Russian, thus complimenting the Chinese, with excellent psychological effect. [redacted] 30% of Chinese nationals in the medical profession can now read the Russian language. Medical literature from the US is available, but the supply is inadequate. From 1949-53 Chinese medical schools were badly handicapped by their lack of current medical information. But during that year enormous amounts of current medical literature were poured into China from the USSR, all translated into Chinese by the Soviets. The proof of its availability is apparent in the Chinese Medical Journal of the Chinese Medical Association.

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5. In addition to prostituting the literature in specialized scientific fields, Soviet science propagandists have made a strong appeal to the laboring classes through a series of leaflets, roughly comparable to US comic books, published on cheap Chinese paper, some distributed free of charge, and some costing approximately two cents each; these leaflets discuss in simple language all branches of science from agriculture to aviation, extolling Soviet achievement in each. [redacted] one particularly [redacted] dealt with flood control and explained that now that the USSR advisors had arrived, there would be no more floods of the Yellow and Yangtze rivers. Another dealt with the new means of utilizing the rays of the sun. The premise is the materialistic triumph of the USSR over nature, and the prediction that eventually "All will come under the will of 'The People' under the guidance and direction of the Soviet Union. Despite its absurdity, the implications in the wide acceptance of this propaganda are deadly [redacted]

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6. At the beginning of 1952 every city in north China had a Soviet advisor in public health.

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Each Soviet advisor has a thoroughly indoctrinated Chinese assistant trained in the Sun Yat Sen Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow. These Chinese have had only the most rudimentary training in public health measures; their function is primarily political. The nucleus of this body of indoctrinated young Chinese was begun in 1930 when promising students all over China were picked up and sent to Mao Tse Tung who, after further selection, dispatched the most gifted to Moscow. Every year up to a thousand young students have been sent to Mao Tse Tung for such training, and from there to the USSR.

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7. Since 1949 it has been extremely difficult to account for the whereabouts of Chinese medical specialists because every key man in his field has been assigned by USSR medical advisors to a term in some USSR or satellite medical institution. A survey of Chinese scientists was begun early in 1948; the outstanding men were picked up through personal contact and sent for political indoctrination and instruction in the Russian language to Sian, Mukden or Harbin, where they remained for at least a year and in some cases two. When they went to the USSR they received new names, since then it has become increasingly difficult to trace them.

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8. In 1949 the primary trend in BW research was toward the development of techniques for spreading a virus. A good deal of work was being done on virus pneumonia and [redacted] work is currently going forward in this field at Harbin and Tsitsihar, directed and supervised from Sverdlovsk. [redacted] the Peking Scientific Research Institute is similarly engaged. [redacted] the Changchun Laboratory near Peian was completely in the hands of the Soviets. There was hardly a Chinese left on the staff. The big hospital and laboratory were under the direction of Red Army personnel. The South Manchurian Railroad Experiment Station in 1950 was being directed by Japanese-trained Chinese. [redacted] research was being done to evaluate the strategic importance of plague, but [redacted] this work has been discontinued (plague has been found unsatisfactory for BW purposes).

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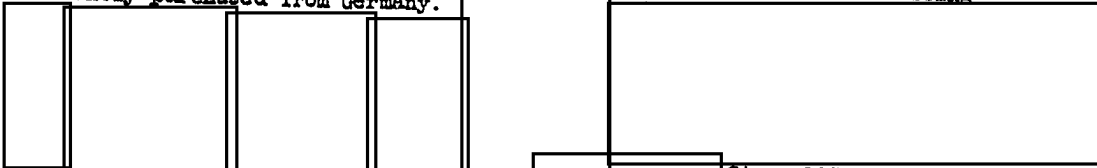
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9. All optical equipment for these laboratories has been supplied and is being currently purchased from Germany.

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Since 1953 Japanese microscopes from the Olympic Company have been appearing in Hong Kong, priced at approximately US\$ 75 each. The comparable Leitz instrument sells at US\$ 175. Obviously, there is a wide disparity in quality and precision of workmanship, but the Japanese instrument can be used to good effect by students, and many of them have been purchased by the Communists for this purpose. The amount of equipment being poured into China and the satellites provides a good key to a reasonably accurate picture of the magnitude of the USSR program for scientific research.

10. Because of the difficulties of securing accurate information on current projects, it is impossible to estimate its probable success or failure. It is possible however, to state without danger of contradiction that Chinese scientists trained before 1946 and those trained after that year are divided by an obvious demarcation. It will take generations of hard and unceasing effort to undo the damage to medical educational standards which has been inflicted by Communist supervision of this field since 1949. Scientific research particularly requires the constant development of major talents, and although this is provided for in the case of a few gifted students, such maturation on a sufficient scale, under the current USSR supervision, is unlikely.

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Note: Filatoff's original work mentioned in paragraph three is listed in the English Index to Soviet Medical Periodicals as follows: "V P Filatoff: 'Tissue Therapy: Treatment with Biogenus Stimulators'. (Russian Translation: "ВОЗВРАЩЕНИЕ ЗРЕНИЯ") Published in the Soviet Ophthalmological News 25 Jan 46. Revised in a German textbook by Gravitz: 'Cellular Pathology'"]

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