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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY China
 SUBJECT Sociological; Political - Cadre incompetence
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
 WHERE PUBLISHED Hong Kong
 DATE PUBLISHED 1 - 11 Sep 1950
 LANGUAGE Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950
 DATE DIST. 27 Oct 1950
 NO. OF PAGES 2
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Shih-pao.

COMMUNIST CADRE METHODS DISREGARD PEASANT WELFARE

DISCUSSES "GRAND RESULTS" IN EAST CHINA -- Hong Kong Shih-pao, 1, 2 Sep 50

Communists claim "grand results" in the new areas of Chekiang and Kiangsu, including Shanghai. Just what are these grand results?

1. Flood Control -- Nine hsien in north Kiangsu, and 14 in Chekiang are flooded. Nearly 10,000 people besieged the hsien government of Chuchi, reporting dikes leaking in the Fu-yang area. The cadres insisted that the simple peasants "cast their own bodies into the breaches, as an offering for the people's welfare." The result was that the breaches were not stopped, but 3,000 people lost their lives. Such "results" are not received with satisfaction by Communist leaders.
2. Elimination of Insect Pests -- There was quite a visitation of insects the past spring in this area. Cadres assigned to insect control did not go out ahead of time to inform and persuade the superstitious rustics; but when the growing grain was already being damaged by insects, a belated anti-insect movement was started. One catty of rice was offered for every 20 bags of insect eggs brought in. The peasants were forced to bring in several hundred bags each day. Where there were plenty of insects, this was simple; but where there were few, the peasants could not comply with the order except by raising moths to make eggs. Since they could draw rice, and at the same time fulfill an assigned task, why not be happy about it? Later on, at Tan-yang in Kiangsu, and Shao-hsing in Chekiang, some persons even speculated in the insect egg trade, and there developed a black market in insect eggs.
3. Increased Production -- After the floods and pests, the Communist authorities in Shao-hsing decided that fish production must be increased by 3 million catties. In less than 2 days, false reports were submitted guaranteeing surplus production. Some even gave the number of young fish already being stocked; one cadre reported "goal nearly reached." Closer scrutiny showed that work had not even started in Shao-hsing itself; while other places, far from showing increases, actually showed serious losses.

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4. Land Reform -- Cadres in charge of land reform in Kiangsu and Chekiang paid no attention to varying local conditions. They were opinionated and arbitrary. They placed fines on individuals at random and shipped out stored grain without permission. Outwardly, the land reform seemed a brilliant success. In reality, nine out of ten whom they classed as landlords and rich peasants were "reformed" into bankruptcy, vagrancy, and family dispersion. The simple peasantry of the areas have risen up to resist land reform. Around Wu-hsi and Ch'ang-chou there is a song of resistance:

Communists, good or not?
Upper levels, smart enough;
Middle levels, brainless all;
Lower levels, a goofy lot.
Simple peasants, how fare we?

5. Bandit Activities -- In Kiangsu, Chekiang, and Shanghai, millions of people are unemployed and on the verge of starvation. Many join the guerrillas. Their hide-outs are around T'ai Hu and T'ien-mu Shan. They make raids into the big cities, scattering leaflets, posting placards, killing Communist soldiers, seizing food, and generally doing what they wish. The authorities are confused; the more the bandits are suppressed, the more they spring up.

6. Departmental Routine -- This is a mess. For instance, in Lin-an, Chekiang, each agency must fill out 117 forms each month. Of these, 84 have to be passed on to the provincial authorities. Within 3 days one office received 95 blank forms.

POOR PEASANTS LOSE IN SUMMER LEVY -- Hong Kong Shih-pao, 11 Sep 50

Communist summer levies in Kwangtung were much hindered this year by the universal habit among peasants of reporting less land and production than they actually had. Communist levy squads had to concentrate on seeking out unreported land and production. First data from Communist sources show more than 200,000 mou in the Chu Chiang area discovered in this way. In what the Communists call an old liberated area, T'an-shui, more than half the territory is unreported or unregistered land, referred to as "black land." About 2 months before the summer levy, teachers and students were sent out to propagandize the summer levy. Next they sought out all the black land and assessed its value.

Some cadres hurry through their job without regard to actual conditions among the peasants. As soon as they arrive at a village, they urge the radicals and idlers to call a meeting. The peasants are told to bring in rice first, then assessments for the amount to be delivered are made. These cadres make little effort to discover unreported land or to assessing the crops properly; as a result, the poor peasants suffer losses and the landlords gain. Thus, the cadres quickly attain their goals, but many households that would not have to pay are cheated, while rich landowners get off with this first payment, at least for a time. At present, the CCP officials are fearful lest these "deviations" on the part of cadres will arouse popular wrath, so that strict orders have been issued in an attempt to rectify these erroneous ways.

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