

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Chinese Communist Concentration Camps, Szechuan	DATE DISTR.	18 June 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

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- Two million people have been imprisoned in concentration camps in Szechuan.¹ These prisoners include former government officials, down to heads of villages; former Nationalist military personnel; officials and members of the Kuo-mintang (KMT), the Young China Party, and the Democratic Socialist Party; former members of elective bodies under the Nationalist regime down to municipal and county council level; land owners, well-to-do peasants, and merchants.
- Seven thousand people are imprisoned in a camp at Shihpauchiao, Chungking, and four thousand in the compound of the Chenyuan Catholic Church at Chungking. The latter are employed at ground levelling in Huangshan, which is on the opposite side of the Yangtse river from Chungking. The Nanchiaochang camp at Ch'engtu contains over five thousand prisoners and the Kawanhsien camp near Ch'engtu, over ten thousand; the latter are engaged in dam construction. Over ten thousand concentration camp prisoners are working on airfield construction at Kantzu (N 31-38, E 99-59), a county in Sikang; large numbers are employed on the Ch'angtu-Lhasa and the Sikang-Tibet roads.
- Concentration camps consist of provincial camps under the provincial government, county camps under the county administration, and village group camps under the village administration. Prisoners sentenced to five years or more are sent to camps in the border areas of Sikang and Tibet. Those serving shorter sentences are organized into provincial, county, or village labor battalions to work for 12 hours a day, or longer, at such tasks as building roads or public granaries, irrigating ditches, and levelling ground.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC				
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4. Prisoners are normally housed in overcrowded cells, with 60 prisoners to a 13 x 10 foot room. No conversation is permitted, and no provision is made for medical aid. The camps are heavily guarded by armed guards who are extremely brutal to the prisoners. For example, LI po-shen, a Shanghai lawyer [redacted] formerly secretary to Dr. SUN Yat-sen,² was an inmate of the Chengyusantang concentration camp in the summer of 1951. Too ill to take boiled rice, he attempted to get some rice water, was beaten until he collapsed, and died in his cell the same evening.

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1. [redacted] Comment. Basis for this statement is unknown.

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2. [redacted] Comment. LI po-shen later became secretary-general to the provincial government of Szechuan and in 1948, the first Chief Justice of Nationalist China.

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