

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Chinese Communist Mail Censorship Policies	DATE DISTR.	18 June 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCE NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. There has been no relaxing of mail censorship by the Chinese Communist Government. Such censorship is performed by special officers from the local military administration commission¹, or in such localities where the commission has no branches, personnel are employed directly from the local Public Security Bureau. These officials normally have an office either in the Post Office itself or in an adjacent building.
2. All letters are subject to spot checks. Correspondence mailed to or from a foreign country; to or from areas considered dangerous to the present regime, such as Hong Kong and Macao; correspondence of specific interest appearing on watch lists; and letters carrying no return address are all opened and examined. Special efforts are taken so that no indication of tampering is apparent. No marks or seals are used to show censorship, and in some of the major cities such as Canton and Shanghai where more technical equipment is available, violet-rays and other special scientific devices are used. A record is kept of each letter which has been opened; if there is any question relevant to its contents, the letter is either copied or photographed. Letters with definite suspicion attached to them are retained for further investigation even though they may be airmailed or marked for other special delivery. An abnormal time delay in itself would arouse suspicion of meddling.
3. In addition to this severe control of correspondence, there is a special category of persons who must submit their letters to the Public Security Bureau, unsealed, for certification before mailing. These persons include all former officials of the Chinese Nationalist Government, former Kuomintang members, and members of the Nationalist San Min Chu I (0005/3046/0031/5030) Youth Corps. They must be prepared to answer any questions regarding the addressee of their letters, although in many instances these questions are of an extremely personal and embarrassing nature. The relationship between

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sender and receiver must be explained, and only after the contents have been read and approved can the letters be forwarded. The same procedure is carried out in connection with incoming letters to any persons in this special category regardless of whether the letters have been previously censored by the postal authorities.

1. Comment. [redacted] reports on mail censorship in China place the primary authority for such censorship with the Postal Administration Bureau and with Public Security offices on various levels;

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2. Comment. [redacted] category of persons who were subject to special population controls in China in December 1952. These persons were classified "nationals" as distinct from the "people" and included former Nationalist government and Kuomintang officials as well as former members of the San Min Chu I Youth Corps.

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