

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Formation of Three Construction Engineering Divisions, Northwest China	DATE DISTR.	17 June 1953	
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BY CABLE

- 25X1 1. [] the Northwest China Military Area (NWCMA) Command, acting on orders from the Revolutionary Military Council, organized three construction engineering divisions from personnel of the 4, 7, and 9 Armies and from NWCMA troop units and divisions trained in military engineering.¹
- 25X1 2. These newly organized divisions, known as the 1, 2, and 3 Construction Engineering Divisions of the Chinese Communist Army, were subordinate to the NWCMA and were to build barracks, military offices, military schools, and warehouses.
- 25X1 3. [] the 1 Construction Engineering Division, which had been organized before 1952 and attached to the 1 Army Group,² was based at Tihua (N 43-48, E 87-36), the 2 Construction Engineering Division was at Lanchou (N 36-03, E 103-41), and the 3 Construction Engineering Division was at Hsian (N 34-16, E 108-54).
- 25X1 1. [] Comment. []^a January decision of the Revolutionary Military Council to assign 300,000 men from 30 army divisions to production and reconstruction work. Eight of these divisions were to be assigned to the NWCMA, and of the 30 divisions to be formed in all China, seven were to be civil engineering divisions.
- 25X1 [] Comment. Available information indicates that the 7 Army was cannibalized in 1950-51 to provide cadres for antitank divisions and for antiaircraft and engineer units. This army was previously carried in Kansu province, but its continued existence is problematical. The 9 Army is a component of the 22 Army Group. []
- 25X1 [] the 22 Army Group is no longer a combat group, but is a labor force engaged in collective farming. []
- 25X1 2. [] Comment. [] among the 30 divisions to be assigned to production work was one civil engineering division organized before 1952 and attached to the 1 Army Group in Sinkiang.

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