

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

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25X1X Travel from the Mainland to Hong Kong¹

1. In December 1952 travellers who wished to go from the mainland to Hong Kong were required to go first to the police station and explain their reasons for going abroad. They were then given two copies of an application form, to be filled out by one shop guarantor or two personal guarantors, which they submitted to the police station with two photographs. If the police approved the applications, the permits were issued in one-half month to one month. Applicants who were found to be suspicious were further investigated and might wait three or four months before getting their permits.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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2. A traveller who had a permit to go from Canton to Hong Kong in December could take the 0800 train from Canton to Shench'uan, proceed to the border search point, and wait there for the final check. Usually the time for the final inspection was from 1000 to 1400 hours every day.
3. In October 1952, a traveller leaving Shench'uan for Hong Kong went through the following procedure:
- Stood in line for Chinese Communist officers to check his travel certificate and to answer questions on the purpose of travel, point of departure, destination, and identity. After questioning the traveller, an officer signed the back of the travel certificate, giving the date the holder passed through.
 - Went to the inspection office for an official seal of the Shench'uan inspection center to be stamped on the travel certificate.
 - Went to the tax office and had recorded on the travel certificate all jewels, watches, fountain pens, and other valuables. Gold, silver, or money could not be taken out of the country.
 - Presented baggage and belongings for inspection.
 - Presented his travel certificate to the border guard post.
 - On the Hong Kong side, went through the British guard line. It was easy to pass through the British side if the traveller had made previous arrangements at Shench'uan with "guides," who had ways of approaching the guards. The charge for "guiding" a passenger safely to Hong Kong was HK \$400, payable at Hong Kong
4. In December 1952 a Communist squad leader at Shench'uan named HOU (0186) (fnu) had connections with YUAN Piao (5913/2871), a member of the Yellow Ox organization (7806/3662/7825), who made arrangements for smuggling people from the mainland to Hong Kong for HK \$800 to HK \$1,000 per person.
5. In January 1953 there were two types of travel permits issued by the Chinese Communists, one for a one way journey, or exit only, and one for a round trip, exit and re-entry.³ It was much more difficult to leave the mainland than to enter, and a one way permit was relatively difficult to obtain. A person who desired to leave the country had to apply personally. The police screened the applicant and usually delayed a long time before notifying him of the approval or disapproval of his application. All exit and entry permits could be used but once and were valid for a period of a few weeks only. The traveller could be asked to show his permit to the authorities at any point during his travel on the mainland. When he reached his destination, he had to surrender his permit to the issuing office. If he travelled from Communist China to some point abroad, he was required to mail the permit back to China.

25X1X Hong Kong to the Mainland

6. In January it was not difficult for a person in Hong Kong to obtain an entry permit to Communist China if he had relatives at his intended destination. The prospective traveller wrote to his relative giving particulars of his business or profession in Hong Kong and his address in Hong Kong, requesting his relative to apply for an entry permit for him. The relative took the letter to the local police

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station and registered and guaranteed the applicant. The police mailed an application form to the applicant in Hong Kong who had to fill out the form, sign it, affix his fingerprints, and return it, with three photographs, to the issuing office. If the permit was granted, the applicant usually received it about six weeks after returning the application form.

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Travel Between the Mainland and Hong Kong and Macao

- [REDACTED] 7. In early January 1953 persons travelling between Communist China and Hong Kong and Macao included fishermen transporting fresh fish from inland waters for sale in the two colonies; crews of ships and ferries sailing in inland waters; and those enroute for business or family purposes.
8. Those authorized to travel between the mainland and Hong Kong and Macao for business or family purposes were required in January to hold one of three permits: a round trip permit, authorizing exit from and re-entry to Communist China; a one way journey permit, authorizing entry to China; or a one way journey permit, authorizing exit from China. The round trip permit, issued by the police in the city of the person's registered residence, contained notice of the travel route to be used by the bearer.
9. While travelling on the train a passenger seldom had to present his permit during any police or military inspection of the train, and if he carried either an identification card or a certificate of residence, he was never required to present his permit. Police or military authorities conducting train inspections considered Nationalist identification cards issued prior to the Communist take-over as valid documentation [REDACTED]
- 25X1 10. Anyone travelling from Canton to Kungpei (N 22-12, E 113-32) on the Macao-Canton ferry was required to present his travel permit to the ferry company prior to purchasing his Macao ticket and was required at the same time to convert his money into Hong Kong currency. No one was permitted to take from Communist China any more than the equivalent of HK \$20 in Jen Min P'iao. At Kungpei, the examination station of the Kungpei Border Defense Bureau (2162/0554/6708/7089/2914/2686/4541) examined the traveller's permit and endorsed it with signature and seal if the permit was found to be satisfactory. Customs officers at Kungpei conducted a thorough search of baggage and enumerated all valuable personal possessions such as watches, fountain pens, and jewelry on a list form stamped on the reverse side of the travel permit; they also counted all Hong Kong currency carried by the traveller and registered the amount on the travel permit. After completion of the examination and checks, the traveller was permitted to proceed to Macao.
11. Similar examinations and checks were conducted in cases of persons entering China from Hong Kong and Macao at Kungpei, and of persons leaving or entering China from Hong Kong at Shench'uan. Direct bus service joined Macao, Shekki, and Canton.
12. If a person decided not to return to China at the expiration of the time limit authorized on his travel permit, he was required to return the travel permit by registered mail to his family in the city of his former residence, asking the family to report his absence to the police bureau with the request that the bureau delete his name from the census. Failure to notify the bureau of one's intention not to return to China

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by the end of the authorized period made it difficult for one to obtain an entry permit to return to the city in the future.

13. Male adults of military age were seldom permitted to leave China. A round trip permit generally required submission by the bearer of the names of two guarantors. Should the traveller decide not to return to China after his departure, however, the police would reprimand or punish the guarantors only in rare instances. The one way permit, issued generally only to women, children, and men above military age, was surrendered at the examination station of the Border Defense Bureau.
14. The round trip permit, issued to Chinese residents of Hong Kong and Macao and to overseas Chinese not registered in a mainland urban census, required the listing of two friends or relatives in the city of destination as guarantors. The permit had to be returned by mail if the time limit expired before its use.

Canton to Hong Kong

15. A merchant in Hong Kong arranged for the exit of his wife from Canton to Hong Kong on 19 February 1953 by paying to a Communist agent in Hong Kong HK \$4,000 for his wife's passage. The wife was taken from Canton to Foshan (N 23-02, E 113-06) to Chiangmen (N 22-36, E 113-06), and then by boat to Macao. The Communist agent stated that he could arrange for the exit of any person from Canton upon receiving payment.

Travel in China

16. In January 1953 travel was not strictly controlled within China if one went from one large city to another. In rural China, however, movement was limited. Anyone who wished to visit a village more than 20 li distant and who wanted to remain for more than 24 hours was required to report to the Farmers' Association in his own village and apply for a permit. On reaching his destination the traveller had to report to the police in that village. A traveller caught without a permit would be accused of being a spy or guerrilla and might be drafted into the army as punishment.

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Comments

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2.

[redacted] the Yellow Ox organization in mid-1952 was charging about HK \$400 to take a person from Shench'uan to Hong Kong and from HK \$120 to HK \$300 to take a person from Macao to Hong Kong.

3.

Probably the information in paragraph 8 is more complete and there are two types of one way journey permits, one for exit and one for entry.

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