

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Southwestern Sinkiang

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1. In May 1953 Zin Noon, an Ismaili who is military and police commander in P'uli (N 37-47, E 75-14), had gone to Urumchi for further training. The magistrate at P'uli was Jugum Kilidi.¹
2. Three Ismaili priests in the Yarkand (N 38-24, E 77-16) area, Mola Bux, Abu Sayed and Yakoot Shah, had been released from jail. The first of these, who apparently had acquired a great deal of land, had been tortured with fire, but had incurred no serious burns. The Ismailis were receiving better treatment from the Sinkiang authorities.
3. Religious freedom had increased somewhat over 1952, and there were persons who planned to keep the fast of Ramadan. No official notice of permission to keep the fast had been put out, and it was believed that observance of the fast would be frowned upon.
4. In Kashgar the people were wearing mourning bands out of respect for the death of Stalin.
5. The people in Kashgar were not happy for they had insufficient property, no gold or silver, and found that the Chinese paper currency had little value. The five mou of land distributed to each person provided a bare subsistence.
6. Some 5,000 Pakistanis had changed citizenship and become Chinese nationals.²
7. In an attempt to win over the people of Hunza, Chinese Communist officials in southwestern Sinkiang promised to restore the grazing rights in the Khunjerab and Shimshal regions and the right to make salt in the Shimshal area³, and to take up with higher authorities the question of recognizing Hunza as an independent state and of permitting a representative from Hunza

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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to be sent to Yarkand to look after Hunza lands in the area. The Chinese Communists were anxious to obtain a written statement to the effect that Hunza wished to be friends with Communist China.⁴


- 8. In May 1953 a factory for making or assembling motors and trucks had been built on the Kizil River which runs through Kashgar (N 39-29, E 75-14). It had been financed by Soviets, but was being run by Chinese.
- 9. The dam at Kashgar was not yet finished in May 1953, although the power plant was functioning and supplying electric current.
- 10. In May the shops in P'uli were well supplied with goods.
- 11. A dam was under construction at Laskor, seven miles from Khotan (N 37-07, E 79-55), which was to supply electric power.
- 12. Oil wells were being dug in the mountains near Yangihissar (N 38-56, E 76-09).
- 13. In May there were 36 soldiers at P'uli, 5 at Karchinai (N 37-05, E 74-59), 16 at Mintaka Karaul (N 37-08, E 75-01), 2 at Dafdar (N 37-22, E 75-25) and 5 at Beyik (N 37-11, E 75-15). The last two posts appeared to be vacant, with no personnel except watchmen.
- 14. The following reports put out by a visitor to Sinkiang are not true:
 - a. Airfield at Lup Guz (N 37-02, E 74-52). None is there.
 - b. Jeep road from Tash Malik (N 39-07, E 75-37)⁵. This does not exist.
 - c. Tunnel from Kizilerabad to Tagharma (N 38-02, E 75-10)⁶. This is not true.

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the Pakistanis in Sinkiang were reported as 500 in number.

- 3. Khunjerab Pass is at N 36-52, E 75-28, and Shimshal at N 36-28, E 75-20. These areas appear on some maps as lying on the Hunza side of the Hunza-Sinkiang border.

- 4.  the Chinese Communists claimed Hunza as part of Sinkiang, requiring no visas of Hunza traders in Sinkiang.

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