

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. [] ship passed between Taiwan and the mainland without being hailed or stopped by war vessels. On 26 June 1953 three destroyers were about 4 sea miles off the ship and about 10 sea miles from the northern spit of Taiwan. The first mate believed that they were American-built destroyers. A swept back jet fighter was flying at a speed of 900 to 1,000 kilometers per hour (km/h) and at an altitude of about 400 meters from the northwest. The fighter was silver-coated, had a red star as distinguishing mark, and disappeared about 20 seconds after coming into sight. About 2 1/2 hours later, when she was about 20 sea miles east off the regular course line, as her captain did not wish to meet fishing fleets [] ship received a radio message from Tientsin requesting a change of course. Three twin-engined and one quadruple-engined Chinese airplanes painted olive-green were sighted flying along the coast at a speed of about 400 km/h off Tsingtao. Some silver-painted jet planes flying at altitudes of between 4,000 and 5,000 meters and some single-engined and twin-engined olive-green airplanes, including one twin-engined plane which carried several yellow stars arranged in a semi-circle around a larger yellow star, were seen in the Yellow Sea.

2. [] the pilot boarded [] ship about half a mile from the entrance to Chinwangtao. He came by tugboat and was accompanied by the ship's broker, the port medical officer and six soldiers armed with submachine guns. The broker, the medical officer and the pilot wore blue Chinese coats without badges. The soldiers wore khaki-colored uniforms. Two customs officers, also in blue coats, immediately boarded the ship at the pier, and sealed the radio, pyrotechnical bodies, binoculars, sextants and cameras. The provisions, tobacco and spirits were not sealed. All holds and spaces were checked and pamphlets or books in Chinese or Cyrillic letters were declared. All other books remained untouched. The crew was guarded on deck by two soldiers while the ship was searched. Two sentries with submachine guns were posted at the ship immediately after she was tied. The Chinese broker who spoke fluent English and German stated that he was a political leader in Chinwangtao and performed the clearing business to get acquainted with this kind of duty. Some

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of the soldiers who spoke English stated that they were military soldiers and had nothing to do with the police, which was unarmed and was responsible only for the town district. Some of the soldiers and coolies were elderly men and wore decorations. The broker explained that veterans who fought against Japan and CHIANG Kai-shek were attached to all labor units to improve their morale.

3. A concrete pier, about 300 meters long, in good repair and with three railroad tracks, was on the starboard side on entering the harbor. Two of the tracks were along the quay wall. Low wooden sheds were between the second and the third track. Accommodation cars; dining cars for workmen; railroad repair cars; a kitchen car; and two saloon cars with dispensary, dressing stations and bath for the port medical officer on duty, were on the third track. Injured or sick workmen received medical attendance at these cars. The port medical officer visited the ships in the harbor twice daily and also attended the crew members. He and his two assistants spoke fluent English.
4. The cargo consisted of coal for Madras and came from 20-ton cars which were tilted into five hatches at a time. Coal was no longer carried in baskets as previously and was shoveled from the sides of the cars into tight-meshed bast nets and then heaved aboard by winches. Bast mats were also spread between the ship's sides and the quay wall to prevent losses of coal. The loading took three days and four nights. The coal was good.
5. An old Soviet steamer of about 1,000 tons was moored in the innermost section of the harbor with her bow anchor cut and with stern wires tied to the quay. She loaded bales and cases and left the harbor on the morning of 6 July 1953. Several fishing craft and a small old trawler were tied up to the mole although no slip or repair shop was available near the harbor. The repair to a pump on [redacted] ship was carried out quickly and efficiently by three young workmen, accompanied by a political leader. The refrigerating machine which needed repair was inspected by several groups of engine fitters accompanied by a political worker but could not be repaired.
6. The town, which was inland from the harbor, was off limits to the ship's crew. The International Club at which crew members spent most of their time was in a new sandstone building on a short road closely guarded by sentries. Cakes, two bottles of good beer and some excellent cigarettes were free of charge at the club. There were also dancing parties with girls in blue dresses who drank tea, understood English and were rather shy. Political workers sat at each table. Curfew was at about 11 p.m. Films were shown on special demand. The Chinese first thought the negroes, who composed about fifty percent of the crew, were particularly susceptible to political indoctrination, but soon saw that the negroes did not go ashore for the second time as they disliked to be regimented by the Chinese.
7. Four new large unstoried sheds with sloping glazed roofs on the north bank west of the mole were brightly illuminated at night. Long queues of men and women in blue suits crowded into these sheds from the town and there were no noises indicating hammering or riveting but only low humming. Reeled-off cable drums of various sizes were stored in the area between the river bank and the sheds. A three-storied new building, about 70 meters long and partly illuminated at night, was in front of the four sheds. Two wood-planked octagonal scaffolds, about 50 meters high and between 20 and 25 meters in diameter which tapered upwards, were landward from the International Club. [redacted] they 25X1 were haulage towers or installations for charging smelting furnaces but saw no smoke or steam. The political worker stated that the nearest coal pits were over ten kilometers from the coast and that their haulage towers were out of sight.
8. An old abandoned fortification which flew no flag was located on the partially wooded hills east of the harbor. The area was closely patrolled by soldiers armed with slung rifles. Between 20 and 30 soldiers armed with rifles were

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posted near the three railroad tracks and about ten sentries armed with sub-machine guns were stationed on the way from the ship to the club. A group of soldiers with a mobile searchlight was on the mole. Trucks with generator sets were between the second and third railroad track. Two were employed to illuminate the ship's hold. 25X1

9. The broker, accompanied by two other Chinese who spoke good English, [redacted] every afternoon. He sometimes wore a small round badge on the lapel of his jacket and arrived in a large black sedan driven by a chauffeur. He had studied history and sociology in England and the USA and was thoroughly informed on the situation in Europe. Starting from the fundamental difference between old and new China, he explained that, at least for some years to come, China needed foreign help and preferred the Russians to the British, who had taken more than they had given and were largely responsible for the backwardness of the country. The broker, who was the best paid official in Chinwangtao, received a monthly salary of 75,000 Chinese dollars, equivalent to 5 pounds sterling and 10 shillings. He had to spend 15,000 to 17,000 Chinese dollars on food, between 15,000 and 20,000 Chinese dollars on clothing and about 18,000 dollars on party contributions and donations, and could spend the balance on other expenses, particularly books. An ordinary workman made up to 10,000 Chinese dollars monthly. A longshoreman received from the government three meals daily and blue work rig and shoes in addition to his wages. As every woman fit for work and with less than four children was bound to work, the Chinese were fairly well off considering that thirty Chinese dollars daily could feed a family of five or six. Medical and dental attendance as well as hospitalization were free. In reply to a question why the Nationalists had lost the war, the broker said that the soldiers under CHIANG Kai-shek were not inferior, but their officer corps was corrupt. He said that these Chinese were bent on gambling, debauchery and nepotism and that this accounted for the weaknesses of CHIANG Kai-shek's military system. The communist soldier on the other hand, who was developed from a peaceful peasant to a fighting and disciplined warrior, realized that discipline alone would assure the existence and unity of Communist China and that no deviation from the line would be tolerated. This was symbolized, for example, by uniform clothing and a military attitude assumed by all. China would not repeat Russian mistakes and would develop industry as well as farming which, however, was difficult for lack of machinery and, because of the tendency of every Chinese to stick to landed property. The broker stated further that the food situation in the coastal districts was good. He said that CHIANG Kai-shek could not possibly return to the mainland because the Taiwan Chinese were generally despised even by non-Communists. He commented that American fears of Communist China were exaggerated as even if materials and weapons were supplied, only a portion of the enormous Chinese army, which mainly consisted of infantry, could be equipped and even if armed to the teeth China would never be capable of successful aggression. The western world, including the USA, should recognize China economically as a market and supply area for indispensable commodities.
10. When one of the winches broke down because of inexpert handling, the harbor master, who was about thirty years of age and also wore a blue coat, came aboard for an investigation. He dismissed the winchman and had the damage repaired at the expense of the Chinese Government. [redacted] the harbor master, who was always accompanied by a political worker, held a Chinese ship engineer's license, and had been chief engineer on coastal vessels for many years. He expressed pleasure [redacted] said that he disliked the British and added that informed Chinese knew of the difference between [redacted] 25X1 25X1
- [redacted] He expressed regret that the USSR did not possess [redacted] whose industrial potential would considerably strengthen the Communist bloc and make it possible for China to overcome her shortage of machinery, especially machine tools. He stated that China also needed large quantities of sedans, trucks and tractors. He said that Chinese farming yielded good crops, especially of soy beans which grew north of the Peking River, and added that the interior of China was not yet rehabilitated.

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