

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Agriculture in the Yonan Area, North Korea	DATE DISTR.	18 June 1954	25X1
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25X1		REFERENCES		



Duties of a Farmers' Union Chief

1. In North Korea the chief of a village Farmers' Union is elected by the village People's Committee. He receives no compensation for performing the duties of chief of the Farmers' Union, a position he holds in addition to making his own living. His duties include:
 - a. Checking the local farmers; tools and other equipment and reporting to the gun People's Committee on the condition of the equipment and on shortages.
 - b. Reporting on the condition and shortages of cattle and other draft animals, and making plans for the cooperative use of such animals.
 - c. Ascertaining the amount of seed needed by the farmers and obtaining an adequate supply.
 - d. Encouraging farmers to plant and transplant seeds at the correct time and to work in the rice fields collectively.
 - e. Determining the adequacy of each family's supply of food, arranging a government loan of grain in case of need, and collecting the amount of the loan at the next harvest.
 - f. Overseeing the weeding and cultivating of crops, and a rapid and timely harvest.
 - g. Encouraging the prompt payment of taxes-in-kind.

Estimating the Yearly Rice Harvest

2. In January of each year the village People's Committee appoints men to encourage the farmers to increase their production norms, to make a survey

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

of the prospective harvest, and to estimate the probable amount of production. The estimators do not have to be Labor Party (LP) members. Prior to appointing them, the committee consults the local farmers regarding their choice of appointees. In the past, because the estimators lacked technical training and were under pressure by their superiors, some farmers were required to pay an unjust amount of taxes-in-kind as a result of poor estimates. [redacted] some of these defects had been eliminated, with a resultant decrease in dissatisfaction and complaint by the farmers. The men selected had had many years of farming experience and were trusted by the villagers. The survey of the prospective harvest is begun in August and the estimate made in September, usually about 20 days before the harvest. In Honam-ni¹ (N 37-52, E 126-09) (BS-5094) a team of seven estimators is appointed. Accompanied by a gun-leader and the owner of the rice-paddy farm, the team decides which area of the farm has an average crop, and chooses one p'yong² on which to base an estimate. There are usually 85 stubs in one p'yong, an average stub containing 19 plants. The number of plants in various stubs is counted and an average taken to indicate the prospective rice harvest from one p'yong. The gun-leader then calculates the total amount of the prospective harvest on a chart. Such estimates have proved to be remarkably close to the actual harvest. After the harvest, a committee consisting of the village and the gun People's Committee members makes a survey to compare the estimate with the actual harvest. In cases in which the estimate is less than the harvest, the estimators are required to perform the task again in the presence of the committee.

Tractor Ploughing Stations

3. [redacted] the North Korean government established a tractor ploughing station for every few farm villages. Since that date it has been required that all rice-paddy land be ploughed by tractor, the only exception being fields in narrow mountain valleys. [redacted] in the Chabong-ni (BS-4995) area, it was rumored that another tractor was to be imported so that the dry fields would also be ploughed by tractor. The station for Honam-ni and Chabong-ni is at BS-492954 in two thatched-roof buildings, each 24 by 15 feet, which are used as offices and quarters for the tractor operators and helpers. Six tractors imported from the USSR are hidden at BS-491958 under large chestnut trees, in a mountain valley 500 yards north of the office. Each tractor resembles an army tank to which five sets of ploughs are attached. A driver sits in front and a helper who controls the ploughs sits in the back. At the station are a manager and five clerks. At the tractor concealment site is a large supply of petroleum which is always guarded by a clerk, armed with a Japanese Type-99 rifle. The station employees wear a uniform closely resembling a North Korean Army (NKA) uniform, but without insignia. The tractor helper also carries a Japanese rifle while working in the fields. The fee for tractor ploughing of 3,000 p'yong² of land, which is paid to the gun Food Administration Section after the autumn harvest, is 60 kilograms of rice for the first ploughing and 40 kilograms for the second.

Finances of a Farm Family

4. In Yonan-gun³ the North Korean government allots an average farm family of five or six people 3,000 p'yong² of rice-paddy land and 500 p'yong of dry field on which the farmers usually plant millet. On this land, in a good year, a farmer produces 3,375 kilograms of rice and about 130 kilograms of millet. The usual fees on the rice crop include: 911 kilograms (27 percent) as taxes-in-kind; 100 kilograms for the tractor ploughing fee; 236 kilograms (7 percent) for irrigation; and 50 kilograms for one bag of chemical fertilizer. The farmer then has 2,078 kilograms (61 percent) of the rice for his own use. After the rice is refined he has 22 bags of rice, of 78 kilograms each. The rice-refining fee is 5 percent of the finished product, or one bag, which leaves him 1,638 kilograms or 21 bags of refined rice. He pays 23 percent of his millet crop as taxes-in-kind, leaving him about 100 kilograms, or one bag of refined millet. Thus, the farm family has about 21 bags of rice and one bag of millet on which to live for the year. An average family consumes 15 bags of grain yearly, but since they cannot live on the income to be derived from selling the 7 remaining bags, they usually sell about 11 bags of rice and with the proceeds buy a cheaper grain, subsisting on that and a

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

smaller quantity of rice. Eleven bags of rice bring about 44,000 won which constitutes the family's yearly monetary income. The ordinary farmer does not earn any side income. A very few have ox-carts and earn a small additional income by transporting goods for other people.

5. The basic yearly requirements of an average farm family are:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>COST (in won)</u>
Grain, such as barley or wheat	7 bags	17,000
Petroleum oil for lamps	5 bottles (4/5 gal.)	2,000
Shoes, rubber	1 pair for each member	3,000
Tobacco ⁴		1,000
Cloth for clothing	20 yards	8,000
School supplies, for children		2,000
Local government tax		800
Rice ⁵		3,000
Contributions to the local LP and NKA		500

After the farmer has met all the required expenses, he has left about 7,000 won which must serve the family for all miscellaneous and emergency expenses.

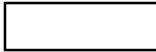
Yōnan Public Market

- 25X1 6. [] the only public market in Yōnan was at BS-498982. (See Attachment for commodity prices in Yōnan.) A government store is at the east entrance of the market and a consumers' guild shop at the center of the market. There are about 10 shops which sell cloth, 8 selling rubber shoes, and about 30 selling miscellaneous consumer goods such as fish, grain, vegetables, earthenware, metal ware, farm equipment, and cattle. Fish and grain are usually sold in an open-air store with a canvas top and mats on the ground. Most of the items in the market are farm products and other everyday consumer goods produced in North Korea. Some cloth (particularly cotton goods), towels, toilet articles, and cosmetics from China are available. The market is crowded during the daylight hours, particularly on the 2nd, 7th, 12th, 17th, 22nd, and 27th days of each month, the traditional market days. Anyone wanting to open a shop in the market makes application to the Finance Section of the Yōnan-gun People's Committee which, upon approval, assigns him a site in the market place, depending on the type of business in which he plans to engage. He must build his own store.
7. Luxury goods such as watches, radios, and cameras are not seen in the market. There is one watch shop, but it has only a few second-hand watches, its main business being repairs. There are no drug stores, although some medicines can be purchased illegally outside the market place. Penicillin is becoming more and more difficult to obtain. Lamp oil, an important item to farmers, is also very difficult to obtain, and the situation has not improved since the armistice. The oil is sometimes sold in the government store, but the quantity available does not meet the demand. On occasion, lamp oil may be obtained in the black market. One gallon of lamp oil costs about 1,500 won in the government store and about 2,500 on the black market. Castor oil has been substituted for machine oil, since machine oil, which is essential during the harvest season for lubricating wheels and axles, is unavailable.

- 25X1 1. [] Comment. When the North Korean Government eliminated the myōn and formed larger village administrative areas, Sōkch'on-ni (BS-538931), Songya-hi (BS-500910), and Kaehyon-ni (BS-507941) were combined into one administrative district called Honam-ni.
- 25X1 2. [] Comment. One p'yōng is equal to 3.95 square yards; and 3,000 p'yōng is 2-1/2 acres.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



25X1

- 4 -

- 25X1 3. Comment. As a result of the administrative reorganization 25X1
25X1 Yonbaek-gun was renamed Yōnan-gun which now contains
25X1 28 ni.
25X1 Comment. According to available information, Yonbaek-gun was
divided into Ch'ongdan-gun, Paekch'on-gun, and Yōnan-gun.
- 25X1 4. Comment. Even though a farmer does not smoke himself, he furnishes
tobacco to the people who engage in the collective work on his farm.
- 25X1 5. Comment. When the farmer is away from his home working on special
labor projects, he furnishes his own rice.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 5 -

ATTACHMENT

Commodity Prices in the Yönan Market

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PRICE IN NK WON</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>Food</u>			
Rice	9.02 liters ¹	420	These grains are locally produced and sold by the farmers to the general public. The Consumers' Guild also purchases grain in order to control the market price, and later sells the grain during the lean months of July and August.
Glutinous rice	9.02 liters	470	
Millet	9.02 liters	420	
Beans	9.02 liters	210	
Beans, red	9.02 liters	420	
Beans, green	9.02 liters	530	
Sorghum	9.02 liters	210	
Buckwheat	9.02 liters	210	
Soy sauce	.4 gallon ¹	70	Government store price.
Bean paste	1.8 liters ¹	60	Government store price.
Bean oil	1.8 liters	500	Government store price.
Pepper (powder)	3.75 kilograms ¹	1,200	[redacted] salt had suddenly become scarce, so the price was high.
Salt	1 kilogram	100	
Tunny, raw	3.75 kilograms	1,000	Caught in streams.
Pollack, dried	20 kilograms	400	Caught on the east coast.
Stonefish (sic)	10 kilograms	300	Caught on the west coast.
Laver, seasoned	10 sheets	60	
Beef	600 grams ¹	250	
Pork	600 grams	300	
Chicken	1	600	
Egg	1	25	
Cabbage	3.75 kilograms	200	In July when cabbage is most abundant, the price is 70 won.
Radishes	3.75 kilograms	150	In July the price is 100 won.
Garlic	100	350	When garlic is being harvested, the price is 300 won.
Apples	3.75 kilograms	200	At harvest time, 130 won.
Pears	3.75 kilograms	300	At harvest time, 200 won.
Rice, cooked	1 bowl	50	
Noodles, cold	1 bowl	50	
Pudding, Chinese	1 bowl	100	
Wine	1.8 liters	350	Bootleg wine.
Wine	1.8 liters	575	Sold in Government stores. It is made from chemicals, rather than from grain, and has a very poor taste.

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25X1

- 6 -

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>Clothing and Materials</u>			
Skirt, satin silk	1	10,000	New. Made in Japan.
Waist, silk, two colored	1	3,000	New. Made in Japan.
Shirt, cotton	1	1,500	Made in China.
Undershirt, cotton	1	900	Made in China. Sold in the
Underpants, cotton	1	600	Government store, when available.
Trousers, serge, U.S. uniform	1	2,000	Many people who work for the government are seen wearing
Shirt, serge, U.S. uniform	1	3,000	United States uniform shirts
Underwear, U.S.	1	3,000	and trousers.
Socks, men's	1 pair	300	Made in China.
Socks, women's	1 pair	400	Made in China.
Towel	1	300	Made in China.
Towel	1	200	Made in North Korea.
Shoes, rubber, black, men's	1 pair	600	Made in North Korea of second-hand rubber.
Shoes, rubber, white, men's	1 pair	800	Made in North Korea of second-hand rubber.
Shoes, rubber, black, men's	1 pair	1,000 ²	Made in South Korea.
Shoes, rubber, white, men's	1 pair	1,200 ²	Made in South Korea.
Shoes, rubber, white, women's	1 pair	1,200 ²	Made in South Korea. Women's shoes are in short supply.
Shoes, rubber and leather, men's	1 pair	1,200	Made in China. The sole is rubber and the shoe is pig skin.
Shoes, working	1 pair	500	Made in China. A shoe customarily worn by farmers.
Sheeting, cotton, white	1 yard	400	Made in China. Most of the
Sheeting, cotton, black	1 yard	400	sheeting used by farmers was imported from China.
Cotton, hand-woven, finest quality	1 roll ³	2,000	The hand-woven cotton used primarily in villages was
Cotton, hand-woven, medium quality	1 roll ³	1,500	made in South P'yongan Province. No Korean cotton was seen in the market after 1953.
Yarn, woolen	1 pound	?	Made in China. The yarn was available in the market, but was not used by the villagers.
Thread	180 feet	300	
Rayon cloth	1 yard	300	It is a coarse cloth made in North Korea.
Silk	20 feet	2,000	Produced in North Korean silk mills.
Cloth, Korean hemp	1 roll ³	1,600	Hand-woven in North Korean farm villages.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 7 -

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
<u>Miscellaneous goods</u>			
Soap, toilet	1	300	Made in China.
Soap, toilet	1	300	Made in South Korea.
Soap, laundry	1	300	Made in China or in South Korea.
Cream, face	1	500	Made in North Korea.
Powder, face	1	300	Made in North Korea.
Toothbrush	1	30	Made in North Korea.
Toothpaste	1	30	Made in North Korea.
Soda	3.75 kilograms	5,000	Smuggled from South Korea. Rarely seen.
Matches	1 box	150	Made in North Korea.
Cigarettes	1 box	20	Made in China. The trade mark is Chonchin. Although they are inexpensive, the farmers do not smoke them because they do not burn well and have a poor taste.
Cigarettes	1 box	300	Made in China. Good quality.
Cigarettes	1 box	50	Made in North Korea.
Tobacco	600 grams	250	Grown in North Korea. Since the armistice, North Korean tobacco has been widely used by the public.
Pencil	1	50	Best quality.
Pencil	1	30	Medium quality.
Paper, thin white	1 sheet	100	
Paper	1 sheet	80	Made in North Korea.
Fountain pen	1	2,000	Made in China.
Shovel	1	400	Made in North Korea of second-hand iron.
Hoe	1	100	Made in North Korea of second-hand iron.
Axe	1	200	Made in North Korea of second-hand iron.
Nails, one-inch	600 grams	400	
Nails, two-inch	600 grams	250	
Bucket	1	300	Made of old tin plate.
Kettle, Korean	1	3,000	Since they are no longer being made, they are in short supply.
Cup, glass	1	100	
Bowl, porcelain	1	100	
Dish, porcelain	1	100	
Jar, earthenware	1	300	
Ox	1	60,000	Large enough to pull an ox-cart.
Ox	1	50,000	Smaller size.
Pig	1	5,000	Domestic. Large.
Pig	1	4,000	

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1. Comment. 9.08 liters is about 1.03 pecks, or one small mal; 3.75 kilograms is about 8-1/4 pounds, or 1 kwan; 600 grams is about 1 kun; 1.8 liters and .4 gallon is about 1 toe.

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2. Comment. The price of black and white rubber shoes smuggled from South Korea seems to have become considerably lower. In December 1953 the price ranged from 1500 to 2000 won a pair.

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3. Comment. No indication was given as to the quantity contained in one roll.

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