

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Miscellaneous Economic Information, Tientsin	DATE DISTR.	23 December 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- Since early April there has been no meat or fish available on the open market in Tientsin. In addition, vegetable oil, flour, and rice are in short supply and are rationed in the following amounts per person a month:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Vegetable oil	8 liang
Flour	8 catties ¹
Rice	8 catties

- Many Chinese in Tientsin are convinced that there is a shortage of food in that area because large quantities of foodstuffs are being shipped to the USSR. During May 1954 source heard a Chinese woman shout the following in a food market in Tientsin: "Why is MAO Tse-tung sending all our rice out of the country? This is supposed to be a people's government." The woman was not arrested.²
- Farmers in the Tientsin area must sell their entire crop to the government authorities, who arbitrarily set the price and bank the money for them. The money cannot be withdrawn from the bank. The farmers are given 1 liang of

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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vegetable oil per person a month and 1 catty of millet or kaoliang per person a day, in addition to a few vegetables daily. Although many farmers in the Tientsin area are anxious to leave their farms and live in Tientsin, where they believe they would be better off, the government authorities compel them to stay and work their farms.

4. The Continental Oil Mill and Refinery, at #4 Yunnan Road, Tientsin, is now producing only peanut oil, all of which is for export. The oil is produced according to specifications set by the government to insure a standard quality. Government chemists inspect the plant and the product as often as two or three times a week for this purpose. The plant has three old "OLIER" presses, built in France, one old "RED LION" press, built in the U.S.A., two presses built in Tientsin in 1944, and one new press built in Tsingtao during 1953 and acquired by the plant in the latter part of that year. The new press is a copy of a Czechoslovakian model and is superior to any of the other presses. The plant is now producing approximately 150 tons of peanut oil a month, from approximately 450 tons of peanuts. Prior to the acquisition of the new press from Tsingtao the plant was able to produce only a total of 100 tons of oil a month. The Continental Oil Mill and Refinery, [redacted] is actually under the control of the Chinese Communist Government through FAN (fnu), an employee of the company and head of the company's labor union. In early 1954, FAN was promised by the government that he would soon become a member of the Chinese Communist Party because of his good work with the company. 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment. There have been numerous reports that flour rationing was instituted in Tientsin on 1 November 1953 [redacted] described the flour ration as follows: 8 catties per month for each ordinary city dweller; 12 catties per month for each official, school teacher, and high school student; and 15 catties per month for each workman in the government-operated plants. 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] Chinese in Tientsin often openly discuss the shipment of foodstuffs to the USSR, with apparently no government suppression. 25X1

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