

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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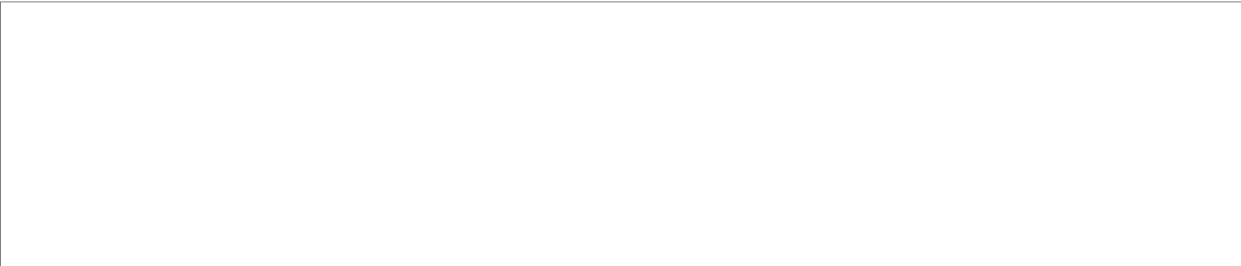
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| <b>COUNTRY</b>        | China  | <b>REPORT</b>          |                  |
| <b>SUBJECT</b>        | Conditions in Shanghai and Neighboring Areas | <b>DATE DISTR.</b>     | 18 February 1955 |
| <b>DATE OF INFO.</b>  |  | <b>NO. OF PAGES</b>    | 5 25X1           |
| <b>PLACE ACQUIRED</b> |  | <b>REQUIREMENT NO.</b> | RD               |
|                       |  | <b>REFERENCES</b>      |                  |

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Food and Rationing

1. In mid-August 1954 there was a shortage of rice, vegetable oil for cooking, sugar, pork, beef, chicken and eggs on the open market in Shanghai. Fish, except "yellow fish," was also in short supply. However, only vegetable oil and sugar were rationed; they were rationed in the following amounts:
  - a. One catty of vegetable oil for each adult and one-half a catty for each child a month.
  - b. Four liang of sugar per person a day (sic).<sup>1</sup>
2. In the rural areas near Shanghai vegetable oil was in such short supply that the monthly ration for each family, regardless of the size, was only one-half a catty. However, during June, July and early August, there was so little vegetable oil in these areas that a large number of families obtained none at all.
3. Many of the Chinese were complaining to the officials of their labor unions about not only the scarcity of rice in Shanghai but also the low grade of the rice obtainable. They were informed by these officials that nothing would be done to improve the situation. About early August, the residents of Shanghai were notified by representatives of the municipal authorities at the weekly residential district meetings that rice would probably be rationed in Shanghai, beginning about January 1955, and in the following amounts: one catty a day for each adult and one-half catty a day for each child.

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4. Although pork and beef were not officially rationed in Shanghai, each retail meat dealer was permitted to obtain and to sell daily only one-half a pig and 20 catties of beef. As a result, large lines of customers began to form daily at about 5:00 a.m. in front of all meat markets in Shanghai.

5. The prices of some items on the open market in Shanghai were as follows:

| <u>Item</u>                                  | <u>Unit</u>                  | <u>Price (JMP)</u>                          |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Beef   | 1 catty                      | 7000  |
| Pork chops                                   | 1 do.                        | 7000  |
| Lean pork                                    | 1 do.                        | 6500  |
| Ordinary pork with fat                       | 1 do.                        | 5000  |
| Small chicken eggs                           | 1 each                       | 300   |
| Medium-sized chicken eggs                    | 1 do.                        | 500   |
| Large chicken eggs                           | 1 do.                        | 800   |
| Small duck eggs                              | 1 do.                        | 600   |
| Medium-sized duck eggs                       | 1 do.                        | 750   |
| Large duck eggs                              | 1 do.                        | 900   |
| Chicken                                      | 1 catty                      | 4500  |
| "Mandarin" fish                              | 1 do.                        | 5000  |
| "Yellow" fish                                | 1 do.                        | 2500  |
| Cauliflower                                  | 3 bundles                    | 3000  |
| Celery                                       | (slightly more than a catty) | 1000  |
|  | 1 catty                      | 2500  |
| Spinach                                      |                              |   |
| "SUN Yat-sen" type suits (for men and women) | 1 suit                       | 18000 to 20000 (depending on quality)       |
| Western style men's winter suits             | 1 do.                        | 850,000 to 1,500,000 (depending on quality) |
| Western style men's summer suits             | 1 do.                        | 500,000 to 600,000 (depending on quality)   |
| Penicillin, produced in Czechoslovakia       | 1 standard-size bottle       | 2500  |

Transportation Facilities

6. The streets of Shanghai were kept fairly clean; Residents of each lane were compelled to assist in the cleaning of streets in their area. Very old buildings were being torn down in all parts of the city in order to widen streets. New pavements were also being laid and very old buildings were being replaced by new apartment houses about four or five stories high.

7. The transportation system in Shanghai seemed to have improved since the occupation of the city by the Communists. Bus and trolley routes extended to all parts of the city; there was also bus service between Shanghai and several towns in the Shanghai area. A large number of the busses were converted from former CNAC, CATC, UNRRA, and CNRRA 2-2 ton trucks of U.S. manufacture. There were also busses imported recently from Russian satellite countries in Eastern Europe. The number of trolley cars and busses in use in Shanghai was sufficient for the maintenance of good service. The bus and trolley routes operated daily from 5:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. A few motor taxis and many pedicabs were available the rest of the time.

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8. The principal bus routes in the Shanghai area were as follows:
  - a. #10 bus route, from Nanking Road and the Bund to Jessfield Park via Nanking Road Central and Nanking Road West, the former Bubbling Well Road.
  - b. #9 bus route, from Nanking Road and the Bund to Zikawei District via Yates Road, Avenue Foch, Rue Roi Albert, Avenue Joffre, and Avenue Petafin.
  - c. #52 bus route, from Nanking Road and the Bund to Woosung.
9. The bus service between Shanghai and Woosung has been in effect since about late 1953, when the construction of a concrete road from Shanghai to Woosung was completed. The trip by bus from Shanghai to Woosung took approximately one hour.
10. The bus fares in Shanghai were as follows: JMP 500 for one-third the distance of the line; JMP 1000 for two-thirds the distance; JMP 1500 for the full distance. This included the bus fare to Woosung. There was no free transfer from one route to another.
11. The principal trolley routes in Shanghai were as follows:
  - a. #1 Trolley route, from Hongkew Park to St. George's Arcade on Nanking Road West (the former Bubbling Well Road) via Garden Bridge, Nanking Road Central, and Nanking Road West.
  - b. #12 Trolley route, from Yangtsepo to St. George's Arcade via Garden Bridge and Nanking Road Central and Nanking Road West.
12. The trolley fares in Shanghai for first and third class were as follows; there were no second class and no free transfer from one route to another:
  - a. First Class: JMP 400 for one-fourth the distance of the line; JMP 600 for one-half the distance; JMP 700 for three-fourths the distance; JMP 900 for the full distance.
  - b. Third class: JMP 300 for one-fourth the distance of the line; JMP 500 for one-half the distance; JMP 600 for three-fourths the distance; JMP 800 for the full distance.

Education Program

13. In Shanghai it was compulsory for all children between the ages of four and fourteen to attend school, including kindergarten. Tuition fees had to be paid, but they were low and varied in accordance with the income of the family. All schools in Shanghai taught the Peiping dialect only. All Chinese workers also had to study the Peiping dialect at their place of business for about an hour after the completion of their normal work day of eight hours.

Conscription of Unemployed

14. All unemployed male Chinese in Shanghai, single or married, between the ages of 16 and 30, were conscripted into the army and always sent far from Shanghai for their training.

Reaction to Propaganda

15. Many Chinese in Shanghai referred to Stalin and Malenkov as "papa Stalin" and "Papa Malenkov" in a derisive manner. Before the death of Stalin they referred to MAO Tse-tung as "Stalin's son" in the same manner; now they called him

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"Malenkov's son." Most Chinese in Shanghai believed that MAO would do anything he was told to do by Malenkov. They placed the responsibility for the shortage of food in Shanghai on Malenkov; they were certain that large quantities of food were being sent from China to the U.S.S.R. and its satellites at Malenkov's bidding.

16. Some Chinese in Shanghai often referred somewhat respectfully to CHIANG Kai-shek as the "old man." They also often expressed the hope that some day CHIANG would be able to return to China and replace MAO as the head of a democratic Chinese government.
17. The VOA broadcasts in the Chinese language and the broadcasts from Taiwan heard in Shanghai were intelligible, but there appeared to be some slight interference with all of them. Chinese in Shanghai were warned by Public Security Bureau representatives, who visited their homes at least once every month, that it was permissible to listen to VOA programs provided the radios were not tuned in loud enough to be heard outside the room in which the radio was located and provided the listeners did not at any time discuss these programs.

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any violation of these two rules would result in punishment to the offender. A large number of people in Shanghai listened to VOA programs regularly and secretly discussed among themselves the information obtained from these programs.

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#### Telephone Service

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18. The telephone service in Shanghai was good; The dial tone started almost immediately after the lifting of the receiver. The price of a telephone call on a public telephone was JMP 500. The monthly charge for a private telephone was JMP 64,000; for each call in excess of 20 there was an additional charge of JMP 300.

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#### General Conditions

19. About early 1953 the dredging of the Whampoo river area in the Yangtsepoo District was completed.
20. The jails in the Shanghai area were officially referred to as "detention houses." Almost all of the prisoners, male and female, were eventually put to work, without pay, on building roads in the Shanghai area or were sent to other areas of China to work on public construction projects.
21. The fee for treatment in the clinics of all hospitals in Shanghai was JMP 2000 for each visit. Medicines prescribed must be purchased by the patient at public pharmacies.
22. While enroute in mid-August from Shanghai to Canton by train via Hangchow, it was observed that almost all the rice fields along the way were completely flooded. One of the train conductors stated that this occurred when rivers in the area overflowed their banks as a result of the heavy rainfall during May, June, and July. The conductor stated that he was told by farmers in the areas along the Hangchow-Canton Railroad that almost the entire rice crop in these areas had been ruined by the floods.

1. Comment. This appears to be a rather generous ration. Reports of smaller rations have been received which vary from 4 to 16 liang per month.

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Comments

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2. Although almost all the names of streets in Shanghai have been changed since the occupation of the city by the Communists, most residents of Shanghai refer to the streets by their old names, such as Bubbling Well Road, Avenue Joffre, etc.
3. According to the western system of computing age, this is between the ages of 3 and 13.
4. These Chinese appeared to reflect the thinking of most Chinese in Shanghai, who at first welcomed enthusiastically the Communists to Shanghai in May 1949 but who later became increasingly disillusioned because of excessive taxation and the suppression of personal liberties by the Communists. They now appear to have a nostalgic attachment for CHIANG.
5. This interference was apparently not caused by atmospheric conditions or by the inadequacy of the radio sets on which these programs were heard. It appeared to be the result of jamming which, however, was not of sufficient strength to make the programs completely unintelligible.

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