

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Crop Situation and Rice Rationing in Nanan, Fukien	DATE DISTR.	7 July 1955
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
DATE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. During the period of February to May 1955, the residents of Nanan (N 24-56, E 118-31) were greatly affected by the cumulative effect of three years of drought. The food situation had reached its worst peak during the period from approximately March 1954 through May 1955, and Nanan residents were allowed to purchase only two taels of rice per person per day. The rice ration was increased on 5 May to three and one-half taels per person per day. 25X1
2. [redacted] local Chinese who could afford to get married were authorized to purchase up to 10 catties of rice for their weddings. The Chinese Communist Party cadres were well fed; on the other hand, the Communists asked the people to be thrifty and to produce more. 25X1
3. When the rains fell recently in Nanan, the Chinese Communists ordered the farmers to plant rice even though the season for planting had past. The farmers, who did not believe that it would do any good to plant the seedlings, were required to follow the orders of the Chinese Communist authorities. 25X1
4. The past season's barley and wheat crop grew only to about four inches in height. The farmers had turned the cattle loose in the fields to eat the crops because there was little or no harvest in the Nanan area. There was neither a peanut nor a bean harvest because the sprouts had dried up. 25X1

[redacted] Comment. [redacted] about 100 Chinese affected by the famine in South China were moving into Macao daily. Communist authorities in Canton had relaxed restrictions on exit permits to relieve the food shortage and the unemployment caused by the year-long drought, which was broken during the week of 14 May with four days of heavy rain. A report from Hong Kong appearing in the Christian Science Monitor, 10 June, mentioned that Peiping had admitted that 150,000,000 peasants were short of food. In attempting to cope with the situation, which was caused by last years floods and by this year's severe drought, Peiping had initiated measures against extravagance, waste, and corruption. 25X1

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