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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Political Information: Government of the School for Demobilized Communists, Canton

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This document is hereby ~~regraded~~ to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 15 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the School for Demobilized Communists, Canton. Next Review Date: 2008

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SUPPLEMENT

1. At the time of negotiations by the 8th Truce Team relative to the repatriation to Shantung of the Communists in South China, it was agreed that those Communists who did not want to be sent north would be demobilized. The Central Government was to be informed of those who were to be demobilized and was then to issue them demobilization certificates guaranteeing personal protection if they would renounce Communism and express willingness to return to a peaceful living in accordance with laws established by the Central Government. The Political Department of the President's Canton Headquarters established under the Political Corps in Canton City a school at 8 Wei Fu Road for giving the demobilized Communists brief political training.

2. The Communist authorities actually reported the names of only thirty-two demobilized soldiers to the authorities in Canton, but demobilized a large number without notifying the Central Government.

25X1A6a () Note: Recent reports that former East River Corps Communist leaders who went north have returned to this area and have been active in starting to reorganize their former units indicate that it undoubtedly was the intention of the Communist demobilization authorities to keep the majority of their troops under cover for possible future use.)

Some of the former Communists who returned to their villages were intimidated by the villagers.

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of the Political Corps library, containing ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ magazines and newspapers are accorded the trainees. Cartoons and newsreels, plus an occasional complete movie, are shown once a week by the Movie Corps of the Political Department.

6. With the exception of a few persons, the cultural standards and educational training of the forty-five are extremely low. Among those who have had any education whatsoever and who have some political conception of Communism are a former surgeon of the Communist troops, a secretary, and a leader of a company of troops. The others in the group have no political conception of Communism as a way of living or as a political ideology. The answers to questions put to many of the trainees by source showed that the majority of these persons had joined the Communist troops under the impression that they were enlisting in anti-Japanese units, such as the Canton Anti-Jap Corps; others had joined as a result of economic stress, hoping to obtain regular meals and sufficient clothing through their enlistment into a military unit. Most of these demobilized soldiers were said to have arrived at the camp in very poor health, being sick and undernourished. However, during their two months' stay in the camp they have regained their health and all look very well. The trainees all expressed satisfaction at the treatment they have been receiving in the camp, and they all appeared quite well-disciplined and courteous. (Note: since the Political Corps had been expecting the arrival of more demobilized Communists, they had delayed the start of political training for two months. The forty-five presently undergoing political training have been in the camp for a period of six to ten weeks.)

7. One youth, sixteen years old, who appeared to be more intelligent than the average trainee, stated that he had joined an anti-Japanese organization in Hongkong during the war, only to discover later that it was a Communist organization. After the demobilization of Communists, he was afraid to return to Hongkong and went to Canton to work. He had been in Canton only a few days when he heard about the Political Corps' training school for demobilized Communists and presented himself voluntarily for the training. He, as well as other trainees, stated that they had never at any time been given any political information or training when they were with Communist units.

8. The Political Corps originally intended to hold a training course of three months' duration; however, since so few arrived in the camp and since the standard of education of the forty-five persons is so low, the training period was reduced to a period of three weeks, aiming mainly to introduce some of the democratic ideas of the Three Principles and to make a brief comparison of these ideas with Communism. The political training courses very briefly touch upon Dr. Sun's teachings, the President's speeches and deeds, comparison of Democracy and Communism, history of the Kuomintang, sociology, economics, and some common knowledge of law. No books concerning these subjects are distributed, the instructors and the compiled courses having been made available to the Political Corps by the Political Department. The training is carried out orally with outlines written on a blackboard.

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9. In addition to the courses outlined above, the lectures are supplemented by group discussions and supervised recesses. The group of forty-five has been divided into three smaller units for the purpose of carrying out these activities. Each group is supervised by an instructor and has an appointed group leader. After each discussion a report is made on the following day by the instructor to the Political Department through the commanding officer of the Political Corps. The recess consists of games, singing, sports, and individual discussion between trainees and instructors. Each trainee is required to take one hour daily of military training and calisthenics, and two hours weekly is required for camp duties.
10. At the end of their three weeks' period of training every trainee will be required to express his future plans. Those who desire to be returned to their homes will be given a certificate guaranteeing them personal safety and will be sent back by the government. Others who may have no relatives or means will be given work according to their individual abilities through the efforts of the Political Corps.
11. Sources stated that this was the only training camp of its kind in the whole of South China and Hainan Island.

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