

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 26 February 1947

SUBJECT Economic Information: Cargo of Soviet Ship Tomak and Activities of Crew, Shanghai

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SOURCE

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1. On 7 December 1947 the Soviet ship Tomak arrived in Shanghai from Japan approximately eight months after leaving Nakhodka. Arriving in Japan with a cargo which included celluloid, the Tomak had visited several ports delivering various unknown cargo.
2. The Tomak brought to Shanghai 170 tons of newsprint owned by Torpredstvo in Shanghai and addressed to TASS News Agency. This newsprint was distributed to the Soviet Epoch Company; the Wang Li Press, 391 Wuting Road; and Novaya Zhizn (New Life), Soviet official Russian-language daily in Shanghai. None was distributed to V. A. Chilikin, publisher of Novosti Dnya (Daily News), Soviet Russian-language daily, because he had sold on the black market most of a previous allocation of newsprint.
3. The crew of the Tomak consists of 46 seamen, most of them young members of the Komsomol (All-Union Lenin Communist League of Youth). They are poorly fed aboard ship. When the Tomak docked in Shanghai, each crew member received an "advance" of CMC \$3,500,000 and each was permitted to purchase "what he needed" in Shanghai.
4. The Tomak was scheduled to leave Shanghai on 14 December 1947, but the departure was postponed for an unknown reason.
5. One crew member, in conversation with a Russian emigre in Shanghai, a former Soviet employe, stated that he would desert and stay in Shanghai if he could be assured of employment and a Russian emigre passport. He claims that the Tomak will visit Shanghai regularly in the future.

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