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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The following is a partial translation of a Chinese Communist document obtained in Hong Kong. Most of the names have been rendered in Wade-Giles romanization, but a few are reproduced as received. The original translation contained the name of the author in transliterated Cantonese, as HUI Shut. In Wade-Giles romanization, this would probably have been HSU Shih. However, the characters received were (許 寶) and read HSU Pao in the Wade-Giles. This discrepancy probably results from a confusion of two characters, 寶 (shih) and 寶 (pao). The form HSU Shih is adopted below as more probably correct.

Family background

1. I am a native of Fu shan (佛山), Nanhai District (南海). My father is a merchant. I have six brothers and a younger sister. My four elder brothers are university graduates. One of them is now a court magistrate. Another is secretary to a Reconstruction Bureau. The two others are middle school teachers. My two younger brothers are teachers in a primary school. My sister is a student. HSU Chien (許 儉), the elder brother who is a court magistrate, is a liberal and was formerly closely allied to our comrades. HSU Huai-min (許 懷 民), the elder brother in the Reconstruction Bureau, used to be the secretary-general of a Kuomintang District Party office. He is a very subversive person. The other two elder brothers, HSU Chien (許 健) and HSU Kan (許 侃), may become my comrades. My little brother also may join the party.
2. I have been away from my family for some eight years. I understand there has been very little change during this period.

Decision to join the revolution

3. My family was well-to-do and had good living standards before the war. Although my father was a merchant, he was very interested in the rearing of his children and encouraged us to seek high goals. Under his guidance we were imbued with a middle-of-the-road outlook and a desire to attain high positions in society.

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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



4. The outbreak of Sino-Japanese hostilities caused the bankruptcy of my family. My ambition to climb to a high position in society began to waver. My situation appeared hopeless unless I joined the revolution. Formerly, I liked the idea of revolution because of its theoretical appeal. An easy home life and submission to temptation had prevented my active participation in the revolution. Now these obstacles no longer existed and there being no reason for hesitation, after no little mental conflict, I made my choice.

Ideological development

5. I was rather premature in my thinking and feelings. My elder brothers used to explain to me such terms as "proletariat" and bourgeoisie." At the same time a friend of mine, LO Ch'ang-chien (羅昌騫), who was studying in a law college, influenced me greatly by his many letters to me, especially after the "Mukden Incident." I was then in the graduating class of primary school. The arrest of LO was a great shock to me, a boy only sixteen years of age. LO later became a renegade and even led the reactionaries in rounding up a number of his comrades.
6. From my elder brothers I learned of the loss of Manchuria because of the non-resistance of the government. This and LO'S arrest instilled in me an intense detestation of the ruling government. However, I was, at the most, only an ultra-nationalist. I admired Hitler and Mussolini. Every morning I revered their photos in my study. I loved to read their biographies.
7. While in junior-middle school I joined the reading club sponsored by my brothers. Through their influence I developed a blind worship of the Chinese Communist Party and a blind abhorrence of the government. However, I was unable to envisage victory of the revolution.
8. The Peiping student movement made a deep impression on me. When I read the Canton National Times' editorial stigmatising these students, I cried in sympathy for them.
9. At the time of the Sian Incident I wished that the Young Marshal had executed CHIANG Kai-shek. I pinned all hopes of China's salvation on the Chinese Communists. Tales of the Chinese Communist guerrillas as told in WANG Ming's (王明) Struggle for an Independent, Free and Happy New China, a copy of which my elder brother secretly gave me to read, made me think of them as a mighty "heavenly army" shrouded with mystery.
10. At the time of the outbreak of Sino-Japanese hostilities I was in the Kang Shuit Middle School in Shaping, Hoshan District. Because of my patriotic enthusiasm I organized a reading club and a student council. I also actively engaged in propoganda work in the rural areas and solicited funds for the 8th Route Army. These activities attracted the attention of the headmaster of the school, who was HSIAO Fan's (蕭範) younger brother. When the headmaster learned that I was preparing to take the money I had solicited to Canton, a sinister plot was planned against me. However, the prefect of studies in the school gave me a timely warning which enabled me to steal my way to Canton and turn the sum over to Comrade YUN Kuang-ying (雲廣英) through the introduction of HSIA Yen (夏衍) of the National Salvation Daily News.
11. I became a good friend of the special representative in Hoshan District of the Kuomintang Party office. This encouraged me considerably. While touring the rural districts as a representative of my school, with the Hoshan Magistrate HSIEH Ho-nien (謝鶴年) during a national salvation publicity campaign, in my speeches I openly quoted from the pamphlet International Relations of 1937. This naturally made them suspicious of me. It served to illustrate my love for showing off.

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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 3 -

12. Some of my schoolmates were planning a trip to northern Shensi and offered to help defray my travelling expenses. I declined on the pretext that to participate in the revolution it was not absolutely necessary for youths to go to the communists, as long as they knew where they stood and would not forsake their position. My excuse was based on an article written by LIN Tsu-han (林祖漢). Actually, my individualism was hard at work, and I felt that the victory of the Chinese Communists might not come for a long time.
13. I was proud of my own ability and complacent in my progressive thoughts. I had the ability to persuade others and could speak or write so as to command attention among the masses. Also, my family could still afford to pay for my university education. These considerations made me optimistic as to my future. My ambition to be prominent in an officialdom of good, honest men continued unabated.
14. Before long the middle school students of the province were ordered to assemble at Enping (恩平) for collective military training. Maltreatment caused some of the Kwong Ngeh Middle School students to lead an escape which I joined.
15. Soon after I returned to my native village Canton fell to the Japanese. We were evacuated to Kaiping District (開平). The tranquillity of home life did not agree with us, so my brothers and I joined the 131st Squad of the War Service Squads. Our patriotism and desire to gain face in the struggle of the nation forced us to overcome the serious objections our father had to our membership in this guerrilla unit. After a while our unit was faced with certain defeat by the Japanese, and our capture by them was inevitable. We deserted the guerrillas and returned to our home.

Middle School

16. I entered the Yuet Shan Middle School in Macao and studied hard, hoping to be able later on to enter a famous university and eventually turn out to be a great man. My marks were excellent. I also won high places in speech contests.
17. Former schoolmates in the interior wrote reproachful letters to me. Gradually my spirit was enlivened again. I entered the Provincial Central Districts' Provisional Middle School just across the border in Chungshan (中山) District. My enthusiasm for anti-Japanese activities rose, as my interest in studies waned. I seemed to have made a stride forward in my ideological development. I organized the school's reading club. At a memorial meeting on 18 September a strange character made a speech appealing for the denunciation of all forms of imperialism. I followed him with a point-by-point refutation of his speech. Because of this I gained popularity and at once became a central figure in the school. It was because of this success that I decided to engage in politics instead of attending to my studies. In the evenings I conducted "anti-Trotskyite" conferences attended by radical elements, some of whom, in my ignorance, were themselves Trotskyites. Soon events began to turn against us. The "Anti-Japanese Pioneers' Group" was first to be dissolved in Chungshan. Trotskyites were then very active. Because of the lack of guidance from the organization, I was very sad indeed. Yet,

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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

I refused to believe that there could be any Chinese Communist organization within the school. The Chinese Communist Party to me was still an idol. An old schoolmate whom I had helped convert in ideological beliefs told me that he had been approached by some one who was anxious for him to join the Chinese Communist Party. There is no doubt that in seeking my advice he also wanted me to join. I advised him against such a move, as I felt that admission to the Party was a difficult matter and that probably the person inviting him to join was a Trotskyite. I therefore missed my first chance to join the organization.

Youth Corps

18. After graduation from middle school I sought a job in vain. As a result of my desperate condition, I took the entrance examination for the San Min Chu I Youth Corps Cadre Training Class. Out of four-hundred candidates taking the examination, I emerged with the highest mark.
19. The Corps Commandant was the intelligence chief TS'AI Ching-chun (蔡勁軍) and the Corps' prefect of studies was CHEN Yü-fu (陳玉符) who is presently on the staff of the Provincial Party office. In the cadres' camp the instructors studied my personal history and preached to me about the evils of the Third International. Some one was assigned to make a regular inspection of my diary. On Sundays I would be accompanied to book stores and tea houses. However, because of their outward friendliness towards me, I was outspoken in my beliefs. They intercepted a letter I wrote in which I stated that "the Youth Corps is the last card in the hands of the Kuomintang." A friend of mine in the Corps advised me that the Corps authorities were planning to arrest me. I then realized that the hope of "government by a few good honest men" was an impossibility. In presiding at a sub-group debate on "How to Guard Against Activities of the Opposition Party" I merely summarized the conclusions reached without expressing my individual opinion. This made me the target of more suspicion. I represented the Youth Corps Training Class in a "Join-the-Army-Campaign" speech contest and won first place. This brought honor to the Youth Corps Training Class and improved their impression of me. However, their suspicions never ceased, and they continued to think of ways for exploiting me to their advantage.
20. The three months of training ended. On the day after graduation CHEN Yü-fu (陳玉符), one of the Blue Shirt leaders in Chiuchiang (九江) and concurrently Chiuchiang Youth Corps Branch secretary, had a personal conversation with me. He wanted me to go to Chungking with him either to work or study. I refused his offer on the ground that I had intentions of enrolling in the Literature and Science College of Kwangtung. This was the turning point of my life.

Membership in the Chinese Communist Party

21. At this college the organization was making definite progress. I followed the advice of HUANG Hai-yen (黃海晏) and severed all relations with CHEN Hung-fan, prefect of studies in the Youth Corps. HUANG was the organization's special representative at the college. I was in a state of mental confusion. Because I had been in the Youth Corps, progressive schoolmates thought I was a "white." Because I avoided the company of the secret-service students and often opposed them, I was also branded as a "red." These conflicting forces affected me so much that one night I could not refrain from crying my heart out. HUANG understood my

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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 5 -

predicament and sought to prepare me to become a member. I was very happy. Yet, I feared that after becoming a member "my face would bear a taint" and I would at once be arrested by the reactionaries. I sought the advice of my good friend and schoolmate CHENG Yen-wen (鄭彥文), who was already a member. He said, "For the sake of your own safety, you can get better cover by joining than not because the party is thoughtful of the security of its men." Thus I made my decision to join the organization. However, personal considerations still entered my mind. Schoolmate HUANG was of the opinion that I was valuable, despite my shortcomings. He accepted my request to become a member. Thereafter, he took great pains to educate me. It was then May 1941. I was refreshed in spirit after the move. I saw the guiding star and was no longer groping in the dark.

Party activities

22. The organization made plans to oust HSU Sung-ping (徐頌平), the prefect of the college and a CC Clique man. On the first night we assaulted his right-hand man Professor CHIANG (江) and succeeded in forcing him to quit the college. On the second night we assaulted HSU but failed in our objective. Two schoolmates were apprehended and put into prison. I was dismissed from the college.
23. Through CHEN Hung-fan I became prefect of morals in the Chung Ching Middle School of Whampoa. This I did with the consent of the organization. This school was the rendezvous of secret-service students. By giving me the position CHEN evidently intended to watch over me closely and to exploit me. Under the organization's guidance I did an excellent job of covering up.
24. I was soon transferred to the post of political supervisor in the "Overseas Chinese Youth Returnees' Camp" which was under the direction of CHEN Hung-fan. At this time I also came into contact with the CC Clique, and LIU Wei-sen (劉偉森) was anxious that I join the Clique. I was helping CC Clique people edit their mouthpieces Red Earth and Cultural News. Since I refused to leave the "Youth Returnees' Camp" they had to finally give up their attempts to have me join.

With the Hunan Tobacco Monopoly Bureau

25. It was about 194(3). The organization was dissolved. The secret-service agents were causing us much discomfort. My former teacher, Professor CHEN Chia-chi (陳家驥), was going to Hunan to become secretary to the Hunan Monopoly Bureau Director. I availed myself of the opportunity to go with him and resigned from my post in the "Youth Returnees' Camp" on the pretext that the remuneration was insufficient for my own subsistence. I became the Hangyang Tobacco Monopoly Bureau's representative detailed to factories. Working along with me was Comrade HSIEH (謝) of the North River intelligence staff. During my stay of one year in Hangyang, I remembered the party slogan spoken by my chief in Chiuchiang: "Be a model government civil servant; don't be corrupt." I refused bribes from all factory managers. However, this only served to allow graft to flow direct to the chief of the bureau who made a great deal of money, whereas I became his scapegoat as a result of slander by my associates. Comrade HSIEH knows what I did.

Life of a refugee

26. Later I was transferred to Changsha. As I was out of contact with the

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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 6 -

organization for over one year and unable to combat the putrifying environment I was in, I led a demoralized life. Soon afterwards Changsha fell to the Japanese. I drifted to Pingyang, Kweilin, Liuchow, Wuchow and Heinsing (衡 縣) where I settled down at a friend's house. During these wanderings I depended on a schoolmate, CHENG (鄭) for economic aid.

27. On my way to Kwongning, where I was to become prefect of studies in a middle school, I was captured by the Japanese. Their attempts to have me do propaganda work on the Wuchow front were not successful. With surprising leniency the Japanese released me after two days detention. I then went to Kaiping (開 平 縣). At the Changsha Teachers' Training School I met my former chief, HUANG Hai-yen (黃 海 晏). HUANG, who is now deceased, advised me to join the "forces."
28. I went back to my native village in enemy-occupied Fu shan. There I raised enough money for a trip to Macao on my way to Chungshan. I intended to join the Pearl River Column.

In Chinese Communist military unit

29. During my trip I encountered an old schoolmate of the Literature and Science College in Canton named CHUNG (鍾). As I was well-acquainted with his background, I informed him of my decision to join the Pearl River Column. He persuaded me to join the East River Column instead. In December 1943 I was undergoing training in the areas under the control of that unit, as a member of its Cadres Training Class.
30. After one month of training I was appointed assistant editor of the Forward Post. I was greatly inspired by the stern attitude for work and mode of living of Comrade YANG Ch'i (楊 奇), a colleague on the staff of the publication.
31. My next position was head of a publicity and education section in a detachment of the North River units.

The Resistance News

32. When our troops entered Yingtak (英 德 縣) I was much pleased when I was given the job of editing the Resistance News, a newspaper which the unit had just started to publish.
33. Head of the Party Branch was HUANG Ch'in (黃 琴). It was because of his glib tongue and pleasing personality that he was elected to the position. He was artful and treacherous. I did not like him. Under him the organization was not successful and became a useless appendix to the fighting unit. He was very friendly to LI Tung-ming (李 東 明), political commissar, who knew of HUANG'S faults but took no action concerning them because of their friendship. I was opposed to entrusting HUANG with important duties. When Political Commissar LI consulted me on the matter, I betrayed my responsibility to the party and did not reveal my unfavorable impressions of HUANG for fear of offending a superior officer.
34. The policy of the North River units was then rightist. This was manifest in matters concerning the reduction of rent and interest, and a united front. I never doubted the soundness of their policy. Only now do I realize that it was illogical. I was of the opinion that united front

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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 7 -

required alliance with the upper strata of society. Yet, I felt that reduction of rent and interest was essential. I asked Commissar LI if I should raise the issues involved in the Resistance News. LI said they could be "shelved" for the time being. Because of my blind faith in LI I dropped the matter, although I did not concur with his views. Soon after the reactionaries launched their offensive against us, we became disintegrated because we had alienated ourselves from the peasants and were in close accord with the "enlightened squires" of the country.

35. At first the Resistance News consisted only of one sheet published with the duplicating machine. Commissar LI expressed a desire that the newspaper consist of more than one sheet. The publication of one sheet kept me quite busy. Besides, there was little news available from monitoring radio news broadcasts. However, just to please him, I promised to increase the size of the newspaper, without even a careful estimate of the capacity of the duplicating machine tenders and other limitations. Under the pressure of excessive work difficulties arose in the duplicating section. With no sympathy for the hardships of my comrades and without inquiry into possible defects in my own leadership, I reprimanded them individually for inefficiency. I segregated myself from my subordinates and the masses in my desire to be close to my superiors. Thus the work of the duplicating section was in a perpetual state of confusion.

Dissension in the party

36. Some time later LIAO Heng (廖行) was appointed to head the Organization Section. His fondness for formality and red tape was resented by all the comrades. We did not even offer the criticism forthcoming from a good comrade. When Commissar LI'S order came for all of us to work in Hsinfeng (新豐縣) and for LIAO to be our political head, we rebelled. In place of centralized authority we demanded divided responsibility and democracy. This aggravated the internal disunity prevailing. Commissar LI called an executive conference wherein he pointed out our deviation from party principles and exhorted us to undertake mutual and self criticism. At the conference I rendered an honest account of my own shortcomings and at the same time in outspoken fashion enumerated LIAO Heng's faults. Commissar LI thought I had given a model "self-criticism." After this our unity was strengthened, and I was allowed to do political work.

A political worker

37. I did not do well. During the critical period of the civil war, I allowed a feeling of ease and laxity to pervade here and there. The party's spirit of struggle in its work was not fostered. The party set-up formed an unnecessary appendix burdening the troops. Our days were spent in an atmosphere of peace and content. I excused my inertia in tolerating such a condition on the grounds of unstable environs.

Deviation from communist ethics

38. Once while we were on the march and amidst great economic difficulty, LIAO Heng (廖行), staff officer LI Tsung-fen (黎崇芬) and myself ordered the "little devils" to cook glutinous rice for us. Although it was not done on my initiative, at least it was done with my approval and tacit consent. We well knew that we were yielding ourselves to the love for comfort, corruption and waste. We tried to excuse ourselves by noting that we officers deserved some of the amenities of life so long as the fighting men on the front were not told about it. We did not follow the example of endurance and self-denial exhibited by the officers in The Southward Expedition written by WANG Chen (王震). Later we realized

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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

3 -

our mistakes when we were engaged in formulating policy on the basis of the feeling of the masses of the people. However, we forgot ourselves afterwards and used public funds to buy tobacco while the situation was still grave. We did not think much of such a form of corruption. It was only when our fighting men stole into our quarters in search of cigarette butts that we felt bad. In the main, we yet considered ourselves quite honest and dutiful. Once, while I was sick, I conspired with some "little devils" and comrades of the traffic division to obtain eleven taels of rice instead of the regular ration of eight taels. In answer to a reminder of the violation by a traffic division comrade, I said, "We are convalescents. An addition of two or three taels would do us no harm." This serves as another illustration of my love for comfort.

39. While we were in hiding, the people told us "Oxi Kware" (sic) was approaching. Unwilling to leave our cosy home and run for shelter in the hills, I remained. It was not long before we were surrounded by some two-hundred men of the enemy forces. Luckily we escaped.
40. After rejoining the forces, I worked very hard. The convention of the Political Consultative Council resulted in wishful thinking about the peace. We lessened our active combat activities and were expecting peace.
41. We joined the forces of Comrade WU (吳). The Regional Party Office's directive also reached us. Comrade WU thought that peace was impossible and urged us to forget about it. The three of us argued with him in vain and reported him to the superior officer, branding WU as a "closed door dogmatist." The northern evacuation eventually made us understand who had misjudged the situation.

Stay in Hong Kong

42. During the evacuation I was officially instructed by Comrade WU to go to Hong Kong and await orders from Hong Kong (Communist) authorities). Comrade YAO Huang-hsiang (姚皇湘) was in favor of my going to the North, but Comrade CHANG Feng (張楓) wanted me to stay in Hong Kong. I had no personal desire, and was willing to obey any order from the authorities. I remained in Hong Kong for some four months with nothing to do.

Defection in the ranks

43. During the northward evacuation it is an established fact that the authorities were not sufficiently concerned about the treatment given to cadres. Hence, many comrades became "little broadcasting stations." I heard the romances of Big CHANG (大張). I learned that some deserters like HUANG Chin (黃琴) and TU Fu (涂夫) had been given nice appointments, while those who had fought bloody battles in the front were neglected. I did not complain. I did not consider these mistakes concerning certain individuals to be mistakes of the organization as a whole. I did feel depressed.

Indo-China assignment

44. After four months I was assigned to work in Indo-China. Since my arrival here in Indo-China, I have readily assumed many burdens, gained greater confidence in my work, and applied myself more assiduously to my studies. During the past year I find that by independent effort and work I have made more progress in my ideological development. In every day's work I spare no effort in performing my duties, and I surrender to no problem. I have made more progress in my work in Indo-China than in any other endeavor. In my work-report from Indo-China, I have already noted my shortcomings. I will not repeat them.

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