

INTELLIGENCE

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Appraisal of Voice of America programs as Heard in Canton

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1. Voice of America broadcasts as heard in Canton seem to appeal principally to the older generation and are not attractive to the 15-30 year age group, which is the main target of Chinese Communist Party propaganda.
2. Little or nothing is said of economic conditions in the United States. Canton listeners take this as at least partial confirmation of the Communist line that America is entering into an economic collapse. Chinese communities in the United States, which have close connections with Kwangtung, were hard hit by the depression of the 1930's, and so in the absence of rebuttal, are disposed to believe the Communist line.
3. Also, the Voice of America does not counter the Communist propaganda theme that the western nations are in a state of political and social decline, while the Communist nations are progressing in all fields of human activity.
4. Nothing is said on the Voice of America about the material progress in the western nations, while Communist propaganda exalts the great material achievements of the USSR and its satellites.

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[] Comment. The grading of this report is of the expressions of opinion, not of the validity of the criticisms. Exception, in fact, is taken to the first statement of paragraph 4, since criticisms from other sources indicate that too much stress is being laid on American material progress.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States. Next Review Date: 2008

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