

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Relocation of North Korean Farmers

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1. In order to conserve forests, the North Korean government prohibited the practice of burning off young timber to prepare land for farming. Farmers who formerly made a living on such a marginal basis are now to be trained for a more advanced type of agriculture or relocated in a new occupation. The program is under the direction of the Minister of Labor and the chairman of each province, and other government officers are requested to assist.
2. Farmers removed from marginal farmland are assigned to industrial organizations for employment. The organization must pay the expense of travel, lodging, and food for the farmer and his family, and the Ministry of Transportation, upon receipt of a certificate from the Ministry of Labor or provincial chairman that the farmer is moving officially, must expedite his travel and the transportation of his property. In the new area, the farmer receives housing rent-free for three years, fuel for two months, and a work suit and pair of shoes. Upon obtaining employment, he is also given an interest-free loan of a thousand won for one year. His children may attend elementary and junior high schools for two years without paying fees and will receive priority for enrollment.
3. Organizations employing these rehabilitated farmers must give them three months' technical training outside of working hours. In addition, the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda and the provincial chairmen are ordered to encourage the program and its participants as much as possible, and no officials are allowed to obstruct it.
4. The National State Planning Committee is responsible for withdrawing from cultivation the land left vacant by the converted farmers. The principal areas affected are in North and South Hamgyong Provinces, South Pyongan, and Hwanghae.

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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