

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 5 JUL 50

SUBJECT Travel Controls in North China

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PLACE
ACQUIRED Hong Kong

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INFO. April 1950SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. A number of students of the class of June 1949 of Tsinghua University, Peiping, had been trying ever since their graduation to obtain permission to go to Hong Kong. Their efforts had been entirely unsuccessful until April 1950. When it was definitely known that the GENERAL GORDON would call at Tientsin during April to evacuate foreigners and would pick up Chinese who had legal exit visas, the students made concentrated efforts to obtain the necessary papers.
2. Tsinghua University issued each student route papers, which correspond to shop guarantees for ordinary citizens, guaranteeing that the students would return to Communist China. These papers were presented to the Peiping central police office by the student, who was then interviewed by two uniformed women Communist officials. A student who stated that he wished to visit his family in Hong Kong was requested to furnish two regular shop guarantees in addition to the student route papers. He convinced his interrogators that he intended to return to Peiping to complete his schooling, although he had actually graduated but had not yet had that fact recorded on his student papers. He was thus able, after submitting the shop guarantees, to obtain an exit visa.
3. From Peiping the students took their exit papers to Tientsin, where they were registered and stamped at the central police station. Students then had to be vaccinated for cholera and small pox and present certificates from the Quarantine Bureau to that effect to the police. With the exit visa and vaccination certificates, the students were able to obtain passage on the GENERAL GORDON; no further papers of any kind were required. After a slight delay, tickets for the GORDON were issued to passengers just before the ship's arrival at Tientsin.
4. Chinese students boarding the ship presented their papers and were asked several innocuous questions. After a superficial baggage examination by Communist customs officials, they were permitted to board the ship. There were no further formalities.*

25X1A* Comment. This treatment of Chinese who are ostensibly planning to return to Communist territory is in marked contrast to that accorded foreign-

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ers. According to other reports, moreover, regulations are much more lenient for sea passengers than for travelers by train, who are subjected to repeated interrogations up to the time of departure and may even be questioned in transit.

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