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TELEFAX 18
FORM NO. 81-44A
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Macao/China

DATE DISTR. 25 June 1952

SUBJECT Incidents at Macao Border

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. On 17 May 1952 a Chinese Communist soldier insulted a Portuguese-African guard at the border between Macao and China, and both soldiers made threatening gestures with their bayonets. On hearing of the incident the Portuguese garrison headquarters sent reinforcements to the scene, and the Chinese Communist troops at Saneh'ang (0005/1681) removed the covers from their machineguns and field pieces. When the Chinese Communists learned that the incident was started by one of their men they sent a representative to the Portuguese garrison headquarters to make an explanation, after which both sides withdrew their reinforcements.
2. On 17 May a Chinese Communist guard crossed the border into Portuguese territory but was intercepted and held at bayonet point by the Portuguese guards. Although both sides were alerted, no fighting broke out.¹ While both sides were occupied with this incident, a member of the New Democratic Youth Corps, HUANG Hsiang (7806/4382)², plunged into the water and swam to the Macao side. Chinese Communist guards fired on him. When he reached the Macao side the Portuguese guards arrested the fugitive and returned the fire of the Chinese. When the latter saw that the escapee had been taken into custody they ceased firing and the incident was closed.
3. On 18 May a Chinese Communist junk sailed from Hsiachengh'in Island (113-28, 22-08) to Wantsai (3494/0098) on the mainland to obtain provisions for the troops on the island. In its trip the junk entered Macao territorial waters and was fired on by Portuguese garrison troops stationed on Ponta da Barra.

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-2-

The junk proceeded to Wantsai and returned with eight Chinese Communist soldiers armed with a machinegun. As it approached Macao territorial waters Portuguese guards uncovered their machinegun and prepared to fire on it, but the junk changed course and went on to the island.

4. On 18 May two Chinese Communist soldiers who were going from Wantsai to Shihehiao-shu (4258/6037/0731) accidentally crossed into Macao territorial waters and were fired on by Portuguese guards to warn them to leave those waters. Later on the same day two boats carrying Chinese Communist troops entered Macao territorial waters but left again when they saw the Portuguese guards ready to fire upon them.³
5. On 19 May 1952 a Chinese Communist army officer accompanied by a number of guards and plain-clothes detectives approached the Macao border and tried to arrange that the men with him should enter Macao. The Portuguese authorities refused to let them pass and the group dispersed. Later in the day some of the group used a telescope mounted on the Chinese side of the border for an inspection of the Portuguese garrison posts.
6. On 20 May Macao marines fired upon a Chinese Communist patrol boat which they saw crossing Macao territorial waters, and the Chinese returned the fire. The patrol boat went back to Wantsai and took aboard a combat team for reinforcements, stationing another combat team on the beach to cover their trip. No further incident developed.
7. On 1 June Chinese Communist troops and Portuguese African guards had a dispute at Portas do Cerezo, on the Macao border, after which the Chinese Communists placed two field guns at the border, directed at the Portuguese guards. Both sides were alerted, but withdrew after Chinese Chinese officers had ordered their men to cease their threatening activities.

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Comment. The above incidents, or ones similar to them, have been reported by other American agencies and in the Hong Kong press. An evaluation of these reports is desired as a guide to action with regard to similar reports which may be received in the future. It is noted that the on 21 and 22 May, which occurred in the Macao area, according to another American agency.

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1. Comment. The Chinese soldier was presumably returned to his side of the border.

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Comment. This appears to be the same incident as described in paragraph 1.

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2. Comment. This name was received as YUAN Hsiang, but with the characters given above.

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3. Comment. It is not clear whether paragraphs 3 and 4 refer to the same incidents or to three separate occurrences on the same date.

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