

INTELLO 18
FEB 1952 51-444

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY**
SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY **China**

DATE DISTR. **26 Aug. 1952**

SUBJECT **Mail Censorship in Communist China**

NO. OF PAGES **2**

25X1 DATE OF INFO.
25X1 PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Censorship Bureau of the Chinese Communist Government Postal Administration controls mail censorship in China. A chemical indicator is used on some mail; when the indicator is applied to a letter, it brings out evidence of any chemical which may have been used on the letter paper.
2. A powerful electric projection machine is used to censor mail which is considered deserving of particular attention. Every provincial postal administration which has a customs office attached to it has such a machine; this machine was originally brought from the Soviet Union in 1950. Mail is inserted into the machine, which is about the size of a piano, from the right side and the enlarged contents of the letter can be read on a mirror. The contents of any letter, whether or not the paper on which it is written is impervious to light or heat, can be projected through the optical system on the mirror. Foreign diplomatic pouch contents and reduced photostatic copy can also be reproduced.
3. Mail censorship on various levels is performed by the following Chinese Communist Government agencies:
 - a. The Postal Administration and Customs Office on the provincial level censor telegrams and mail sent abroad and mail sent to overseas Chinese. If the censor's suspicion is aroused, any of this mail may be treated with indicator or placed in the machine. Mail going to foreign government bodies is subject to special censorship. Customary censorship is limited to determining whether books or other materials pertaining to China should be allowed to leave the country.

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY**

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION									
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI											

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY



-2-

- b. The Postal Administrative Bureau on the district commissioner's office level censors domestic mail but not foreign mail.
- c. The Post Office on the hsien level censors mail of suspicious character which originates both in China and abroad. If the Post Office discovers something unusual, they send it to a Postal Administrative Bureau or Postal Administration for examination.
- d. Village postal agencies have no power to censor mail; this power belongs to the peasants' associations and residents' groups which may censor the mail of local residents. Each week, these groups must submit a report to the local public security office on matters of interest concerning the mails. In many areas, the leaders of the peasants' associations and the residents' groups are responsible for receiving and delivering the mail of the people in their group; a postal commissar is chosen for each group of thirty families to act as postman. All local government officials and residents must make their mail available for public inspection from time to time to demonstrate their frankness.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY