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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	General Psychological Information, <i>propaganda activities in North Korea</i>	DATE DISTR.	<i>28</i> August 1956
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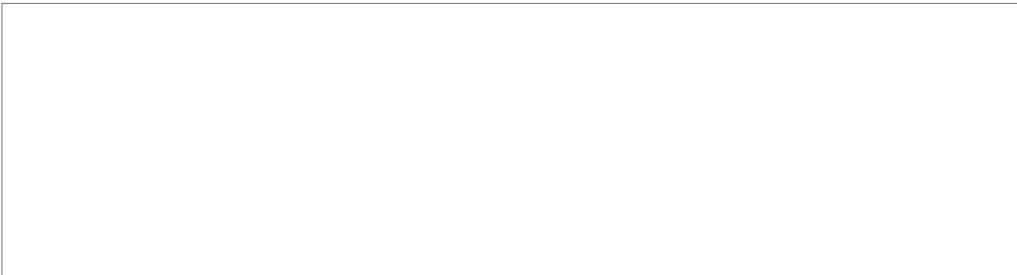


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Political Indoctrination

1.



Anti-Communist Activities

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2.

[redacted] KIM Il-sŏng issued a statement urging anti-Communist elements in both remoted local districts and cities to surrender themselves to the authorities. The statement promised that, if they surrender themselves within a certain given date, the government would forgive their past offences and would help them to find employment. Following the statement, it was reported, some surrendered themselves to the Communist authorities.

3. Generally speaking, it is impossible for the North Korean people to hear South Korean broadcasts or other non-Communist broadcasts because the Communists jam non-Communist broadcasts directed to North Korea from the Free World.

4.

[redacted]
The North Korean people could not freely listen to radios even if they had them.

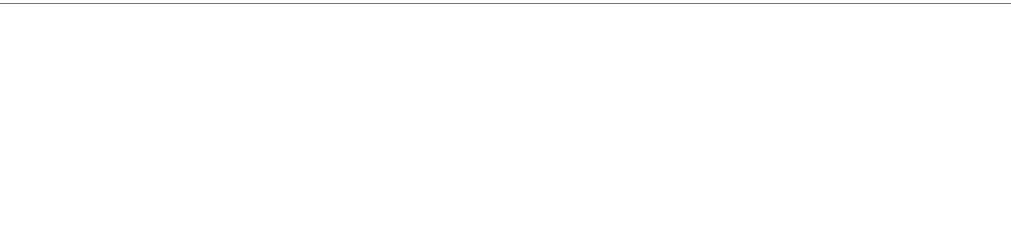
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5.

[redacted] hundreds of people led by veterans, had plotted a riot [redacted] But the plot was detected, and thirteen (13) persons involved were arrested and all of them except two (2) or three (3) persons were shot.

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6. The North Korean people have antagonism towards the government for its infringement upon freedom of religion, and inviting moral corruption. The North Korean people are anxious to restore traditional customs and sound morals.

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Communist Activities

8. North Korean radio broadcasts mainly introduce the situation on production progress of rehabilitation projects, foreign news and Communist propaganda.

9. North Korea has three political parties including the Korean Labor Party, the Ch'ōngu-dong and the Democratic Party. The Ch'ōngu-dang is a party

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of Ch'ōndogyo believers, but as the elements (pretended believers) favored by KIM Il-sōng have infiltrated into the party, it cannot play its full role as an independent political party, its existence being nominal. The Democratic Party is in a condition similar to that of the Ch'ōngu-dang.

10. North Korea is under a single-party leadership instead of multi-party politics and everything is carried out autocratically. Therefore, there can be no difficulty from a lack of cooperation.
11. There can be no private conflict between the Party and the administrative officials in North Korea. If there is any conflict, it is a disagreement on business transactions. For instance, Party officials in an attempt to carry out Party undertakings successfully, kept factory laborers awake until mid-night, sometimes even until one (1) or two (2) o'clock the next morning, criticizing production efficiency. Meanwhile, the manager of the factory who is the chief responsible administrative official at the factory complained that such practices caused the laborers to slumber in the daytime and incur consequent decrease in labor production efficiency.
12. North Korea has a well-organized political mechanism. Each neighborhood (Pan) in a North Korean villages is composed of five (5) households (a Chinese neighborhood is composed of 25 household) and the neighborhood chiefs meet everynight to review and assess the labor production efficiency of their neighborhood members and report of it to the police authorities concerned. If a visitor comes to any household, the neighborhood chief goes with him to the police station and allows him to remain, only after putting him to questions by police.

The Korean alphabets has been extensively publicized in North Korea. Laborers, irrespective of sex or age, in every workshop have to participate in reading meetings every morning, and therefore, all of them know how to read Korean. If there is anyone who cannot read, he is to be kept away from the workshop. Of all, the most important fact is that all the Party members and Government officials are kind to all (as far as their apparent attitude is concerned) and are never proud of or abuse their official powers. Nevertheless, the people are afraid of them and blindly obey them.

13. Every workshop has a political leader in North Korea. Anyone who wants to join the Party has to join the workshop Party, through which he becomes a full party member. Even after he has become a full Party member, he has to undergo various tests by Party leaders before he can hold an important position. Party members generally appear to be indifferent to non-Party members but, in reality, they keep a keen watch on non-Party members.
14. Special consideration is never given to private circumstances in North Korea unless the Government recognizes them to be exceptional. It is impossible for any individual to deceive the Party or the Government in North Korea.
15. Communism is fundamentally different from Capitalism or western democracy in both theory and practice. In the early days, the Communists declared to the laborers and farmers that "all the factories and farms are yours". "Operate them as you like and thereby make your living secured", and the people welcomed their announcement. Later, however, the Communists began to demand the farmers to pay tax-in-kind and urging the laborers to increase labor production efficiency. As such pressure increased, public respect to the Communist regime has faded away. 25X1
16. North Korean government officials are oppressing in everything. [] 25X1
[] two families 25X1
committed suicide by taking poison in P'yōngyang because of living difficulties. [] there was another case of suicide in Najin.

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The story is as follows: On his 61st birthday, the oldman asked his daughter-in-law to bring him a cup of drinking water and he was dumb-founded when she replied "Comrade Father, there is no water to offer to you." Suffering from unbearable mortification, he went to a nearby hill and hanged himself. In the evening, his son returned from his workshop and lost control of himself at hearing of the incident. He killed his wife with an ax and killed himself with a knife.

17. Laborers are unconditionally favored in North Korea and consequently various offenses were frequently committed by ignorant local labor Party members. In particular, there were several embezzlement cases during the period of 1954 - 1955 and [redacted] many laborer Party members being sent to the police station.

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18. In North Korea, if one goes to a barber's shop, the barber generally shaves the entire body of the customer. If one goes to a bathhouse, he is given only a very small piece of soap and he has to bathe with it alone. There were neither tooth-brushes nor tooth-power, or soap or towel. [redacted]

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19. [redacted] the Musan Lumber Mill was burnt to the ground. The mill was the largest in the whole of Korea, and the cause of the fire is still unknown.

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