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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1

NORTH KOREAN TRENDS

	DATE OF REPORT: 17 September 1956
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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NORTH KOREAN TREND REPORT

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First Stage Fishing Period:

The disposal of fish was entirely up to the fishermen's choice. They were allowed either to put their fish on free sales or submit some of the catch to the fishing union. Even in the latter case, the purchase price by the union was quite favorable for the fisherman with little

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difference from the market prices except for a small charge for submission procedures. None of the union regulations called for any forced submission of a fish catch. Thus, during the period, the more they caught, the better it provided for earning a living.

Second Stage Fishing Period:

The production quotas were established and food items were put on ration. The daily quotas, which were too large for the individual workers, were as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Fishing Period</u>	<u>Daily Quotas</u>
Tangle	April - May	150 Kilograms
Tangle	June	75 Kilograms
Atka Mackerel	July - September	60 Kilograms
Alaska pollack	October - April	200 Kilograms

However, the daily total catch by individuals, was as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Fishing Period</u>	<u>Daily Catch</u>
Tangle	April - May	37.5 Kilograms
Tangle	June	18.7 Kilograms
Atka mackerel	July - September	30 (fishes)
Alaska pollack	October - April	80 (fishes)

The daily amount of rationed food for those fishermen, who were successful in fulfilling their daily individual quotas, and their dependents was .72 Liters per worker and .36 Liters per dependent, which consisted of 30 percent yellow millet, 10 percent barley, 10 percent black millet, 30 percent beans, and 20 percent rice. Thus, the fishermen had to submit all of their fish to the fishing cooperative for the free distribution of food items. Once there were some fishermen in the cooperative, who tried to conceal fish behind the officials, which was designed for the exchange of farm products to help out with their food shortages. However, such secret dealing was not a matter easy to do, as it was easily discovered by the officials, who would rain words of criticism on the unveiled dealers before the public and place on them a punishment of 10 days to one month's suspension from work with no food for that period. Thus, the fishermen became the slaves of the cooperative.

Third Stage Fishing Period:

During the period from the founding of the Fishing Cooperative to November 1954, both the production quota system and the food rationing system as described in the second stage fishing period remained in effect for the cooperative members. [redacted]

[redacted] the cooperative members worked under the following regulations.

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The daily fishing quotas for the individual members were as follows:

<u>Items</u>	<u>Daily Quotas</u>
Alaska pollack	250
Octopus	200
Sea weed	12.2 kilograms

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All of the production was submitted to the cooperative, for which the agency set up fixed purchase prices. The price of alaska pollack was 20 W6n per fish, the price of seaweed was 9 W6n per Kwan (3.75 Kilograms) [redacted] However, the prices were not paid in cash, but taken down on the purchase-book as nominal price figures. The daily amount of rationed grains for those fishermen, who were successful in fulfilling their daily quotas, and their dependents was 600 grams per worker and 300 grams per dependent. For prices of these food items, see Item 4.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] By comparison with the previous fishing union and the fishing cooperative, the present fishing cooperative is far more severe and strict with its members in keeping watch on their activities, especially on secret dealings in fish for farm products.

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3. [redacted] the food rationing regulations for the dependents of military servicemen were revised. Until that time, all the dependents of servicemen were equal under the benefit of the food ration. However, the revised rationing regulations reduced the scope of beneficiaries to expectant mothers and women with children under three (3). However, the revised system has a proviso that the children of ex-government employees are free from such age limits on distribution, even though they may be over four (4). In this particular case, according to the proviso, a serviceman's wife a child over four (4), is required to submit a copy of her husband's employment certificate, to be made out at the government establishment concerned to the district (Ri) people's committee for continuous distribution of food items.

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an example [redacted] there was a housewife with a child over five (5), whose husband had worked for the S6ngjin Steel Mill before his military enlistment. Under the proviso, the woman went over to the S6ngjin Steel Mill to obtain a copy of her husband's employment certificate, which was then submitted to the T'ow6n-ni People's Committee for further distribution of grains. Thus, according to the new regulations, children over four (4), of ex-cooperative members and of ex-farmer servicemen were left out of the food ration.

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4. The followings are the blackmarket prices of food items, which prevailed [redacted]

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Rice 950 W6n per small Mal (2.9851 gallons)
Yellow millet 750 W6n per small Mal (2.9851 gallons)

Since the latter part of October 1955, the blackmarket prices of grains have been reduced as follows:

Rice 750 W6n per small Mal (2.9851 gallons)
Yellow Millet 500 W6n per small Mal (2.9851 gallons)
Others (unknown)

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The cooperative prices of rationed grains are as follows:

Rice 770 W6n per small Mal (2.9851 gallons)
Yellow Millet 650 W6n per small Mal (2.9851 gallons)
Others (unknown)

The unchangeable cooperative prices of rationed items, as against the decline in the blackmarket prices, roused complaints by the cooperative members.

The following are the prices of items served at the Hwangam branch store (EA 462187) of the Hwadae-gun Consumers' Guild [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

Cigarettes (Taedong-mun) 20 W6n per package
Cut tobacco (Subok) 30 W6n per package
Cigarettes (Chebi) 30 W6n per package
Matches 5 W6n per box
Towel (of cotton, North Korean made) ...100 W6n per sheet
Cotton cloth (known as Kwangmok) 450 W6n per yard
Rubber shoes (for men) 400 W6n per pair
Rubber shoes (for women) 300 W6n per pair
Soju (liquor) 450 W6n per Tee (.48 gallons)
Others (unknown)

5. [redacted] the price of matches was cut from 10 W6n per box to 5 Won each. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

6. The most readily available items, being served at the Hwangam branch store of the Hwadae-gun Consumers' Guild, included cotton cloth (known as Kwangmok), matches, tobacco, and rubber shoes. The most scarce items [redacted] were drugs, including those for a cold. [redacted] 25X1

7. [redacted]

8. [redacted]

9. [redacted] three Huri villagers (between 60 and 70) died of starvation after having been in bed for 10 to 15 days. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] these elders, together with their families, had 25X1

kept their bodies and souls with pine-tree bark, which were too bad 25X1

for these aged females. [redacted] their last words 25X1

were of cooked rice for food. [redacted] 25X1

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34. A) Sometimes [redacted] diet consisted of fish and fish soup, which were served for five (5) days each month. 25X1

B) [redacted] 25X1

35. A) [redacted] menu, twice a day, consisted of gruel with yellow millet, black millet, barley, or beans, and various sea weed as side dishes, collected [redacted] at the sea shore. The names of sea weeds, given in the Hamgyong-bukto dialect, and their growing period are as follows: 25X1

<u>Names</u>	<u>Growing Period</u>
Kandulgi	January - April
Chindubal	January
Korumae	November - January
Chin	December - February

B) [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] the better meals of rice for breakfast and gruel for supper were also served for some days at intervals with rationed grains, which were distributed every ten (10) days. 25X1

C) [redacted] the fishermen, while on board their fishing boats, ate an unsatisfactory amount of cooked rice for their two meals a day, which they carried with them for this purpose from their respective homes, and during the winter, the rice was added to hot soup, provided aboard the boats. 25X1

D) The side dishes for each meal consisted of Kimch'i, and various sea weeds, which lasted for the period of November and April. However, [redacted] the non-side-dish period, in an average, covers the length of fifteen days each month. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the people in T'owon-ni call Kimch'i Namul) [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]

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18. A) Trousers for females were made by housewives at the household with old pairs of People's Armed Forces uniform, which were on sale at the Hwadae market.

B) In the Huri village, the clothing for males is sewn by a housewife, who charges for her sewing machine. The fee is 200 Wŏn for a coat and 150 Wŏn for trousers.

C) [Redacted]

25X1

D) [Redacted] the Chairman of the T'owŏn-ni People's Committee, visiting Huri [Redacted] was wearing a white closed-collar coat and khaki trousers.

25X1

25X1

19. Old uniforms of the People's Armed Forces are freely worn by the people. There is no restriction covering the wearing of old military uniforms. However, the villagers, when they shop at the Hwadae market or the Haep'yŏng market, usually wear cotton-cloth clothing of their own or their fellows.

[Redacted]

25X1

20. It is about one (1) kilometer from Huri to the Hwangam branch store of the Hwadae-gun Consumers' Guild. The Hwangam Fishing Cooperative is located in Huri [Redacted]. Open markets are located in Hwadae and Haep'yŏng, where there is no grain. The villagers in [Redacted] have to go to nearby farm neighbors to barter their fish for grain. People generally purchase clothing at the Hwadae market.

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25X1

21. [Redacted]

25X1

23. A) Man's pocket items, in general, consist of tobacco (cut tobacco for farmers and fishermen) and his citizenship certificate, which is usually kept in the upper pocket of his coat. No lighter is available for smoking.

B) Woman's pocket, inserted on the right in her trousers (known as Mompei), contains her citizenship certificate and some money. [Redacted] which is only for street shopping. [Redacted]

25X1

25X1

24. [Redacted]

25X1

26. A) The oil of alaska pollack, squeezed out from its entrails (known as Yae), is the only item available for household lighting. However, the people [Redacted] spend most evenings without light, which is designed to save this scarce oil for fishing and other unfore seen circumstances.

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B) Firewood is also used in lighting fishing boats at the sea.

C) Summer fuel for the household consists of various weeds and grasses, collected by housewives in the nearby mountains. For autumn and winter cooking and heating, pine-tree needles are collected by the women. The mountains [redacted] 25X1 are covered with sporadic and relatively small trees. The people have been forbidden by the authorities from cutting these small and scarce pine-trees in the mountain or willows in the fields. However, they are overlooked in cutting worthless trees growing in the area. [redacted] 25X1 if a man cuts a pine tree, he will be jailed for three (3) years.

27. [redacted] pine needles and grasses, collected by housewives, are the most readily obtainable fuels for the household. [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] sometimes, women from other villages came [redacted] to sell their pine needles, 90 - 100 Won per bundle. 25X1

[redacted] people can not afford to buy those needles from woman dealers, and thus very often spend winter days without heat. [redacted] no fuel rationing is available for the household. 25X1

28. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]
29.
30.

31. [redacted] the tax-in-kind for fishermen consists of 15 percent of the actual fish catch, which is paid by the fishing cooperatives concerned, and those for farmers consist of 25 percent of the actual crop yield. However [redacted] the actual volume of taxes in crops exceeds the 50 percent level of the actual yield. 25X1

32. The payment of taxes for fishermen is performed by the individual fishing cooperatives concerned, which pay in kind to the financial department of the county (Kun) people's committee, and the taxes for farmers are collected in kind by the proper district (Ri) People's committee. [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] 25X1

33. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the fish were not converted into money but changed into rationed food items, which were too small to maintain a living. 25X1
[redacted] the fishermen [redacted] were forced to buy 500-won government bonds. 25X1

34. [redacted] The people's demands for fuel [redacted] were met by their housewives, who collected pine needles and grasses from the mountains, and expenses for daily commodities and other items were derived from secret dealings in fish. 25X1

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- 35. Pencil 5 - 10 Wōn each
Others (unknown) 25X1

- 36. The denominations, in which North Korean Wōn are printed, consist of 50 Chōn, 1 Wōn, 5 Wōn, 10 Wōn, and 100 Wōn, and of these, the denominations of 5 Wōn and 10 Wōn are in the greatest use; 100 Wōn 25X1

- 37. There was no blackmarketing in currency 25X1

- 38. Drugs and rice are the most valuable easiest items to convert into cash and of these, medicine is the most readily convertible into cash or rice. 25X1

- 39. the Farmers' Bank is located in the seat of the Hwadae-gun Government (EA 1814), some four (4) kilometers from Huri (EA 462179). 25X1

- 40. 25X1
- 41. 25X1
- 42. 25X1

- a youngster of the Haep'yōng village (EA 2307), was shipped to the Soviet Union for forced labor shortly after the liberation, and who returned home sometime in summer 1954. 25X1

- 43. some ten (10) residents were forced to join the military service by internal affairs station personnel, and besides this, two (2) out of five (5) households that left the area moved to the Sōngjin Steel Mill. The destination of the remaining three (3) households is unknown. during the war, a total of eight (8) young villagers also left 25X1

- 44. 25X1

- 45. sometime in autumn 1954, in the Chōngho village (EA 461175), a People's Armed Forces deserter was taken to a coal mine under the guise of labor mobilization. 25X1

- 46. population figures: 25X1

- Huri village (EA 462179) 100 (approximate)
- Chongho village (EA 462175) 70 (")
- Hwangam village (EA 462187) 400 (")
- T'cūn village 100 (")

- 47. groups of beggars are wondering in Kilchu-ūp, 25X1

- 48. 25X1

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- 49. In the area of the Hwadae-gun government, [redacted] a large-scale irrigation project being implemented by groups of laborers from the villages. [redacted] this project, started in 1952 [redacted]
[redacted] 25X1
25X1
25X1
- 50. [redacted] a large number of woman-farmers and villagers were mobilized in shifts for the above mentioned irrigation project in Hwadae-gun. 25X1
- 51. [redacted] all [redacted] villagers were mobilized for an irrigation project, starting at 1000 hours in the morning until sun set (around 1800 hours). 25X1
25X1
- 52. [redacted] some Soviet materials were delivered to a factory. 25X1
25X1
- 53. In abstract but exact insulting language, people call Soviets "currish guys", and Chinese Reds "barbarians".
- 54. [redacted] various sea weeds, octopus, and trepangs were shipped out to Communist countries (Communist satellites). 25X1
- 55. [redacted] 25X1
- 56. [redacted]
- 57. It takes four (4) to five (5) days to receive mail from a locality, some 40 kilometers away. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
- 58. [redacted]
- 59. [redacted]
- 60. [redacted]
- 61. [redacted]
- 62. [redacted]
- 63. [redacted]
- 64. In the Hwangam village (EA 462187), the farmers grow rice, yellow millet, black millet, potatoes, and barley. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
- 65. [redacted] The Farm Cooperative in the Hwangam village, which was established in 1955, consists of less than 50 percent of the total farmer-villagers. [redacted] member-farmers of two (2) families broke with their cooperative. 25X1
25X1
25X1
- 66. Most of the farmers are against the current cooperative farming, which gives member-farmers neither a break on taxes nor an increase in fertilizer or implements.

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67. Farmers pay to the government 25 percent of their field crops (such as yellow millet and black millet) and 27 percent of their paddy crops (rice). However, the situation is that the actual percentage of crops delivered to the government covers more than half of the actual yield. Every autumn, following the harvest, farmers carry their tax-crops to the district (Ri) people's committee offices.
68. [redacted] manure is the only fertilizer available for farmers, for which all farmers and women are mobilized in weeding. 25X1
69. [redacted] the farmers use cattle-driven farm equipment which existed during the Japanese rule. [redacted] there were no new devices to speak of, or rented implements for the farmers. 25X1
[redacted] according to hearsay, in some other areas, Soviet tractors are available for farmers. 25X1
70. A large number of students and non-farmer women are mobilized for farming, which is due to the shortage of farm labor.
71. [redacted]
72. [redacted] fishermen usually fish at four (4) miles off shore in groups of five (5) to six (6) each. 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
73. Daytime fishing ends before sunset, and night fishing ends before dawn. [redacted] there are no regulations restricting the locations of fishing. 25X1
74. Dogs and chickens are raised [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
75. [redacted] barley suffered from a disease [redacted] which resulted in the destruction of much barley. However, there were animal diseases to speak of in [redacted] village. 25X1
76. [redacted] 25X1
77. [redacted] neither doctors nor medical care were available to the people [redacted] patients therefore must be carried by ox-cart to the nearby Hwadae area for treatment. 25X1
78. A People's Hospital is located in Hwadae and Haep'yōng. [redacted] 25X1
79. Once, after the armistice, the people in [redacted] village were immunized for an unknown purpose. 25X1
80. [redacted] 25X1
81. [redacted]

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- 82. No drugs are available to the people on the market. [redacted] 25X1
- 83. [redacted]
- 84. [redacted]
- 85. [redacted] The Huri village, which consists of one neighborhood (Pan), has a total population of about 100. 25X1
- 86. [redacted] 25X1
- 87. [redacted] the [redacted] neighborhood chief, [redacted] 25X1
[redacted], was a Labor Party member. [redacted] 25X1
the chief enjoyed better house furniture, than non-party 25X1
members. 25X1
- 88. [redacted] HAN In-kwōn (NEA) [redacted] an ex-soldier, 25X1
living in Hwangam, was the chief party official [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the chief is a native of Hwangam. 25X1
- 89. [redacted] the people [redacted] harbor ill-feeling toward 25X1
organizations and groups. The strength of each neighborhood depends 25X1
largely upon local conditions. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] KIM T'o-tōk (NEA) [redacted] Chairman of the 25X1
district (ri) people's committee. 25X1
- 90. The district (ri) people's committee, which comes under the county (Kun) people's committee, controls all the neighborhoods in the district.
- 91. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the average North Korean addresses a stranger 25X1
as "Tongmu" (comrade, lower level).
- 92. [redacted] 25X1
- 93. [redacted]
among the most popular songs are "Barmy Breeze", "Hospital Life",
and and the "Song of General KIM Il-sōng", which is very popular
among students.

Barmy Breeze

Barmy Breeze!
 Come to the earth,
 And blow my words far back to my home,
 To home, my beloved home,
 Where lovely maidens played among the beauty.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Hospital Life

Easy hospital life,
Incurable patients,
Be not anxious, Comrade Doctor,
Be not in grief, you patients,
May you recover, some fine day.

- 94. [redacted] groups reading newspapers, such as the Hambuk Ilbo (Hamgyong-bukto Daily) and the Nodong Sinmun (Labor Press). 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- 95. [redacted] school athletic meets marking the public holidays of the May Day and the August 15th Day. 25X1
- 96. [redacted] 25X1
- 97. [redacted]
- 98. [redacted] any kinds of religious worship is prohibited. 25X1
- [redacted]
- 99. [redacted]
- 100. Both new resident and visitor have to appear at the neighborhood chief for registration. Otherwise, They will be in trouble at the internal affairs station, which undertakes this registration control.
- 101. [redacted] curfew starts from 2200 hours. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- 102. [redacted] the Haep'yong Police Unit of the Hwadae Internal Affairs Station had the most immediate effect [redacted] The unit strength is unknown [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- 103. [redacted] 25X1
- 104. [redacted]
- 105. People have grievances against the current living standards, the rehabilitation work, and the tax-in-kind.
- 106. The people [redacted] reject the Communist regime, because of the shortage of food items. 25X1
- 107. [redacted] before the Korean war, there was an anti-Communist resistance group of young students (between 15 and 16 years of age), who were all rounded up by the authorities. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1
- 108. Source does not know of any passive resistance groups in North Korea.
- 109. Most of the people [redacted] have grievances against the Communist regime. 25X1
- [redacted] 25X1

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