

This is UNEVALUATED Information

FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

NORTH KOREAN TRENDS

[Redacted]

DATE OF REPORT: 2 October 1956

[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

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

1. The Communists in North Korea propagated that the farmers in South Korea were deprived of their farm products by the government, the laborers were out of jobs because of the non-operation of factories, and most of the youth were forced to join the military service, and thus a large number of farmers, as well as laborers, were about to die of hunger throughout the whole area. [redacted]

25X1
25X1

2.



3. No food rationing by the government for the population existed in [redacted] a pure farm village. [redacted] only poor farmers were given a little amount of rice on ration by the government.

25X1
25X1

4. The prices of commodities prevailing in and around the Kōrimsang village (YD 127794) (Tongrim-ni, Mundōk-kun, P'yōngan-namdo), [redacted] were as follows:

25X1

Rice	1,300 - 1,400 Wōn per Mal
Yellow Millet	1,300 - 1,400 Wōn per Mal
Matches	5 Wōn per box
Cigarettes (Taedong-mun)	25 Wōn per package
Cigarettes (Kalmasgi)	30 Wōn per package
Tobacco (Puyong)	30 Wōn per package
Laundry soap (Chinese-made).....	100 Wōn per bar
Soap (Chinese-made)	200 Wōn per bar
Towel	250 - 300 Wōn each
Socks	100 Wōn per pair
Rubber shoes (Men).....	400 Wōn per pair
Rubber shoes (Women)	200 - 250 Wōn per pair
Pencil	5 - 7 Wōn each
Note-book	6 - 7 Wōn each
White paper (known as Paengno-ji)	25 - 30 Wōn per sheet
Cotton cloth	320 Wōn per Yard
Hemp cloth	200 - 220 Wōn per Yard
Dish (container)	35 Wōn each
Beans	1,300 - 1,400 Wōn per Mal
Rice-with-pork soup	60 Wōn
Rice-cake	50 Wōn (5 to 6 pieces)

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- [redacted] prices were reduced by the government. [redacted] 25X1
 commodities on private sale [redacted] were some 20 percent higher
 than those at the consumers' guild store. 25X1
5. The third price reduction resulted in a vast decrease in the prices
 of commodities. [redacted] the price reductions which had 25X1
 taken place in North Korea produced good results for farmers as
 well as laborers.
6. [redacted] abundance of rice, which could be easily 25X1
 purchased by the population. Among the relatively scarce items were
 cereals, such as beans and kidney beans, which were also not hard
 to obtain in the area.
7. [redacted] the Soviet Union aided Korea with
 its flour, [redacted] 25X1
8. [redacted]
9. [redacted] the entire population [redacted] village had suffered 25X1
 from a food shortage in the summer [redacted], when the people had sub- 25X1
 sisted on leaves and weeds, which was caused by the forced payment
 of grains in the area in 1954 to the government purchasing stations,
 and so with the population in other areas, where tree bark was added
 to the substitutes. Relief measures by the government included the
 distribution of rice (2 to 3 kilograms every five (5) days, which
 was too small in quantity.
10. [redacted] grain from farmers would be safeguarded by 25X1
 the government.

25X1

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13. The poor [redacted] bartered their corn for rice, with which they made gruel. 25X1
14. The fishermen [redacted] caught fish aboard the boats of their cooperative, which distributed the fish to its members. Thus, the diet for these fishermen was predominately fish, such as shrimp and gray mullet. No bakery foods were available in [redacted] area. 25X1
15. [redacted] the people marked New Year's Day and August 15 of the lunar calendar, the mid-autumn festival, with rice-cake in the household. 25X1
16. [redacted] some liquor was available at the consumers' guild store or on the free market. The guild store also served rice with soup and noodles for the public. 25X1
17. [redacted] 25X1
18. Inside the household, the people [redacted] made Korean clothing for both sexes. The North Korean soldiers and the internal affairs station personnel wore military uniforms, and students wore school uniforms of cotton cloth, black for winter and dark blue for summer. There was no specific clothing for the average civilian [redacted] 25X1
19. The general farmers wear either cotton-cloth suits for streetwear or old military uniforms for work.
20. [redacted] the free market, [redacted] had on sale various daily commodities, such as clothing, food goods and others. 25X1
21. The consumers' guild store served cheaper articles for the public, and the free market dealt in either scarce items or those hard to obtain at the guild store.
22. The major items sold on the blackmarket consisted of rice and vegetables, which were sold by the housewives of agency personnel. The authorities propagated that private dealings on the blackmarket would be closed down, and urged the public to shop at the consumers' guild store.

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23. The man's pocket items [redacted] consisted of his tobacco bags, matches, purse, and various certificates, such as the citizenship certificate, the party membership certificate, and the youth league membership certificate, and the woman's pocket contained her money bag, handkerchief, and certificates. A few villagers carried watches, and none of these pocket goods came from abroad. 25X1
24. [redacted] 25X1
There were some eight (8) sewing-machines in the village, in which was located a total of 54 houses. [redacted] the sewing machines were privately owned. 25X1
25. [redacted] electricity [redacted] gas [redacted] village was equipped with such utilities [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The charges were 40 Won per lamp per month, which was collected every quarter of the year. The power for this village frequently stopped once a week every Sunday. Once it stopped for some 20 consecutive hours. 25X1
26. [redacted] 25X1
27. Because of the government purchase of straw [redacted] from the farmers [redacted] the population could not obtain much of it for heating. [redacted] more than two (2) to three (3) cart-loads of peat for [redacted] household, and some kerosene on the blackmarket. There was no fuel rationed [redacted] 25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
28. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] There were scores of large houses [redacted] but none of them had bathtubs or sink, or yards. 25X1
29. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The largest house [redacted] village consisted of six (6) rooms and one (1) kitchen, which was valued at 40,000 Won or 20 bags of rice. The homeless villagers shared rooms of others on a free basis. 25X1
30. There was a consumers' guild boarding-house at the Yŏnho Market some four (4) kilometers from Source's village. However, none of the visitors had ever used this boarding quarter, but stayed with their relatives or strangers.
31. [redacted] various taxes [redacted] were in effect in North Korea, such as the tax-in-kind, water tax (materials mobilization tax), electric tax, income tax, fishing tax, and several other business taxes. The tax-in-kind, which was paid in high-grade grains in bags, 91 Kŭn (120 lbs.) per bag (including the per-bag weight), covered 27 percent of the paddy yield and 23 percent of the field crops. The production quota for the farm cooperative [redacted] was established by the government prior to the farming and the volume of the tax-in-kind was based on the quota. The government made it public that the annual tax-in-kind was based on the average figure of the yield of the previous three (3) years. [redacted] farmers in fact paid more than half of their crops, which was due to the improper estimation of acreage and yield by the government. In other words the government included idle land and even field ridges in estimating the acreage, 25X1
25X1

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and ignored the actual conditions in grain threshing. The water tax (materials mobilization tax) was paid with five (5) to ten (10) bags of grain in proportion to the amount of the tax-in-kind, and the electric tax was 40 Wōn in cash per lamp. The income tax was levied on merchants.

32. [redacted] the farmers [redacted] were notified of the amount of their taxes shortly before the harvest, by the district (Ri) people's committee. The farmers then carried their tax-grain to the tax-in-kind warehouse, where the officials from the county (Kun) people's committee inspected the quality of the crops and issued receipts to each payer. The receipt then is brought by the payer to the district (Ri) people's committee, which issues a certificate on the tax payment to the individual. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

33. [redacted]

34. [redacted]

35. [redacted] trainfares 25X1

Taegyo Railroad Station (YD 213814)
Chōngju Railroad Station 101 Wōn
Taegyo Railroad Station (YD 213814) - Kwaksan Railroad Station
..... 120 Wōn
Taegyo Railroad Station (YD 213814) - Yōngmi Railroad Station,.. 37 Wōn

36. The denominations in which the North Korean Wōn is printed are 50 Chon, 1 Wōn, 5 Wōn, 10 Wōn, and 100 Wōn, and of these, the denominations of 5 Wōn, 10 Wōn, and 100 Wōn were in greatest use [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The small money, such as 50 Chōn and 1 Wōn, was used 25X1
either in paying trainfares and taxes or shopping at the consumers' guild store. [redacted] the exchange rate of Wōn 25X1
and Yuan was 400 Wōn to 10,000 Yuan.

37. [redacted] people exchange their currency for Chinese notes 25X1
at a rate of 400 Wōn to 10,000 Yuan, to buy commodities at the Chinese forces store in Sao-ri (Yongbyōn-gun, P'yōngan-bukto), where Chinese troops were stationed.

38. Rice and medicine were most readily convertible into cash [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Only a few people were interested in obtaining watches and 25X1
others, which were not essential to the population in his village.

39. There was no bank in [redacted] Tongnim-ni (YD 127794) (Mundōk-kun, P'yōngan-namdo) 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
However [redacted] a Farmers' Bank, operated by the government, 25X1
was located at YD 233745 (Mundōk-kun), and that villagers could make a loan of 5,000 to 6,000 Wōn per household at this bank under the assurance of the district (Ri) people's committee chairman, who for this purpose, was entitled to issue the villager a certificate confirming his financial status, on which the bank based its loan at the interest of 1.5 percent a year.

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40. [redacted] an official from the county (Kun) people's committee appeared [redacted] and before a mass meeting of the villagers he delivered an address in which he explained the necessity of the Farmers' Bank and urged the farmers to put money in the bank for proper functioning. The official further propagated in his speech that depositors could draw their savings on demand for farm cattle, farm implements, or food, during the summer. [redacted] people make loans of 3,000 Wŏn to 6,000 Wŏn at the farmers' bank. The procedure for this bank loan is as follows: First, the applicant states his desire for a loan to the Farmers' League chairman who upon the request provides him with a certificate of financial status. The financial certificate then goes to the district (ri) people's committee chairman for confirmation, and all of these certificates, together with a paper of more than three (3) guarantors and the claim, are submitted to the bank. The money was soon paid at the bank. 25X1
41. [redacted] 25X1
42. [redacted] a large number of Korean nationals in Manchuria and the Soviet Union were mobilized for reconstruction work in North Korea. [redacted] the shortage of farm labor [redacted] was eased by a large number of youth league members of both sexes and non-farming families, who were mobilized by the county (Kun) people's committee. [redacted] a large number of war veterans and the unemployed had been sent to the rural areas for farming, according to hearsay. 25X1
25X1
43. [redacted] the government sent members of five (5) households and three (3) war veterans from P'yŏngyang [redacted]. They settled down [redacted] to farm. Among the veterans, two (2) were from China. [redacted] the government had sent a large number of jobless people and veterans to the farm areas throughout the North. 25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1
44. [redacted] some of the farmers, who were experienced in fishing, caught fish on the river as a side job under the control of the cooperative. These fishermen earned more labor days than the ground workers, and the fish were distributed to the cooperative members. 25X1
45. [redacted] an official from the county (Kun) people's committee that people of both sexes, between 18 to 45 years of age for female and 18 to 60 for male are subjected to 20-days' annual compulsory labor, regulated by the government. [redacted] among those exempted from this government labor mobilization were pregnant women and those with babies under three (3), mental patients, and deformed persons. [redacted] the farmers [redacted] were mobilized for irrigation projects, and on each occasion, aged persons were exempted from the labor. 25X1
25X1
25X1
46. The Kŏrimsang village (Tongnim-ni, Mundŏk-kun, P'yŏngan-namdo), [redacted] had a population of 170 inhabitants. 25X1
47. [redacted] the North Korean government would provide people with employment. [redacted] 25X1
25X1
48. [redacted] the unemployed were sent by the government to farm villages and factories in urban areas for assignment. 25X1

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49. [redacted] specific rehabilitation [redacted] small-scale embankment project at XD 090775 [redacted] 25X1
50. Farmers from each district (Ri) in Mundok-kun were mobilized for the above mentioned embankment project at XD 090775. 25X1
51. On each occasion, farmers, mobilized for labor, worked for ten (10) days on the average, and there were no regulations on the hours of daily labor for the workers. They had to fulfill their daily quotas on the right day.
52. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] North Korea received various aid-materials and food goods, such as industrial machinery and flour, from the Soviet Union. 25X1
53. The Chinese personnel seemed much enlightened in the field of morals and culture. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
54. [redacted] the monazite ore mined at the Ch'olsan Monazite Mine was exported to the Soviet Union for her war supplies to North Korea. 25X1
55. [redacted] airplanes fly over toward P'yongyang once a day. 25X1
56. [redacted] mail was available throughout the North. 25X1
57. [redacted] 25X1
58. The nearest post office is located in the area of the Mundok-kun. [redacted] the people [redacted] used to either put their letters with money for postage into the consumers' guild mail-box or deliver them directly to the mailman. The mail was delivered on foot. 25X1
59. [redacted] a telephone at the post-office. 25X1
60. [redacted] 25X1
61. The post-office located in the area of the Mundok-kun handled telegrams.
62. Each district (Ri) office [redacted] had a Japanese radio, and each village in the district (Ri) had a loudspeaker for the populace. 25X1
63. [redacted] musical programs and commentary on the cooperative through the loudspeaker [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
64. The Korimsang village (Tongnim-ni, Mundok-kun, P'yongan-namdo), [redacted] consisted of 54 farm households, and of these, half produced 100 bags of rice and the rest reaped some 70 bags. In other words, the total rice yield in this village amounted to 4,590 bags in the normal year. 25X1

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65. Some 46 out of the 54 farm households [redacted] farmed under the cooperative and the rest operated individually. [redacted]
[redacted] 25X1
25X1
25X1
66. The farmers other than the cooperative members in the North consisted of those who had enough acreage, farm implements, and manpower, or those who were much indebted to others. There was no exclusive break on taxes for those in the cooperative. The only difference between the cooperative members and the individual farmers was that while the former borrowed farm implements from each other, the latter were excluded from this mutual use. The individual farmers helped each other in farming.
67. The farmers in the Changdo village (Ch'ont'aes-ri, Kwaksan-gun, P'yongan-bukto) [redacted] were granted farm land, some 500 P'yong (.4 acre) per man. [redacted] the farmers had to deliver 23 percent of their respective field crops, such as yellow millet and black millet, and 27 percent of the rice yield to the government. Besides these taxes-in-kind, they also paid the materials mobilization tax with crops, and sold their products to the government purchasing stations. Thus, the farmers had to submit more than 50 percent of their products to the government. The taxes in products are paid as follows: Every autumn, after threshing all the autumn crops, farmers select high-grade tax-grain in new straw-bags, according to the tax-in-kind payment bill from the district (Ri) office. The tax-grains are then carried by the individual payers to the collection point for qualitative inspection and receipts from the collector. 25X1
25X1
25X1
68. [redacted] the Korimsang village (Tongnim-ni, Mundok-kun, P'yongan-namdo) [redacted] received from the district (Ri) people's committee three (3) bags of fertilizer for his paddy, 3,000 P'yong in all. The fertilizer, which appeared to have been produced at the Hungnam Fertilizer Factory, was repayed in the autumn in grain, one (1) bag of rice per bag of fertilizer or in money, 2,000 Won for a bag of fertilizer. Though the rationed fertilizer was very expensive, the farmers made an effort to buy further quantities from the government. [redacted] some farmers used hot-floor ashes to fertilize their soil. 25X1
25X1
69. The farm work [redacted] was facilitated by tractors rented from the Oxen and Horses Rental Station, a water pump called "Muja" (phonetic), and farm cattle. The rental of the tractors from the rental station was paid on the autumn in grain, and the water pump was owned by the villager. There were only ten (10) farm households out of the 54 in all, who owned farm cattle [redacted] 25X1
25X1
70. The farmers [redacted] suffered from the manpower shortage every year. The labor shortage was eased sometimes by paid day-laborers from other villages and by a group of youth league members. [redacted] the farmers were helped by groups of North Korean soldiers and clerical workers. 25X1
25X1
71. As for the farms other than the rice paddy in each district (Ri), the government delivers the district (Ri) people's committee an order in which crops to be grown in the area, are designated. The district office then, according to this government notice, establishes production quotas for its individual farmers. On this occasion, farmers

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are allowed to show preference as to crops they grow in those areas exempted from the government allocation. In case of any failure in production, namely a decrease in production below the production quota, the farmers concerned must make up for it in grains of their own, and if a surplus is produced over the quota, it comes into the possession of the producer.

72. [redacted] area had three (3) boats for fishing, which were manned by villagers, who were experienced in fishing, under the control of the cooperative. The fishermen in this village, selected by the cooperative, were warned by the Yonho Police Unit of the Mundok-kun Internal Affairs Station, not to go far out to sea, lest they should be captured by South Korean ships plying on the water. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] the fishermen were guarded by a motor-boat of the National Fishing Cooperative Association located at T'aeyang-san (YD 058739) close by his area. 25X1
25X1

73. [redacted] fishermen going fishing were given at the internal affairs station a clearance permit in which the fishing period of time was prescribed. And if the period fell due and the fishing was on the way, the permit should be renewed at the station. Any violation against this regulation on renewal would be fined. 25X1

74. The people in the Korimsang village (Tongnim-ni, Mundok-kun, P'yongan-namdo) raised oxen, pigs, dogs, chickens, ducks, and geese. The ox-raising was for farm labor, the pigs for pork, money or for manure, the dogs for dog-meat and the household watch, and the chickens and geese were for eggs and meat.

75. Under consecutive cloudy and foggy days with little rain, the rice plant on the paddy was apt to be attacked with a plant fever which withered the afflicted rice, or annoyed by various insects, such as "Nut" (phonetic), which fed on plant leaves, and so with other crops on the field. [redacted] the insect, "Nut", caused a great deal of damage to various crops, and some animals also died of a disease. 25X1

76. [redacted] many [redacted] in the North died of several epidemic diseases. [redacted] 25X1
25X1
25X1

77. The medical care for the populace [redacted] was available at the People's Hospital, located in Sangp'al-li some four (4) kilometers from the area. The hospital had little medicine and equipment, and was good for nothing to the people. [redacted] 25X1
25X1

78. The nearest people's hospital [redacted] was in Sangp'al-li, some four (4) kilometers from the Korimsang village (Tongnim-ni, Mundok-kun, P'yongan-namdo). [redacted] 25X1
25X1

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District (Ri) Labor Party - Chairman

Village Cell - Chairman

Sub-cell - Chief

Party member

89. [redacted] the labor party structure as follows:

25X1

County (Kun) Labor Party Committee

District (Ri) Labor Party Committee

Village Cell - Chairman

Sub-cell - Chief

party member

Government structure in his locality was:

County (Kun) People's Committee

District (Ri) People's Committee

Village neighborhood - Chief

neighborhood members (villagers)

The structure of the internal affairs station [redacted] was as follows:

25X1

County (Kun) Internal Affairs Station

Police Unit

[redacted]

25X1

90. The government system in [redacted] (Kun) was as follows:

25X1

Mundok-kun People's Committee

Tongnim-ni People's Committee

Village neighborhoods

91. The greetings between average North Koreans are: "How are you? (Annyong-hasimnikka) and "Good-bye!" (Annyonghi-toragasipsio). [redacted] since the Communist regime in North Korea, the average youth had worsened in his good manners. For example, unlike those under the Japanese regime, who were courteous and well-mannered to their seniors, most of the present youth in the North passed by their elders without greeting them.

25X1

92. The people [redacted] addressed their colleagues, "Tongmu" (comrade), and called their seniors "Tongji" (comrade).

25X1

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- 93. Once a month on the average [redacted] movies of the Soviet Union and North Korea, which pictured the Soviet farming by tractors, factory installations in Russia, the Soviet armed forces' activities in World War II, and the ceremonies and events for the August 15 liberation in the North. Many of these movies dealt with agriculture. [redacted] various plays performed by local youth league members as memorial events. Among the most popular songs were the Song of the People's Armed Forces, and the Song of General KIM Il-sŏng. 25X1
- 94. [redacted] newspapers and books [redacted] the Democratic Korea (Minju Chosŏn), the P'yŏngan-namdo Daily Press (P'yŏngnam Ilbo), the Farmers' Press (Nongmin Sinmun), the Students' Press (Haksaeng Sinmun), and "Masterpieces by Lenin". In North Korea, newspapers for farmers were delivered by newsmen, who handled the subscription for papers from individuals, and magazines were served at stores throughout the North. The monthly subscription rates were 40 Wŏn for the Farmers' Press and 60 Wŏn for the Democratic Korea. 25X1
- 95. The North Koreans regardless of position or status observed holidays on 1 May, 15 August, and 1 January [redacted] They closed business on these days. 25X1
- 96. [redacted] 25X1
- 97. [redacted]
- 98. [redacted]
- 99. [redacted]
- 100. Any visitor or boarder is required to call on the neighborhood chief to report on his visit and is subject to registration at the district (ri) people's committee, where he has to enter his exact boarding period of time in the visitors' ledger. Any violator of this registration control, according to the police security regulations, would be fined 500 to 600 Wŏn to be paid each by the boarder and the host.
- 101. [redacted] 25X1
- 102. The Yŏnho Police Unit had the most immediate effect on the population [redacted] The police unit, [redacted] four (4) or five (5) police, was in charge of the internal security [redacted] 25X1
- 103. [redacted] the police personnel were very kind to the population. 25X1
- 104. Among the government and party undertakings [redacted] were the government's purchase of farm products and the ceaseless party meetings for the farmers [redacted] The farmers complained of these tiresome meetings, in which less than half of the farmers participated. 25X1
- 105. The government's purchase of farm products in the autumn of 1954 brought complaints and dissatisfaction by the people [redacted] They also had some grievances against rehabilitation work and tax-in-kind. 25X1

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106. Most of the farmers [redacted] area rejected the cooperative in their area, which was due to the partial allocation of labor days to the individual cooperative members. In other words those idlers in the cooperative earned more labor days for better living than the hard-workers, which resulted in ill-feeling by most members against the cooperative. Thus, a majority of the member-farmers tried to break with the cooperative, reject the Communist regime, and longed for freedom. 25X1

107. [redacted]

108. [redacted]

109. The individuals in North Korea were unable to take any blunt manner in resisting the Communist regime. They could do nothing but talk in whispers with each other. 25X1

110. [redacted]

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