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SECRET [redacted]

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24 August 1951
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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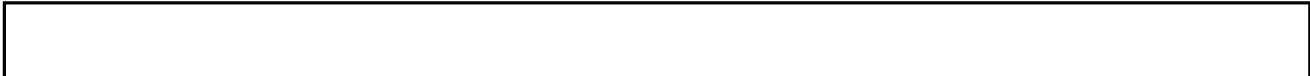
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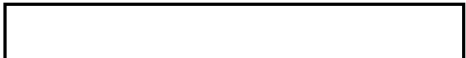
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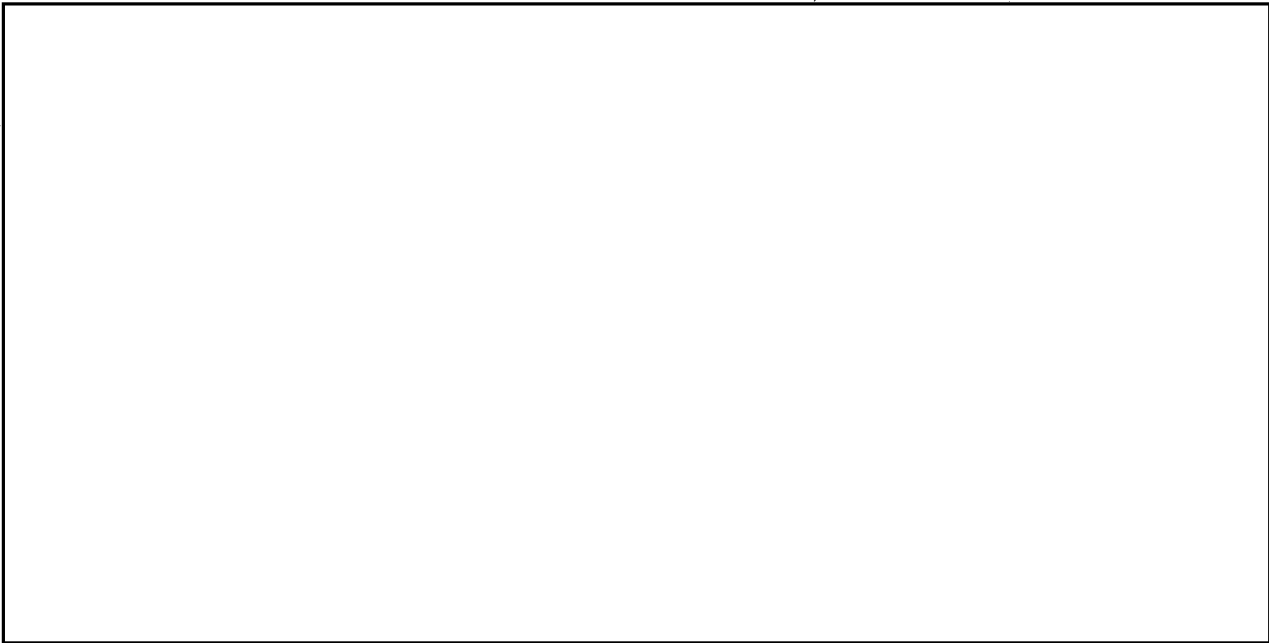
BIOLOGY

1. Soviet Development of BW Defense Methods:

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[Redacted]
19 Jun 51
CONFIDENTIAL

A Canton newspaper, NAN-fang JIH-PAO, dated 29 March 1951, quoted a Tass report that Soviet scientists condemned General MacArthur for large-scale preparations for BW and stated that the USSR is developing methods to combat such warfare.

COMMENT: Although there has been considerable Soviet propaganda on the general subject of BW, this is the first public mention of Soviet development of what presumably are methods for BW defense.



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3. Plant Breeding Research in USSR:

"Socialist Agriculture"
(USSR Newspaper)
15 Jul 51
Recd: 1 Aug 51
UNCLASSIFIED

A vast program to develop new crop varieties adapted to the steppe and semi-desert area of the USSR is being conducted by the All-Union Institute of Plant Growing. The primary objective is the development of crop varieties resistant to the extreme heat and drought of the Turkmen SSR, the Prikaspiskaya depression (northwest of the Caspian Sea) and the southern Ukraine. The World Collection of crops, located at the All-Union Institute

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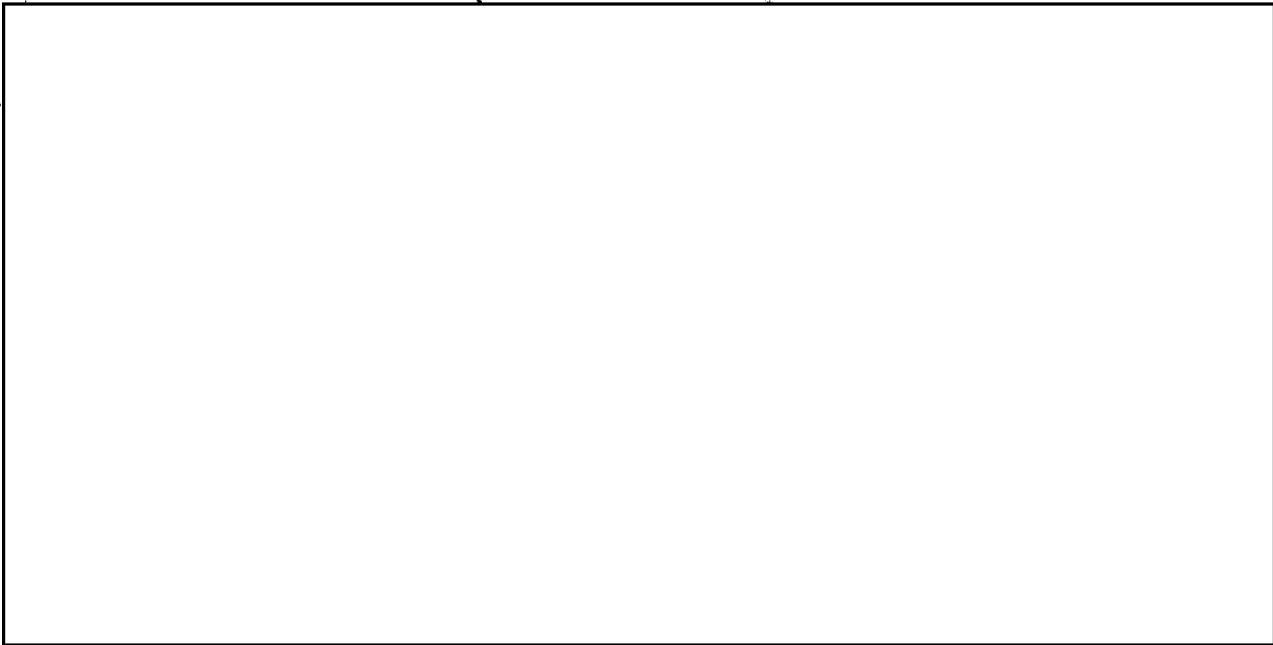
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of Plant Growing, serves as a basic source of material for the program. Local experiment stations in these areas have received 12,000 samples of cotton, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, forages, oil crops, and citrus crops.

COMMENT [redacted]: This report, supported by information from other sources, indicates that Soviet plant breeders are continuing to give major attention to heat and drought resistance in their crop plants and that disease resistance still occupies a secondary position in their over-all program. The implication is clear that plant life in the USSR continues to be vulnerable to biological warfare agents. The World Collection of plants was originally established under the regime of N. I. Vavilov who, as Lysenko's strongest opponent, was purged in 1940. It is extremely doubtful, however, whether the Soviets will benefit materially from this remarkable collection of germ plasm so long as they continue to exclude all methods of plant improvement based upon modern genetics.

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CHEMISTRY

4. Hydrogen Peroxide Development in the USSR:

CIA/HICOG
HITE 01258
TFI-00328/3
15 Jun 51
SECRET

A new Soviet purchase order for considerable amounts of manufacturing equipment, including ceramic vacuum columns, for hydrogen peroxide was placed in the Spring of 1951 with SAG Hescho, Soviet Zone of Germany.

The delivery date and final destination of the equipment are unknown.

COMMENT: Ceramic vacuum columns are now used in Germany as part of the equipment employed in the manufacture of 35% hydrogen peroxide, but are probably suitable for making 90% hydrogen peroxide as well.

This is the latest in a series of orders which indicate a continuing and fairly large-scale effort to construct plants within the USSR for producing hydrogen peroxide. These orders imply that the Soviets are in the plant-building rather than the production stage, and that facilities for making high-test-peroxide (HTP) production equipment in adequate amounts are not available within the USSR.

The only conceivable use for large quantities of HTP is in Walther-type submarine propulsion units.

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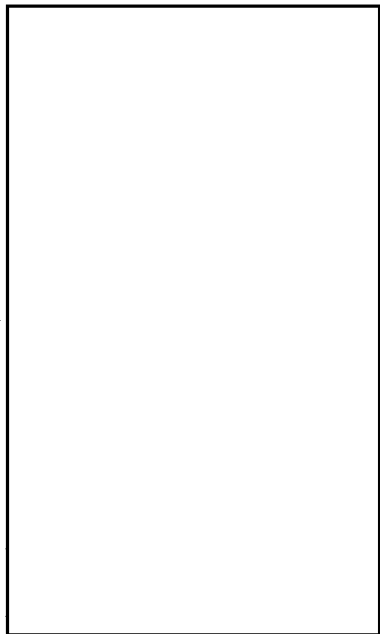
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The Walther submarine was a German World War II development, and used concentrated (85% - 90%) hydrogen peroxide, a 90-ton supply of which permitted these craft to travel submerged for six hours at a speed of 26 knots.

5.

East German Export of Paraldehyde Mixture to USSR:

Handwritten initials and date: "2/17"



Buna-Schkopen chemical plant produces a paraldehyde-alcohol (45% - 55%) mixture for export to USSR ostensibly for the production of butadiene, the basic raw material for the manufacture of synthetic rubber. In addition, this mixture can be readily converted to a rocket fuel by diluting with alcohol to a 30% paraldehyde-70% alcohol ratio.

On 21 June 50 the planned production goal for this chemical plant during 1951 was established as 30,000 tons of paraldehyde mixture. On 14 Nov 50 the planning department issued the first Quarter forecast for 1951 indicating that annual production was to be increased 36%.

On 30 Jan 51 DAHA Chemie issued "Export Allotments of the G.D.R. for 1951", calling for Schkopen to export to USSR 45,000 tons of the paraldehyde-alcohol mixture, a 50% increase over the original plan.

COMMENT: The large increase in planned export of this mixture may imply either an acute shortage of rubber, a large expansion of the synthetic rubber program, or a stockpiling of a potential rocket fuel in a very logical and convenient method.

MEDICINE

6. Concentration of Physicians in Rumanian Resettlement Area:

State, Bucharest
Weeks 26
29 Jun 51
SECRET

Estimates indicate that 50-75,000 persons have been evacuated from the Rumanian side of the Rumania-Yugoslavia border. The evacuated area reportedly extends along the full length of the border and is 30-40 miles wide. In order to care for the requirements of evacuees and to prevent epidemics, 120 physicians have been ordered to the resettlement areas.

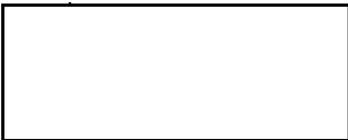
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COMMENT: Regardless of the reported shortage of physicians and medical supplies elsewhere in Rumania, medical doctors are being concentrated in the re-settlement area. This is probably indicative of non-immunized civil population lacking adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities in that area.

7. Rumanian Acquisition of "Gift" Drugs:



Early in 1951 it was reported that Rumanian authorities have been retaining ten per cent of the medicines sent in gift packages from private citizens in the United States.

Authorities use a syringe to withdraw part of the contents of penicillin bottles containing more than a million units. Experiments to produce penicillin at Sinaia have failed.

COMMENT: Numerous reports have been received of the serious shortages of medicines, particularly antibiotics, in other Soviet Satellites. This item indicates that the Rumanians also are very anxious to procure additional penicillin. The Rumanian pharmaceutical industry has been extremely under-developed but with the help of the USSR more and more products, including sulfa drugs, are being manufactured. A July broadcast from Bucharest reported that some of the factories producing medicines had completed this year's program ahead of schedule. Nevertheless, other reports indicate that during the past year and a half Rumania has received "medicines" from Czechoslovakia and Western Germany, and penicillin from Holland, Sweden, and Eastern Germany. A center in Bucharest receives penicillin and distributes it only to the Army and hospitals. It is believed that, while apparently there is little or no penicillin available to civilians, it is quite probable that the military has adequate supplies and, in fact, may be stockpiling the drug.

Additional evidence confirms the fact that confiscation of a certain portion of the drugs contained in gift packages is a standard procedure of most of the Satellite governments. Other reports have indicated that the Satellite governments encourage private citizens to request drugs from the "West" as one means of obtaining medicines in short supply.

8. Purchase of Large Plasma-Producing Plant by Soviet Satellites:

Army,
R-1200-51
9 May 51
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a large freeze-drying plasma

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plant (capacity 1,100 bottles of plasma per week). Since then, facilities have been extended for large-scale production and storage. Although these are long-range projects, taking from 6 to 12 months to attain full production, it has been pointed out that eventual capacity of these plasma plants is far in excess of peacetime requirements. This large excess can be stored indefinitely. The plants can also be used for production of antibiotics, vaccines and, with certain modifications, can be converted for production of BW agents.

COMMENT: This is the first information concerning the Soviet Satellite purchase of plasma-processing equipment [redacted] No information is given as to which country purchased the plant or its location.

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9. Supply of Antimalarial Drugs to China:

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Army, [redacted]
R-1200-51
9 May 51
SECRET

[redacted]

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Simultaneously, 1,200 tons of quinine were ordered from the Netherlands. Prior to the American ban on exports 19 Nov 50, China received large orders of antimalarials from U. S. firms believed to be transshipped via India.

COMMENT: This confirms information received previously that China has been ordering large quantities of antimalarials. The amount demanded is far in excess of pre-1950 consumption and might indicate a large civilian antimalarial campaign. The highest incidence of malaria in China is along the Indo-Chinese and Burmese borders. No other antimalarial control measures have been noted and there has been none of the propaganda build-up with which Communist countries usually herald such a project.

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11. Increased Production of Rubber Medical Equipment in Eastern Germany:



11 Jul 51
Recd: 23 Jul 51
CONFIDENTIAL

On 1 March 1951 the Rubber Works in Berlin/Weissensee reportedly will start production of catheter, throat, and stomach tubes in quantities sufficient to cover the requirements of hospitals and doctors in the German

Democratic Republic.

COMMENT: Although this is the first report of production of this type of medical equipment in Eastern Germany, recent information indicates increased production of all types of medical and scientific equipment. In consideration of German technical and industrial ability, this industry may well be expanded to provide sufficient equipment not only for East German needs but for the USSR and Satellites as well.

12. Transfer of Hospitals from Chinese Coastal Cities:



During June, 1951, Chinese Communist authorities commenced moving hospitals from the Wenchow and Linhai (28-53N/121-07E) coastal areas to a mountainous area in the northern part of Chekiang Province. It is also reported that there was an influx of various military units into the coastal regions.

COMMENT: There are no indications of unusual outbreaks of disease or heavy influx of population to warrant movement of hospitals into the mountainous area, nor does this report indicate that these are mobile military hospitals. This inland movement will leave the coastal cities without adequate civil medical protection. It is noteworthy that the population of Wenchow alone is more than 630,000, whereas the largest city in the mountain area has a population of only 60,000.

It is possible that the evacuated hospitals may be used as barracks, living quarters and office space for the incoming military units.

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13. Overburdened Chinese Communist Medical Facilities:

FBIS No. 138
Far East
10 Jul 51
Recd: 26 Jul 51
RESTRICTED

It is reported from Hong Kong that shrines in Canton were being converted into temporary hospitals to accommodate wounded soldiers from Korea. Trainloads of wounded stream into Canton daily and all hospitals are crowded to capacity.

COMMENT: [REDACTED] Analysis of numerous reports indicates the inadequacies of medical facilities in and near the combat zone, the most important area for the treatment of wounded personnel. Conversion of religious shrines, as well as evidence that there is no space in any of the hospitals under command of the Central and South China Military Area, are indicative of the great strain on available medical facilities in these regions.

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14. Diversion of U. S. Antibiotics through Belgium to the Soviet Orbit:

CIA 631362
State, Brussels, 1605
20 Jun 51
Recd: 18 Jul 51
CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

quently the shipment was diverted to Rumania. Although not actually stated, it was implied that the penicillin was of U. S. origin, processed and packaged in Belgium for re-export.

COMMENT: Past evidence indicates that both Belgium and Switzerland have been involved in transshipment to Satellite countries. Switzerland is in no way obligated to abide by U. S. interpretations of what should not enter into East-West trade. Although Switzerland has been cooperating to some extent, the U. S. Department of Commerce is now denying U. S. licenses for export to Switzerland.

There have been numerous references to Belgium's channeling of pharmaceuticals to Satellites through Switzerland and other countries. Apparently those concerned with the matter in Belgium take the stand that the ultimate destination requirements of the U. S. Department of Commerce are satisfied by the "nationalizing" of the products through processing and packaging.

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