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(SSU Note: The following is information taken from a statement by a German resident merchant of Mukden.)

1. "When the news of the end of the war came, there was a general feeling of relief in Mukden. People had expected the worst, seeing tank barricades and gun positions being erected in the main streets and witnessing a chaotic attempt of evacuation of Japanese women and children.
2. Japanese army units were busy dismantling the gun positions in the streets. There was peace and order, although a tense atmosphere prevailed, as the Red Army was rapidly progressing towards Mukden. But most people expected an orderly occupation, especially due to the fact that the Soviet Union was an ally of China and it was to Chinese territory they came.
3. Advance forces of airborne troops arrived in the afternoon of 19 August. They were received with expressions of spontaneous joy by the people, who offered the soldiers food and drink. Immediate connection was established by the advance forces with the local community of Russian emigrants. Emigrants of known anti-Soviet leanings were arrested. The chief of the local Nazi group, a lecturer of German and Latin at the Mukden Medical College was also arrested.
4. My first connection with the Red Army was made on the following day. Three officers and one driver came in, led by a local Tartar and a neighbor of mine. They demanded my car and after promising to return the car on the same night "when all their equipment had arrived" they left without doing so. I have never seen my car since. On the afternoon of 20 August, a First Lieutenant, accompanied by a local emigrant, visited me and demanded cameras. He gave me three minutes to produce my valuable camera, secret military plans, etc. When I told him it would be absurd to expect to find military plans in a German merchant's house and also that I had no camera, he threatened to shoot my whole family. I invited him to search my house. Obviously convinced about the truth of my assertion, he produced two bottles of beer, which I had to drink with him.

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5. Various officers including two from the "Anti Rasvetka" gave me orders to collect German property such as guns, typewriters and cameras. The collection orders were always given by the commandant. Eight hunting rifles and 6 revolvers were collected. On the following day, accompanied by two officers, I collected 33 cameras. Later in the day, I was forced to give the officers in charge a list of my office equipment purchased during the last few years. Two days later, the office was cleared of all typewriters and portable furniture. All the desks and cupboards were forced open and contents thrown out and completely upset.

6. Many arrests were made on 21 August. Troops, now in the city in great numbers, rounded up leading Japanese, as well as the officials of the German Consulate. There seemed to have been still no friction with the population, who overlooked small pilferages of street stalls, being glad to be liberated from the Japanese regime. In these days, however, looting of godowns, factories and stores began. It seemed that occupation troops investigated the contents first and after selecting the more valuable things, invited the mob to continue what had been started. Many fires were started and groups of ruffians marched through the streets on expeditions of their own. The commandant had issued a proclamation that life should go on as usual, guaranteeing personal safety and property, but it seemed that this proclamation was of little value. Soldiers had now begun to stop people on the streets and take valuable pocket articles.

7. Visits and searches in the homes increased. The officers visited me continuously. On 26 August, a general with six officers inspected my house but I was assured afterwards that no more than one room would be confiscated. The next morning, the same officer billeted himself with us, leaving again after depositing some clothing, two guards, and giving instructions on how to arrange the furniture. We were busy with the latter, when he came back with six or seven soldiers heavily armed with Brownings. We were told to vacate the house within two hours. We were allowed to pack and take clothes, etc., but no furniture. We pleaded for small living quarters or for more time but were refused. We were continuously watched by the soldiers who had distributed themselves all over the house while we packed. We were later stranded on the road with our baggage when a Dutch gentleman invited us to the civilian internment camp where we were given something to eat and also offered shelter for the night. It was found out however, during the afternoon, that a neighboring house was not cleared and we moved to our friends flat there. After 24 hours of rain which afforded us some rest, a Major, a Captain, a First Lieutenant and two soldiers billeted themselves in the downstairs office quarters of the flat.

8. The next morning the Captain invited us downstairs for lunch and told us he expected my friend and me, as well as our wives, to join them for dinner at night. Afterwards we should have to go

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with them on a hunt for valuable stores. He was especially interested in clothing material and he gave us until evening to find out about stores. We had to expect the worst from the party, and as the looting job could not be turned down because of threats we found no other alternative but to move to the small house of another German.

9. On September 2, a Lieutenant with an unknown emigrant visited the house again, introducing himself as the "Rayon Chef". The same emigrant brought a party of five officers and two men to us the next day, a few hours after Mr. Rachim had asked us to give him one pearl necklace and one gold watch as "presents for a Russian General". The two soldiers lined up all six men of the house and searched our pockets. Anything of value was taken while we were threatened with revolvers and knives. Meanwhile, the junior officers started to search the ground floor of the house and took some suitcases stored there. After looting downstairs, the two junior officers and one soldier went upstairs and took all suitcases, emptied the wardrobe and chest of drawers, brought everything downstairs and with revolvers, forced us to load the baggage on the truck. My own loss, contained in 9 trunks and suitcases, can be estimated at about US \$5,000.

10. With another gentlemen, I immediately went to the Commandant. A young officer was ordered to proceed to our house to investigate and made a detailed report. We took him to the "Rayon Chef" who led the looting party to our house, but he now disclaimed any knowledge of the men of the looting party. As the truck was not marked with any number, we could, unfortunately give no clues. As we expected, we never again heard anything concerning the matter. Although we felt safe from further looting parties, as there was nothing left, a drunken soldier broke into the house shortly after lunch one day and with pointed revolver forced us to give him the cash we had in our pockets.

11. On 10 September, Mr. Rachim told me that our house was not occupied. It would however, be occupied again and in the meantime he would buy my furniture. He went over to the house with me. The condition of the place can hardly be described. All my food and drink stores had been consummated, the tins and bottles were lying everywhere, together with hundreds of empty vodka bottles, egg shells, etc. Couches and cushions were slit open; all curios, cutlery, carpets, curtains, mirrors, easy chairs, gramophone records, radio apparatus, record player, linen and most of the porcelain was stolen. The large pieces of furniture in scratched and spoiled condition were left. He offered me a sum of one-third the value of the furniture, but under the circumstances I could do nothing better than accept. The house was not occupied by Russian soldiers again.

12. Throughout September and October, the whole town was searched for items worth taking. The sentiments of friendship towards the liberators had changed with practically the entire population. It was unsafe to walk on the roads. Chinese of all classes were sometimes

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rounded up for work in buildings occupied by Soviet forces. Truckloads of machinery taken from factories was transported away. Japanese and German engineers were forced to assist in dismantling and packing the parts.

13. At the end of October, I was called by Messrs. Skorniakoff and Kukarkin to the office of the Wnesch-Torg concerning my house. Major Novikov, who had recently arrived from Moscow, told me that their organization would be interested in buying the house. I told him that in order to fulfill all obligations, especially due to the large loss of personnel in our firm, the house could only be sold at a fair price and only if such sale would not cause any difficulties to me afterwards. He mentioned that the Chinese Government had granted them the rights to buy property here, and for me it would be better to sell, as the Chinese would confiscate everything without compensation. He offered a ridiculous price and I refused. Then he told me that he would confiscate the house. I replied that I could do nothing against such a decision but we were in China and the house could not be carried away; it must remain for final decision by the Chinese Government. He answered that he could not protect the house further and it would soon be in a similar condition to most Japanese houses. He ordered me to come back two hours later with my decision. When I visited again, another English speaking Major talked with me. Twice, he increased the price but it was still ridiculous. A few days later, soldiers of the so-called "Chinese Red Army", apparently recruited from Manchuria, occupied the house. For some time it was a center for propaganda leaflet distribution, the whole forecourt being filled with cases of leaflets.

14. After a few days, a German acquaintance called on me and advised me to come to terms with the Wnesch-Torg. He told me they were now offering five times the figure mentioned at first. It was still ridiculous. After a few days, Mr. Garbuchia came and told me Major Novikov did not understand my behavior; they could send me to Siberia for five years for not cooperating with the occupation forces. Furthermore, they were now offering me one-third of the price I myself had considered correct. All hopes were shattered when the announced evacuation by Russian troops on November 13th was repudiated. With the prospect of a long occupation by the Red Army, no chance to earn anything, and being at the end of former resources, I was taken to the Wnesch-Torg to sign the purchasing contract.

15. One month later, I was again called upon by a lawyer from Harbin who had made up a new contract, not only in Russian, but also in Chinese, and demanded another signature. Furthermore, he took me to the Court for registration of the sale. The clerk in charge was not in. The court officials refused to sign anything and sought to delay the matter. More or less under duress, they consented to stamp the sales contracts after a day and a half of bargaining.

16. After a long suspense, the Russians started to make preparations for withdrawal at the beginning of March. The more valuable articles having been dispatched already, one could see trucks filled with

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furniture, even with doors, windows, etc. Our office as well, was once more visited in February. The locks were forced open and writing desks, book shelves, etc. carried away. It is generally known, however, that in the latter period of the occupation the patience of the majority of the population was exhausted and single soldiers disappeared, or new looting attacks were opposed by strong self defense from the Chinese side. My description of personal experience could be repeated in a similar sense from many quarters. Unfortunately, my general observations are limited because during the occupation it was more advisable to remain at home. But details of the first few days of observation could be given by the inmates of the Internment Camp. My own experiences can be verified by many Chinese. I believe that the former emigrants readily assisted the Red Army in tracing people to be arrested as well as in looting. Most of it was done in the hope of personal gain, some perhaps out of fear.

[SSU Washington Note: See A-69039 for previous report of Major NOVIKOFF in Mukden.]

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