

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany/Korea/Viet Nam	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	(b)(1) (b)(3)
SUBJECT	Medical and Other Aid from East Germany to Korea and Viet Nam	DATE DISTR.	2 June 1953	
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Medical aid to Korea

- Medical aid from East Germany to Korea appears to be organized by Professor Linser. The East German Ministry of Health, however, is of the opinion that many of the orders actually come from the East German Ministry for Foreign Affairs. An aid program is organized in this way: Professor Linser telephones Dieter Baumann of the Ministry of Health (drugs and medicaments) and tells him that a stated sum of money, medicaments, and medical equipment are available. Linser asks the Ministry for suggestions for the use of this money and at the same time informs the Ministry of the articles which are particularly needed. Baumann then works out what shipments are possible and passes an order to DHZ-Pharmazie, Dresden. DHZ then tries to fulfill the order as far as possible from surplus materials and stored material. The supplies are then gathered and payment to DHZ follows through the "Volkssolidaritaet", Berlin N 54, Rykestrasse.
- The last reported delivery to Korea was in December 1952. This was for goods to the value of 700,000 DM East. Delivery consisted chiefly of:
 - Disinfectants
 - Antiseptic preparations
 - Catgut (270,000 marks worth)
 - Penicillin
 - Sulfonamide
 - Small amounts of atebirin

Sera and vaccines were not included in this delivery. The catgut was of very poor quality.
- Transport was via Siberia. The packing cases had to be winter proof. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs particularly emphasized the importance of rushing this delivery so as to get it to its destination before the heaviest winter frosts set in.

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4. Besides the above, the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) in East Germany recently sent a field medical truck.

Medical aid to Viet Nam

5. The last reported shipment was in October-November 1952. The process for shipment is practically the same as for Korea. This last delivery was worth 350,000 to 360,000 DM East. It consisted of:

All spare Atebrin in East Germany, down to the smallest stocks.
All spare plasmochin in East Germany down to the smallest stocks.
Catgut.
(The plasmochin was old army stock).

Visit of a Korean Delegation to East Germany

6. In October 1952, the North Korean Vice-Minister of Defense, General KIM IL visited East Germany. He was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Finance and a representative of the North Korean foreign office. This delegation was received in the East German Ministry of Health by the Minister Luitpold Steidle and Secretary of State Jenny Matern. Steidle handed over one set of operating equipment, one microscope, and various medical text books in the German language.
7. The Koreans (speaking through a Korean-Russian and then a Russo-German interpreter) stated that:
- a. The supply position in North Korea was extremely bad. East Germany should deliver whatever it could; everything could be used. KIM IL said that his doctors had asked him particularly to report that the North Korean soldiers were becoming casualties as a result of even the smallest wounds, particularly head wounds of the type resulting from mountain warfare. (He was probably referring to secondary infections). He referred to the shortage of instruments, operation facilities, and medicaments of all sorts.
 - b. KIM IL also stated that underground hospitals were being built. He did not state where this was taking place, but said that one hospital with 3,000 beds and two with 1,000 beds each were being built.


Korean Students in East Germany

8. a. The conversation with KIM IL then turned to the subject of the text books which he had been given. Steidle wanted to apologize for the fact that they were only in German but KIM IL said that almost 30% of the Korean students understood German and that it was being widely taught. He then said that 300 Korean students were to come to East German universities. They were to go to Greifswald and Leipzig and were all to study medicine.
- b. It is believed that they have actually arrived, although this belief is based only on an inference from a statement made in the Ministry of Health.

Korean children in East Germany?

9. Dr. (Wilhelm) Geiger, head of the public health office at Dresden, stated in late January 1953 that 300 Korean children were then at Moritzburg near Dresden. The children, whose ages are not known, were in a bad way with lice and bugs. The Ministry of Health feared an outbreak of cholera.

Comments:

1. Professor Dr. Med. Karl Linser  He held leading posts in the Ministry of Health and its administrative predecessor until quite recently. He is now Professor of Dermatology in the Humboldt University, East Berlin. (b)(1) (b)(3)
2. It is not clear if paragraphs 8 and 9 are related. (b)(1) (b)(3)

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