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**MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE ABSTRACTS
OF
UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

CIA/SI 25.28-51

21 November 1951

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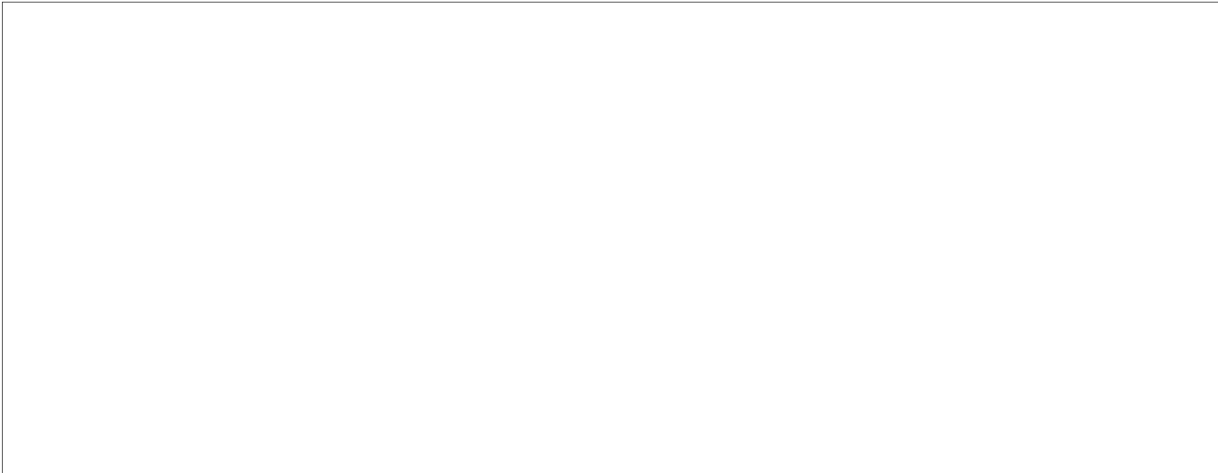
1. SovZone (Germany) Plant Switches Drug Production to Military Needs.(b)(1)
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[redacted] FBIS, Western Europe

and Near East, No. 185, It was announced on September 11 that the
17 Sept 1951[redacted] Soviet Control Commission instructed the
State-owned Pharma plant, formerly the
[redacted] Shering plant, in Berlin-Adlershof to
switch its present production program to pharmaceuticals especially
needed by the Armed Forces Medical Service. Production of drugs
for civilian use will have to be further curtailed. The bulk
of Pharma's production has been sent to North Korea for some
time and these shipments will be further increased.ANALYST'S COMMENT:[redacted] It is
reported that "At the end of August 1951, the Soviet Zone
drug output was only 43% of pre-war. This is quite inadequate
to meet East Zone requirements of essential medical supplies."
This is possibly true because of the extensive attempt to im-
port drugs, the reported shortages and the increasing quantities
of German-made drugs that have been among captured enemy materials
in Korea. Even so, latest reports of captured enemy medical
supplies indicate a predominance of U. S. origin, largely anti-
biotics, vaccines, insulin and sulfa drugs, with moderate quan-
tities of Swiss and German origin.2. Plans to Provide Medical Supplies and Personnel from Communist
China to Viet Minh Areas.[redacted] FBIS, FAR EAST, No. 206
16 Oct 1951[redacted] RED GEN. CHEN KENG, Governor of Yunnan
and concurrently commander-in-chief of
the "Volunteers" earmarked for Indo-
china intervention, flew to Nanning from Yunnan October 5 for
a 3-day secret military conference with Red high brass in South
and Southwest China, according to reports published by the
China Union Press. Among decisions reached at this high-level
discussion: Provide medical personnel and supplies for future
needs.ANALYST'S COMMENT:[redacted] This con-
firms several reports indicating support of Viet Minh forces
by Chinese Communist Forces. Other reports stated the establish-
ment of about 5 or 6 (or more) large military hospitals in South
China near the Tonkin-Laos border for use by the Viet Minh forces.
As spelled out in this report, it infers a stockpiling measure
of medical supplies. On the basis of the foregoing in support
of this report, it is evaluated as probably true.~~SECRET~~

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4. Chinese Obligated to Manufacture Penicillin on Large Scale Because of U. S. Embargo.



It was recently reported in a Shanghai newspaper that the Chinese Pharmaceutical Industry has been obliged to undertake the manufacture of drugs previously obtained from the U. S. The Shanghai People's Pharmaceutical Company has begun producing penicillin on a big scale since the curtailment of penicillin imported from the U. S. The manufacture of penicillin by Chinese chemists was effected by the technical staff of the Penicillin Testing Department of the East China People's Drug Company. In the course of experimentation, chemical analysts selected bacteria of the olive-shaped Q176 type. Since China is not producing refined corn syrup, which is the principal culture base of foreign-made penicillin, cottonseed cakes, lactose, and glucose are being used as substitutes. The method of "heavy juice" culture is being used to produce the incubated solution containing the penicillin which is refined and crystalized into the final product, and reportedly meets international specifications.

ANALYST'S COMMENT: In spite of the increasingly tight blockade, enormous quantities of strategic antibiotics are reaching the Chinese. The drugs captured in Korea are still predominantly American. Their own sources of pharmaceuticals are still wholly inadequate. This may represent an attempt to become independent in the event of total hostilities and complete blockade. Even though this is the first report of large-scale production of antibiotics, there are reports of hospitals buying Chinese-manufactured penicillin and for this reason the report is judged as possibly true.

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5. Shortage of Drugs in Hungary.

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[Redacted]

During the week of 16-21 July, district medical meetings were held by the Ministry of Public Health. The meetings were attended by district doctors, surgeons, and dentists, who were informed that, in view of the shortage of drugs, they would not be authorized to prescribe any drugs above the value of 10 forints without special permission. They were also told that they must check daily with their local druggists to find out what supplies were available for that day.

ANALYST'S COMMENT:

[Redacted]

the shortage of drugs in Hungary despite the large number of imports and increased production. It is known that the products of certain factories go to the Soviet and Hungarian armies. Hungary also ships drugs to the Chinese Communists.

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[Large Redacted Area]

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