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MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE ABSTRACTS
OF
UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

CIA/SI 25.16-51

11 July 1951

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1. Conscription of Chinese Medical Personnel.

FBIS Far East No. 125 21 June 1951 [redacted] Eighty per cent of the first group of 5000 Chinese doctors sent to Korea in January have died, leaving no more than 1000 to care for the wounded. Observers in Taipei estimate 14,000 doctors and nurses on the China mainland have been conscripted for service in Korea, with 4000 casualties. A Shanghai source reported 2000 doctors and 4000 nurses conscripted in that city. An attempt is being made to draft 20,000 doctors this month.

ANALYST'S COMMENT: The high mortality among medical personnel may be ascribed to the fact that physicians and nurses appear to be combatants primarily and medical corps only secondarily. The policy of persuasion in mobilizing the medical profession for the Korean war has reportedly been replaced by enforced conscription because of the apparent passive resistance on the part of medical personnel.

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(b)(3)2. Policies for Wounded and Permanently Wounded Personnel.

[redacted] [redacted] the hospitals throughout China are filled to capacity with the wounded. It is alleged that the present policy is to give all wounded enlisted men and officers a three-rank promotion upon entering the hospital. This is said to be done for morale purposes, and to encourage returning to the field of battle for more daring exploits. Upon their release from the hospital, Government authorities attempt to find each released patient a wife, with the paramount consideration being given to the fact that such women must be able and capable of working and thus help support the permanently wounded husbands.

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