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MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE ABSTRACTS
OF
UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

CIA/SI 25.25-51

10 October 1951

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1. Soviet Propaganda Claim on New Medical Preparation Refuted by Findings on U. S. Research and Production.

[redacted] The following are excerpts from a report on Russian newspaper articles, published between 27 January and 31 March 1951: (1) "A valuable medical preparation for the treatment of tuberculosis is PASK (para-aminosalicylic acid), a chemotherapeutic substance which has a powerful bacteriostatic action on the tubercle bacillus."

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(2) "The chemical industry of the capitalist countries has not yet mastered the principles of producing PASK. This problem has been solved only by the Soviet scientists and engineers."

ANALYST'S COMMENT: A review of the scientific literature shows that PAS (U. S. term) has received considerable attention in the medical world since 1946 when Guy P. Youmans published his findings on the effect of PAS on tubercle bacilli. At least five different methods of preparing this important compound were known in 1948. United States production records show that 63,300 lbs. were manufactured in 1949 in this country, increasing to at least 279,000 lbs. in 1950. According to the 1950 Buyers' Guide for Chemical Industries, there are 35 wholesale suppliers, of which 12 are domestic manufacturers. Among 22 studies in the years 1946 through 1949, listed in a recent comprehensive bibliography, there is no reference to Russian authors or journals.

2. Nurses Training Accelerated in Poland.

[redacted] the Warsaw government has increased number of special and accelerated courses for nurses and hospital attendants. The Six-Year Plan provides for 30,000 trained nurses, but only 1,000 Class I nurses and 3,500 Class II nurses have been graduated so far. Reason for intensified nurses training program is to eliminate nuns from hospitals and to provide reserve of hospital personnel in case of war. "Rome, Bollettino Danubiano, 22 Feb 51).

ANALYST'S COMMENT: This is the first report of an accelerated medical training program in Poland. It is particularly interesting since the purpose of providing reserve medical personnel in case of war is specifically mentioned. This report ties in with similar reports of medical training programs in other satellite areas.

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3. Bucharest is Without Surgical Dressings.

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[Redacted] the Rumanian government has limitless quantities of cloth for propaganda signs, but the country lacks surgical dressings for most urgent purposes. Surgeons performing major operations in Bucharest must leave incisions bare because the city is without dressings.

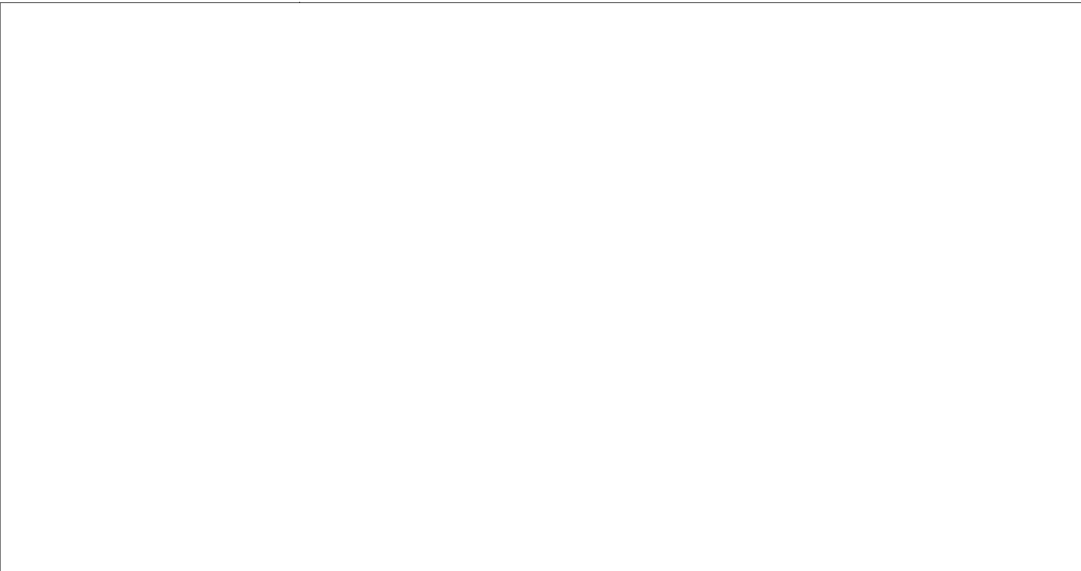
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ANALYST'S COMMENT:

[Redacted] this scarcity of an item relatively inexpensive, and easy to produce locally, suggests a shocking lack of concern for civilian medical care. It is possible that there may be a sudden and acute shortage of surgical dressings because of an acceleration in stockpiling for military use.

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5. Public Health Emphasized in the New China.

Moscow Daily Press
Review, No. 229
17 Aug 1951
(Rec'd 24 Sept 51)



A TASS release from Peking to Moscow newspapers on 15 August 1951 ascribes unprecedented development of China's public health services to the efforts of the Central People's government.

Some of the claims made are: (1) More than 80% of all districts of China now have hospitals and health centers, with an increase of more than 2½ times in the number of public hospitals as compared with the KUOMINTANG period; (2) In many areas where smallpox outbreaks previously occurred, no cases have been reported for more than a year and 60,800,000 vaccinations were done in 1950; (3) Great attention is paid to maternal and child welfare, and about 20,000 creches have been opened (14 times more than under the Kuomintang regime);

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5. Public Health Emphasized in the New China (Cont'd).

(4) Health of workers is being safeguarded, with introduction of an insurance system and organization of sanatoriums and rest homes; (5) Hygiene supervision, physical culture, and holiday camps have been started for school children; (6) Medical institutions and schools are being built, and in 1950, five times more students were accepted in the medical institutions in China than under the Kuomintang regime.

ANALYST'S COMMENT: [redacted]

The

emphasis on public health in the New China is confirmed [redacted]

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[redacted] There is no question but that this rather remarkable campaign for disease prevention is making notable progress. However, it is believed that the quality of medical education is poor and claims of achievement are exaggerated.

6. Shortages of Vaccine to Combat Foot and Mouth Disease Epizootic in Germany.

[redacted] An outbreak of foot and mouth disease is reported from Land Bremen and surrounding areas. Before the war, the center of production for foot and mouth vaccine [redacted]

[redacted] is now in the Eastern

Zone. [redacted]

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[redacted] Chief sources of vaccine in West Germany

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[redacted] are not producing enough vaccine to meet present needs. Some vaccine has been imported from Italy, but is not of the same high quality as that produced in Germany. Importation of Danish vaccine is a possible way of meeting the shortage.

ANALYST'S COMMENT: [redacted]

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[redacted] In 1947 [redacted] delivered about 2,000 liters (300 doses per liter) to Western Germany, but such deliveries ceased at the beginning of the blockade. As of September 1950,

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[redacted] producing about 4,000 liters per month of monovalent Type A, monovalent Type B, and bivalent Types A and B vaccines. The vaccine is stored at depots in each Land in East Germany, and as of September 1950, plans were promulgated to inoculate, with bivalent vaccine, the entire cattle population of East Germany. Apparently, [redacted]

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[redacted] the SovZone of Germany has much greater capabilities to combat foot and mouth disease than has Western Germany. During a foot and mouth disease epizootic in Yugoslavia in May 1951, two emergency shipments of foot and mouth vaccine were flown from Denmark to Yugoslavia. [redacted]

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6. Shortages of Vaccine to Combat Foot and Mouth Disease
Epizootic in Germany (Cont'd).



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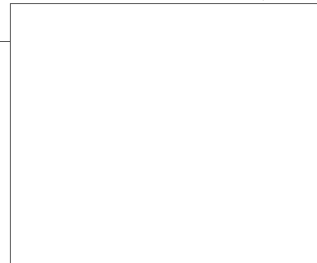
7. Construction of Hospital Cars in Hungary.

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One hundred and fifty railroad hospital cars are being rushed to completion at the Gyor factory.

ANALYST'S COMMENT:



The production of large numbers of hospital cars indicates military usage primarily.



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