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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FLD 1172

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 17 September 1948

SUBJECT Military Information: Chinese Communist Railway Fortifications in the Laoyehling Mountain Area

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

[redacted]

1. The railroad tunnel at Laoyehling (127-09,43-56) on the Kirin-Tumen railroad line is 3 li long. The tunnel is almost straight except near the entrance on the Tumen side where it curves a little. The railroad bed is of crushed granite. Water is constantly seeping out from the walls of the tunnel. This seepage is greater during the summer than during the winter. In the winter, however, the water freezes, thus making it hazardous for the trains to pass over. During the Japanese occupation, a drainage system was installed to take care of the drainage of water from the tunnel. After V-J Day, the drainage system was damaged by the Japanese troops, but the damage is slight and could easily be repaired.

2. During the latter part of February 1948, the Chinese Communists constructed thirteen large fortifications which are camouflaged to blend with the terrain. They are placed along the railroad near Laoyehling for a distance of 10 li on either side of the tunnel. The roofs of these fortifications are re-enforced with five sheets of steel plates, each steel plate being 0.3 of an inch in thickness. Each fortification has three foxholes which are connected with the fortification and with one another by communication trenches which are constantly guarded by a sentry.

3. Laoyehling Mountain (?through which the tunnel has been constructed) is a strategic point in the Kirin-Huichun-Mutanchiang triangle. The terrain is very irregular, with many valleys on either side of the mountain. The ground is very soft as there are no forests. During the summer months it would be difficult for mechanized units to penetrate this region; however, it could be easily defended.

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