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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Malaya/Burma/Hong Kong

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. AW Boon Haw (HU Wen-hu, 胡文虎), the extremely wealthy Tiger Balm King, is head of the Tiger Balm organization, an extensive landholder and a newspaper publisher. During the war he collaborated with the Japanese and now will align himself with whatever cause can contribute most to his advantage. He operates in Hong Kong, Burma and Malaya and has consistently been a rival of TAN Kah Kee, though held in incomparably less respect.
2. AW Boon Haw has, in the past, been pro-Kuomintang and his Hong Kong newspapers, the Chinese language Hsing Tao Jih Pao and the English language Hong Kong Tiger Standard have reflected those political views. It is reported that recently he was obliged to conclude an arrangement with the Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong which involved a contribution of Hong Kong \$100,000. Since that time the Hsing Tao Jih Pao has taken a conciliatory attitude toward the Communists but the Hong Kong Tiger Standard has remained anti-Communist. This is typical of AW Boon Haw's proclivity for playing both sides against the middle.
3. It is reported that AW Boon Haw was ordered to change the tone of his Singapore newspapers also. This he did, two in Singapore and others up-country becoming pro-Communist.
4. AW Boon Haw has been in Rangoon and was able to get back to Singapore only because he arrived before the authorities could put into effect an order declaring him persona non grata. Since he is back in Singapore the authorities have decided to withhold action but have warned him against any questionable activities and against the pro-Communist attitude of his newspapers.
5. AW Boon Haw is conforming to the regulations and has changed the policy of his publications to one of moderation. He is afraid to leave Singapore for fear of being unable to return.

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