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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted]

FLD 462

CD NO.

COUNTRY China/Singapore/Hong Kong

DATE DISTR. 12 JUL 50

SUBJECT Present Policy of CMSNC Toward Singapore Agency

NO. OF PAGES 1

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PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO. [redacted]

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [redacted]

[redacted]

1. On 1 June 1950 T'ANG Chuan-ch'ih*, manager of the Hong Kong office of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company (CMSNC), returned to Hong Kong on the SS CANTON.

2. It appears that the present policy of the CMSNC is not to change the Singapore agency, still held by LIM Kheng Lian (LIN Ch'ing-nien 林慶年)**, because the vessels owned by the Company are more suitable for carrying cargo than for passenger service. Furthermore, the new Chinese Communist government will require all the vessels it can lay its hands on in the China Seas, and there will be none available to trade in the South Seas area.***

3. The Chinese Communist government hopes to be able to provide new vessels for service in the South Seas in about three years time.

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* [redacted] Comment. This information casts doubt on the movements of T'ANG as reported in [redacted], which indicated that he was in Hong Kong in late May and had, in early June, recently made a trip to Peiping. [redacted] reported T'ANG's arrival in Singapore on 30 April 1950.

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Field Comment. [redacted] paragraph 2, in reporting the entertainment of T'ANG in Singapore, erroneously stated that he was warmly received by TAN Lark Sye. T'ANG was not given a particularly warm reception by TAN.

** [redacted]

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*** [redacted] Comment. The reasons given for not changing the Singapore agency appear to indicate that an expansion of CMSNC business in Singapore had been envisaged, as well as the personnel change suggested [redacted]

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