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18 MAR 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John Boidock
Bureau of East-West Trade
Office of Export Administration
Department of Commerce

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1. It is estimated, on the basis of very limited information, that China is probably now producing electronic oscilloscopes at the rate of roughly 20-25,000 units a year. Virtually all of this output of oscilloscopes appears to be allocated for internal industrial, laboratory, and military use inasmuch as available trade statistics indicate that China exports fewer than 500 oscilloscopes annually. China has imported 200-300 oscilloscopes a year from the West since the mid-1960s.

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We estimate the technical level of oscilloscope production in China to be at, or slightly less than that of the Soviet Union and the more technically sophisticated countries of Eastern Europe. There appears to be adequate diversity in the types of general purpose oscilloscopes produced in China, while a few, such as the Model SBM-11 and the SBM-14, contain specifications which are fairly close to meeting the Free World state-of-the-art. There is no way of determining whether these scopes do in fact meet these specifications.

3. Sampling oscilloscopes have been exhibited at trade fairs in China since 1970. Most of these oscilloscopes have bandwidths ranging from DC to 1000, 2000, 5000, and 8000 megahertz (MHz). All of the sampling oscilloscopes observed to date appear to fall within the

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Chinese SQ model series. The Model SQ-2, for example, is a sampling oscilloscope with a bandwidth of DC to 5000 MHz. It is equipped with plug-in and digital display units. 25X1

25X1 [redacted] the true capability of a sampling oscilloscope is best demonstrated by its operating performance because of its extreme sensitivity to changes in internal component values.

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