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NO FOREIGN DISSEM [REDACTED]



SC No. 02688/66

28 May 1966

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CODE WORD MATERIAL

NEW CLASS CHINESE DESTROYER ESCORT



RELEASE IN PART
EXEMPTIONS: (b)(1)
(b)(3)
DATE: AUG 2001

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

~~GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification~~

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216-216142

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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SC No. 02688/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
28 May 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM*

New Class Chinese Destroyer Escort

1. The Chinese Communists apparently have built a new destroyer escort (DE) which is identical in length to a Soviet RIGA-class DE and which appears to be a modified version of the RIGA.

2. It was probably built sometime after the withdrawal of Soviet technicians in 1960, and as such it would be the first major Chinese combatant surface ship not entirely of Soviet design.

RIGA-class specifications were probably followed closely for the hull, but the superstructure is higher and heavier than that of a standard RIGA.

3. the sequence of events suggests that the new DE was built before mid-1964 but may have developed serious problems which required the Chinese to pull it back up on the building ways for a major overhaul in 1965. On the other hand, it is possible that the ship was only partially completed by mid-1964 and that the activity on the building ways in late 1965 represented outfitting and checking of underwater parts prior to sea trials.

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4. Whatever its origin, there is nothing to indicate that the Chinese are about to launch a major construction program of large surface ships, and no such ships are known to be currently under construction.

[REDACTED] China shows a continued emphasis on the construction of medium-range attack submarines, small patrol vessels, minesweepers, and naval auxiliaries.

[REDACTED]

The Ship's Origin

7. The origin of this ship is not entirely clear. At first it appeared to be a conversion of one of China's four RIGA-class DEs, all of which are in the East Sea Fleet.

[REDACTED]

8. Thus, it appears that the ship [REDACTED] is probably China's fifth DE and that it is destined to be assigned to the East Sea Fleet along with the four RIGAs.

[REDACTED]

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~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Moreover, it is known that construction at all Chinese shipyards virtually came to a halt during the two years following the departure of Soviet technicians in mid-1960.

[REDACTED]

11. Assuming that the ship was built at a Chinese shipyard, the major question is whether it is of wholly Chinese design and manufacture. The Chinese built their four RIGAs with the aid of major components supplied by the USSR. Despite major changes in the superstructure, the hull [REDACTED] is basically the same as that on RIGAs [REDACTED]. This raises the possibility that the Chinese may have taken a fifth RIGA hull and added to it some design features of their own.

12. The ship appears to have improved seaworthiness and definitely has increased antiaircraft firepower. The ship remains basically an obsolescent one, however, because its gun systems do not have a high rate of fire and its antiaircraft weapons do not have automatic control.

Possible Early Design Problems

[REDACTED]

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~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM (EXCEPT UK, CANADA,
AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND)~~

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~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

[REDACTED]

14. It appears that the ship, after being tested for at least a year (mid-1964 to mid-1965), was brought to Kiangnan shipyard where there is a marine railway large enough to pull it out of the water for major overhaul.

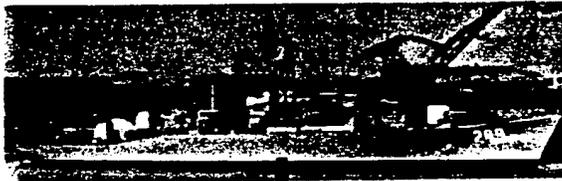
[REDACTED]

15. It is possible that the Chinese modifications to the basic RIGA design created some unforeseen problems which required the temporary removal of much of the equipment resting on the superstructure. The ship is now back in the water and, barring further difficulties, should become operational within three to six months. (See graphic.)

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**NEW CLASS CHINESE
DESTROYER ESCORT**
SHANGHAI, JAN. '66

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