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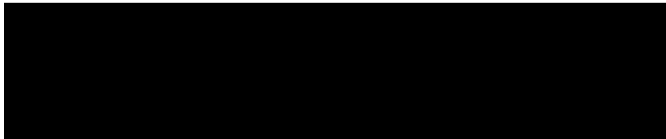
# THE OVERSEAS CHINESE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

SECTION OC-7:

## WORLDWIDE OVERSEAS CHINESE POPULATION FIGURES

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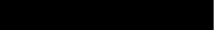
FEB 25 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FE Division

ATTENTION :  25X1A8a


SUBJECT : Memorandum Report

Worldwide Overseas Chinese Population Figures

REFERENCES :  25X1A8a

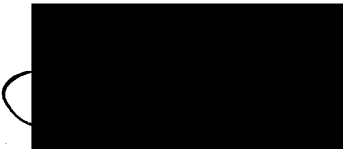
(b) Your request #808-1 dated 10 February 1954

1. In response to your request we have prepared a list of population figures for overseas Chinese communities throughout the world. These figures are based on the most recent information available to this office; however, they must be used with special consideration of date and source of information and of the definition used for overseas Chinese. These qualifications are outlined in the introduction to the list.

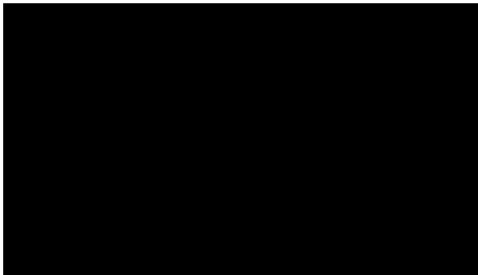
2. Data for the attached lists has been gathered from year-books, intelligence reports and  research studies.

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THE OVERSEAS CHINESE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Section OC-7:

WORLDWIDE OVERSEAS CHINESE POPULATION FIGURES

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Prepared by : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

Prepared for : [REDACTED]  
Case Number : [REDACTED] 25X1A8a

Date completed: 19 February 1954

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FEB 25 1954

#### WORLDWIDE OVERSEAS CHINESE POPULATION FIGURES

The attached lists are based on the latest information available on the size of Chinese communities beyond the borders of mainland China and the island of Formosa. These overseas Chinese groups are, for the most part, immigrants from, or descendants of immigrants from, the two southeastern Chinese provinces of Kwangtung and Fukien. The only major group not originating in one of these two provinces is a group of about 50,000-60,000 from the province of Yunnan, living in Burma.

Many of the figures listed in the table are taken from official census records or other registrations. Many others are, because of the lack of such official data, estimates based on incomplete evidence but believed to be reasonably accurate.

Certain qualifications must be borne in mind, however, in the interpretation or acceptance of these figures:

1. Reliability of source of information. Two of the major sources utilized, sources 2 and 3, are reports issued by the Chinese Nationalist Government on Formosa and seem to be somewhat exaggerated in comparison with other evidence. In the past, Formosa statistics have not proven always reliable. Source 1 cites statements of delegates to the Overseas Chinese Conference held in Taipei in October 1952 and also may be boastful exaggeration of the magnitude of their support.

2. Age and availability of information. It should be noted that some of the information presented is several years old; in two cases it is no more recent than 1938. This is because many countries have not taken an official census for many years (e.g., the last official census of Indonesia was in 1930; in Burma, 1931). Wherever possible, estimates based on trends and observations have been used. For some countries, in particular those behind the Iron Curtain, to obtain or

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verify information is difficult. In most overseas Chinese communities the rate of natural increase has been about two to three per cent per annum. Extrapolations based on this rate must, however, be tempered with information on trends of migration.

3. Definition of subject. One of the major reasons population estimates vary widely, or differ widely from official figures, is the problem of defining the subject. In some countries, persons of foreign ancestry who have become citizens are no longer considered to be members of the alien community. Some countries have special rules regarding the treatment of progeny of mixed, alien-native marriages. This is an important factor in computing the overseas Chinese because until about 1920 few women emigrated from China and the men usually married native women. In some countries a set rule delineates alien from non-alien population on the basis of percentage of alien blood or the number of generations born in the country. Because of the varying rules, many existing simultaneously within the same country, or the absence of any rules in some cases, it is difficult to properly evaluate the information available. The guide preferred by many is the test of how the individual considers himself: If he dresses as a Chinese and maintains his Chinese customs and language, he is an overseas Chinese. If he has become assimilated to the local population in most ways, then he is not. There is no way, however, of ascertaining which rules have been used in each country.

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<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Overseas Chinese</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	
<b>1. <u>NEAR EAST AND AFRICA</u></b>					
India	20,000	1952	1/	Official 1947 figure is 13,964. 2/, 3/	
Pakistan	63	1953	3/		
Ceylon	300	1945	2/, 3/	Includes 1,800 refugees from Sinkiang.	
Afghanistan	28	1947	2/, 3/		
Turkey	1,830	1953	3/		
Iran	4	1951	3/		
Arabia	6,100	1938	2/, 3/	Official figure for 1952 is 4,179. 2/, 3/	
Iraq	1	1952	3/		
Egypt	73	1952	3/		
Union of South Africa	5,000	1952	1/		
Portuguese East Africa	1,354	1952	2/, 3/		
British East Africa	380	1952	2/, 3/		
Southern Rhodesia	166	1952	2/, 3/		
Madagascar	5,358	1952	2/, 3/		
Reunion	3,800	1952	2/, 3/		
Mauritius	16,000	1952	1/, 3/		
Belgian Congo	10	1952	3/		
<b>2. <u>WESTERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE</u></b>					
Sweden	24	1948	2/, 3/		In 1948 a figure of 17,000 was reported. 2/ This figure may be more accurate.
Norway	3	1947	2/, 3/		
Denmark	900	1950	2/, 3/		
France	3,300	1952	3/		
Germany	800	1952	3/	No breakdown is given for East and West zones	
Austria	30	1952	3/		
Belgium	118	1952	3/		
Netherlands	2,017	1947	2/, 3/		
Spain	44	1940	2/, 3/		
Portugal	73	1952	2/, 3/		
Switzerland	11	1948	2/, 3/		
Greece	1	1952	3/		
Italy	260	1952	3/		
United Kingdom	2,546	1941	2/, 3/		
Maltese Islands	11,000	--	4/		Source gives no date
<b>3. <u>EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION</u></b>					
Soviet Union	1,236	1948	2/, 3/	A press report states, however, that there are about 2,500 in Gdansk and Szczecin. 5/	
Czechoslovakia	96	1947	2/, 3/		
Poland	88	1947	2/, 3/		

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<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Overseas Chinese</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>4. WESTERN HEMISPHERE</u>				
United States	118,400	1951	2/	
Canada	45,000	1952	1/	
Mexico	12,000	1951	2/, 3/	
Guatemala	3,100	1951	2/, 3/	
Honduras	300	1951	2/, 3/	
Salvador	250	1953	6/	
Nicaragua	2,500	1952	3/	
Costa Rica	850	1952	3/	
Panama	2,100	1952	3/	
Cuba	23,765	1952	3/	
Haiti	207	1953	3/	
Dominican Republic	573	1952	3/	
Jamaica	13,000	1951	2/, 3/	
Trinidad	3,100	1951	2/, 3/	
Venezuela	1,399	1952	1/, 3/	
Colombia	917	1951	3/	
Ecuador	717	1952	3/	In 1948 the population was 3,700. 2/
Peru	15,530	1952	3/	
Bolivia	78	1952	3/	
Chile	1,018	1952	3/	In 1947 the population was 2,375. 2/
Argentina	250	1952	3/	
Uruguay	120	1952	1/	
Brazil	1,000	1952	1/	
Martinique	41	1953	7/	
Guiana	3,648	1947	2/, 3/	May include Surinam; see below.
Surinam	7,000	1953	8/, 9/	See Guiana.
Dutch West Indies	1,002	1948	2/	May include Surinam.
<u>5. FAR EAST AND OCEANIA</u>				
Indonesia	2,000,000	1953	3/, 10/	
Thailand	3,000,000	1952	11/	
Burma	300,000	1954	12/	
Malaya (incl. Singapore)	3,012,415	1953	3/	
Philippines	230,000	1950	13/	
Vietnam	1,000,000	1952	3/	
Cambodia	217,928	1953	3/	
Laos	10,794	1953	14/	
Borneo	67,452	1948	3/	
Brunei	8,313	1947	3/	
Sarawak	145,119	1947	3/	
Timor (Port.)	3,500	1938	2/, 3/	
Hong Kong	2,000,000	1951	1/, 2/, 3/	
Macao	260,000	1951	2/, 3/	
South Korea	17,962	1952	3/	Pre-Korean war total for all Korea was 70,290. 2/
Japan	44,000	1952	15/	Some estimates range as high as 78,000, but these seem unlikely.

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<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of Overseas Chinese</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
5. <u>FAR EAST AND OCEANIA</u> (continued)				
Australia	13,130	1953	3/	
New Zealand	7,000	1952	1/, 3/	
New Guinea	2,600	1953	3/	
Fiji Islands	2,105	1946	2/, 3/	
Samoan Islands	301	1952	3/	1940 population was 7,198. 2/
Society Islands	7,055	1952	3/	
Hawaii	30,286	1946	3/	May be included in figures for the US.

Totals (based on first column):

Near East and Africa	60,457
Western and Southern Europe	10,127
Eastern Europe and the USSR	1,420
Western Hemisphere	257,865
Far East and Oceania	<u>12,379,957</u>
	12,709,826

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