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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

ARMY REVIEW COMPLETED

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MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION NO. 28

FOR: National Estimates Board

SUBJECT: Chinese Communist Munitions Production

The most recent G-2 estimate (December 1950) of the Chinese Communist munitions industry is that the arsenals of mainland China are capable of producing "substantial quantities" of munitions. Monthly output is estimated as follows:

Artillery pieces (75 mm)	28
Recoilless pieces (57 mm)	12
Mortars	850
Rifles	15,000
Mortar shells	260,000
Grenades	150,000
Small arms ammunition	30,000,000

The largest and most modern Chinese Communist arsenal is located in Mukden. During World War II, the Japanese employed 40,000 workers at the Mukden arsenal. Despite Allied bombing and Soviet removals, when the Chinese Nationalists took over the arsenal, the plant employed approximately 11,000 workers and produced substantial amounts of rifles, machine guns, mortars, and small arms ammunition until late 1948. The arsenal passed intact into the hands of the Communists and production was resumed in November 1948. Other large munitions plants are located in Chungking (where possibly as much as one-third of Communist total munitions output is produced), Harbin, T'ang-yuan (Heilungkiang Province, northeast Manchuria), and Taiyuan (Shansi Province).

In general, it appears that the munitions industry of Communist China is not dependent on outside sources for raw materials. Available data on current iron and steel output indicate that Communist China is not dependent on foreign sources of supply to maintain its current munitions output. Electric power for the munitions industries is supplied by local hydroelectric installations or indigenous coal resources. In general, powder production appears adequate, although Communist China has been importing such chemical constituents as sulphuric acid.

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