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24 MAY 1951

INTREMENTE The Assistant Director for National Setimates

- FROM A Analatant Director for Bonnersh and Reports
- SUBJECT : Chinese Commist Seaborne Incorts 1950 1951

: Mosorandum from AD/AE to AD/2E, dated 8 May 1981, same subject

In response to your request of 8 May we are forwarding horowith five copies of a manorandum on "Chinese Communist Soaborns Exports 1960 - 1951" which we hope will serve your purposes

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Distributions

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Approved For Release 200 01-2

MAY 8 1951

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH AND REPORTS

SUBJECT: Request for Information on Chinese Communist Seaborne Imports

1. It is requested that this Office be furnished a brief memorandum in answer to the following questions:

a. What are the Chinese Communists importing by sea?

b. Where are these imports coming from?

c. How are they being procured, financed, and transported?

2. Information is requested on all imports reaching Communist China by sea, including those from the USSR and the European Satellites.

3. It is desired that this information cover the period since 1 January 1950 and that, where feasible, it be broken down on a month-to-month basis.

4. The quantity and dollar value of each important category (such as "motor vehicles," "machinery," "POL," "medical supplies") should be stipulated wherever possible. Less important items may be included under a general heading of "miscellaneous."

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5. of this Office has talked with of O/RR about this request, and is available to discuss any further details.

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Assistant Director National Estimates



Approved For Release 2000/05/12 : CIA-RDP79T01049A000300050001

REPORTS DIVISION

Editorial Review

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Projects	IP-213	Received from: D/S
Subjects	Chinese Communist Seaborne Imports 1950-1951	Date: 10 May 1951
		Deadline for editing: 11 May noon
Remarks:	O/NE request	•
Reviewed	in D/R by:	Date
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Summary o	f Initial Review (use reverse side if ne	scessary):
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Cover sheet, attachments, editorial comments and edited draft will be returned to file upon completion of project. Approved For Release 30005012 : CIA-RDP79T01049A000300050001-2

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

12 May 1951

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SUBJECT: Chinese Communist Seaborne Imports 1950 - 1951

1. Summary

In 1950 the Chinese imports from the non-Orbit world amounted to about \$500 million. Nearly half of these imports came through Hong Kong. China's non-Orbit imports in 1950 showed a \$200 million increase over the 1949 total of \$300 million. It is estimated that non-Orbit trade was about four times China's Orbit trade. China's seaborns imports from the Orbit were negligible as the bulk of such imports entered China overland (from June to December 1950 Polish ships, which carried almost all of the Satellite trade, delivered not more than 36,000 tons).

2. Imports by Types of Commodities and Countries

Rubber, chemicals (including pharmaceuticals), and minorals and their manufactures accounted for two-thirds of the total Chinese imports through Hong Kong in the period August 1950 through January 1951. Rubber was imported mainly from Malaya, but also from the UK, Indonessia, and North Bornso; chemicals came largely from the US, the UK, Holland, and Japan; and the US, the UK, Sweden, Germany, France, and Belgium were the main suppliers of minorals and their manufactures.

The US, Malaya, Japan, Switserland, West Germany, the UK, and Belgium-Luxembourg were major direct exporters to China during 1950. Since mid-1950 Malayan, Japanese, Swiss, and Belgian exports have increased rapidly, while US exports have become negligible. Exlayan exports (in US dollars) in 1950 to China showed an increase of 900 percent over 1949. Direct Chinese imports of rubber from Malaya began in July 1950, reached a peak of 12,000 tens per month by October, them fell off to a monthly average of 6,000 tens in the first quarter of 1951, probably because of the discussions on subber emport quotas prior to Malayan embarge. Heng Kong subber imports from Malaya, a high percentage of which are re-exported to China, have followed a similar trend. It is estimated that Swiss exports to China are currently reaching the proportions of a yearly average of \$50 million, whereas only \$18 million were exported in the whole of 1950.

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3. Transshipments and Smuggling

Hong Kong is the major transchipment point because of its rail connection with South China and its excellent harbor facilities. In the face of the increasing flow of Chinese imports, coupled with tightening expert controls in Hong Kong, several additional transchipment points have developed in importance. Hacao, for example, which has few restrictions on trade with China, is a growing transchipment point, as well as a major snaiggling site, between Hong Kong and China. The Hong Kong administration still finds itself legally justified in trading (within the limits of a few restrictions) with Hacao as a Portuguese territory.

Since the imposition of the US embarge on shipments to Communist China in December 1950, further transshipment points have been sought. Amsterdam, Antworp, Genca, and Hamburg in Europe; Singapore and ports in India, Pakistan, Burma, and Indonesia in the East have become transshipment points in the China trade. If an exporter can make shipments to any of these points, the Chinese will arrange for shipping bottoms. Belgian exports to China direct and via Hong Kong in Hovember alone were 30 percent of the 1950 total through that month; and India, another new transchipment area, has exported to China over a million dollars worth of tires from September 1950 through January 1951.

Clandostine trade between China and Southeast Asia is apparently fairly extensive. Chinese junks ply between China and Hong Kong, Macao, and other points along the extensive coast line, in particular southern Vietnam and Malaya. Ships are engaged in picking up petroleum supplies in remote ports in Borneo, Indonesia, and Malaya.

Hong Kong, Macao, Indonesia, or Indochina are often designated as the destinations on the bills of lading, but once at sea the ships are diverted to China.

4. Shipping Bottoms of Chinese Imports

Since August 1950, seaborne exports from the rest of the world to Hong Kong have been carried predominantly by British ships; Panamanian and Norwegian ships come next in this trade. As to shipments from Hong Kong to China, British bottoms are again predominant, though Chinese-owned ships have made about half as many runs as have the British.

5. Channels for Purchases

The Chinese are making purchases through their own agencies in the country of origin, through export-import agencies in various countries, and through direct contacts with manufactuers abroad or their representatives in Hong Kong, Singapore, or the China mainland.

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6. Channels of Financing

Up to November 1950, Chinese banks arranged for dollar, sterling, or Swiss franc letters of credit opened in favor of US, European, and Asiatio shippers. Prior to the freezing of Communist Chinese assets in the US, China transferred large dollar deposits, largely inherited from the Mationalists in 1949, from the US to Switzerland, whence payments were made to agents and ex-

In addition, the Chinese have been recently engaged in large-scale snuggling of opium, gold, and silver abroad to supplement depleted foreign exchange reserves. Concern over foreign exchange is also shown by recent measures taken by the Chinese trade authorities in liberalizing import-export regulations in order to augment foreign exchange earnings.

IP-213

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TABLE I

VALUE OF HONG KONG EXPORTS TO CHINA BY HONTHS

January 1950 - January 1951

llonth	Hong Kong Dollars (in millions)	US Dollar Equivalent (in millions)
1950		an a
January	93.4	16.3
February	82.0	14.4
Llarch	94.5	16.5
Ар з 11	83.6	14.6
Day	76.4	13.4
Juno	77.7	13.6
July	94.2	16,5
August	113.5	19.9
September	173.9	30 ₀ 4
October	196.3	34 _* 4
Hovembor	198,5	34.7
December	177.4	31.0
1951		
Jenuary	249.1	43,6

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TABLE II

HONG KONG EXPORTS TO CHIMA BY COLLIDDITIES AND VALUE DURING THE SIX-LIDNTH PERIOD AUGUST 1950 TO JANUARY 1951 (in thousands of Hong Kong dollars)

Commodity Group	Aug	Sep	002	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
Food products	9,741	18,463	21,021	11,276	5,413	11,870	72,783
Non-food products	4,210	4,728	7,054	3,782	3 ₀ 628	965	24, 367
Chemicals	31,343	46,577	42,985	58 ,003	40,621	60,097	279,626
Rubber and manufactures	20,,307	33 ₂ 060	41,816	52,384	54,746	77 ,045	279 ₀ 358
Wood, pulp, and manufactures	1,501	4 ₉ 361	. 2,584	1,780	3 , 883	7 _# 788	21 , 896
llides, skins, leathor and manufactures	306	340	241	379	271	245	1,780
Taxtilos, fibers	2,310	24, 341	12,295	6,502	4,502	7 ₀ 362	57, 313
Toxtiles, finished products	10,40 8	7,000	11,935	9,924	1 5,508	18 ₉ 656	73 ,430
Petroleum products	1,448	1,416	1,692	1,965	1,369	1,056	8,939
länerals and manufactures	19,071	25,764	41, 0 98	51 ,930	27,5 29	88 ,928	184, 320
llanufactures	1 , 576	3, 081	2,644	3,991	3 ,903	5 ,228	20,423
Lachinery	7,881	5,107	6 ₉ 159	9,634	9,675	11,356	49,813
Vehicles and transport equipment	1,994	3,079	2,980	4,702	5,12 9	6,643	24,,526
Li scellaneous	1,408	1,550	1,748	2,047	1,215	1 ,829	9,,797
Total a/	113,519	173,864	196,251	198,297	177,392	249 ₀ 069	1,208,372 b/

Equivalent to US \$193,975,000.

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TABLE III

HONG KONG EXPORTS TO MACAO DURING THE MONTHS SEPTEMBER 1950 TO JANUARY 1951 (in thousands of Hong Hong dollars)

Connedity Group	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
Food products	3,578	1,955	2,300	2,915	5,268	15,810
Non-food products	1,093	1,031	1,033	1,179	1,295	5,628
Chamicals	4,164	4,360	4,996	4,201	13,501	31,222
Rubber and manufactures	282	135	239	191	2,092	2,940
Hanulastaros Hood and manufacturos	293	416	427	345	446	1,926
Pulp and	390	435	524	621	1,138	3,109
manufactures Hides, skins, and leathor	57	42	43	57	71	269
Lanufacture of leathor	7	7	6	6	4	30
Toxtiles, fibers	324	469	354	85	1,927	3,159
Textiles, finished	1,204	1,0306	1,321	1,443	1,316	6,591
Potroloum products	762	558	1,167	630	767	3,875
Minorels and manufactures	967	693	1,632	1,153	992	5 ₀ 337
Lashinery	545	372	791	353	519	2,381
Vehicles and trans- port equipment	655	169	300	159	270	1,553
Manufactures	536	645	954	610	544	3 ₀ 288
Miscollansous	216	158	226	220	267	1,087
Total 8/	14,862	12,751	16,214	14,168	28,198	<u>86,203</u> b/

Columns may not add up to totals due to rounding.

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Approved For Release 200

Project: IP-213

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: 10 May 1951

To: D/S

From: D/R

Subject: Chinese Communist Seaborne Imports

Statement of Project

- Origin: 0/NE
- **Problem:** To furnish information as to (a) Chinese Communist seaborne imports; (b) source of these imports; and (c) method of procuring, financing, and transporting.
- **Scope:** It is requested that information include all Chinese Communist imports, including those from USSR and European Satellites, to cover period since 1 Jan 1950, broken down on a month-tomonth basis where feasible, stipulating wherever possible quantity and dollar value of each important category (i.e. motor vehicles, machinery, POL, medical supplies). Less important items may be listed under "Miscellaneous."

Graphics (if any):

Form: Memorandum

Dissemination deadline (<u>if any</u>):

Draft due in D/R: 10 May 1951

Responsible Division: D/S

Internal Coordination:

Departmental responsibilities:

Classification to beno higher than: SECRET

Recommended Dissemination: Requester only

Approved For Release 2000/05 20 2017-RDP79T01049A000300050001-2

Approved For Release 2000/05/12 : CIA RD P79T01049A000300050001-2CHINESE COMMUNIST SEABORNE IMPORTS D/C1950 - 1951

1. Summary

In 1950 the Chinese importer shout \$500 million from the non-Orbit world/ inted to Wowt \$500 Million. Nearly help of these imports came nearly helf of through Hong Kong. At is estimated that the non-Orbit trade Chine's mounted was about four times China's Grbit trade. Seaborne imports from the Grbit were negligible as the bulk of such imports entered China overland (from June to December 1950 Polish ships, which carried almost all of the Satellite trade, delivered not more than 36,000 tons). China's non-brbi 1950 showed a \$200 million increase over the 1949 total of \$300 million. 2. Imports by Types of Commodities and Countries Rubber, chemicals (including pharmaceuticals), and minerals and their manufactures accounted for two-thirds of total imports through Hong Kong in the period August 1950 through January 1951. Rubber was imported mainly UK ductalso from from Malaya, the Unit Indonesia, and North Borneo; chemicals came UK largely from the H , Holland, and Japan; the U the/Uni States, Sweden, Germany, France, and Belgium were the main suppliers of minerals and their manufactures. 22 The West Germany, Malaya, Japan, Switzerland, West Germany, the Unit duct Kingdom, and Belgium-Luxemburg were major exporters during 1950 (to China) lireojiy. Since mid-1950 this nation ma abanged Malayan, Japanese, Swiss, and Belgian exports have increased rapidly, while US exports have become negligible. Malayan exports (in US dollars) in 1950 to China showed an amazing increase of 900% over 1949. Direct Chinese imports of rubber from Malaya began in July 1950, and October imports reached a peak of ty October, 12,000 tons, then f off to a monthly average of 6000 tons in the first become eb on rubber Export quotes quarter of 1951, probably du to the discussions prior to Malayan embargo Hong Kong rubber imports from Malaya, a high percentage of which are reexported to China, have followed a similar It is estimated that Swiss exports to China are currently reaching the proportions of a yearly average of \$30 million, whereas only \$18 million were exported in the whole of 1950. spalls Transshipments and Smuggling because of Hong Kong is the major transshipment point its rail connection

with South China and its excellent harbor facilities. In the face of the increasing flow of Chinese imports, coupled with tightening export controls

line

in Hong Kong, several additional transshipment points developed in importance. In this respect, Macao is a growing transshipment point, as well as a major smuggling site, between Hong Kong and China. Which that few restrictions on trade with China, the obher hand, the Hong Kong administration still finds itself legally justified in trading (within the limits of a

few restrictions) with Macao as a Portuguese territory.

Since the imposition of the US embargo on shipments to Communist China in December 1950, further transshipment points have been sought. Amsterdam, singapore and ports in Antwerp, Genca, and Hamburg in Europe; India, Pakistan, Strappose, Burma, and Indonesia in the East have become transshipment points in the China trade. If an exporter can make shipments to any of these points, the Chinese will duect and via Ho arrange for shipping bottoms. Belgian exports to China in November alone were 30% of the 1950 total through That month r; and India, another to China new transshipment **perm** has exported over a million dollars worth of tires from September 1950 through January 1951.

Clandestine trade between China and Southeast Asia is apparently fairly extensive. Chinese junks ply between China and Hong Kong, Macao, and other points along the extensive coast line, in particular southern Vietnam and Malaya. Ships are engaged in picking up petroleum supplies in edd spots in Bormeo, Indonesia, and Malaya.

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or Indochina as the decomentary destination on the bills of lading, but once at sea the ships are diverted to China. (Chinese 4. Shipping Bottoms of Sima Imports

Since August 1950, water transport exports from the rest of the world to Hong Kong have been carried predominantly by British ships; Panamanian and Corne. Norwegian ships are next Montpublicity, in this trade. As to shipments from Hong Kong to China, British bottoms are again predominant, though Chinese-owned ships have made about half as many runs as have the British.

5. Channels for Furchases

The Chinese are making **their** purchases through their own agencies in the country of origin, through export-import agencies in various countries, and through direct contacts with manufacturers abroad or their representatives in Hong Kong, Singapore, or the China mainland.

6. Channels of financing

Up to November 1950, Chinese banks arranged for dollar, sterling, or Swiss

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TABLE I

VALUE OF HO	ng kong exports to china 1950 and January 1951 January 1950 - Ja	r
MONTH	Hong Kong Dellars	(15 Dellar Envirolent (in millions)
1950		
January	93.4	16.3
February	82.0	14.4
March	94.5	16.5
April	83.6	14.0
May	76.4	13.4
June	77.7	13.6
July	94.2	16.5
August	113.5	19.9
September	173.9	30.4
October	196.3	34.4
November	198.3	34.7
December	177.4	31.0
1951		
January	249.1	43.6

TABLE I

HONG KONG EXPORTS TO CHINA BY COMMODITIES AND VALUES DURING THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD # AUGUST 1950 TO JANUARY 1951 (in thousands of # dollars)

Hmy K	my
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Commodity Group	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total
Food products	9,741	13,463	21,021	11,276	5,413	11,870	72,783
Non-food products	4,210	4,728	7,054	3,782	3,628	965	24,367
Chemicals	31,343	46,577	42,985	58,003	40,621	60,097	279,626
Rubber and manufactures	20,307	33,060	41,816	52,384	54,746	77,045	279,358
Wood, pulp, and manufactures	1,501	4,361	2,584	1,780	3,883	7,788	21,896
Hides, skins, leather, & mfrs.	306	340	241	379	271	245	1,780
Textiles, fibers	2,310	24,341	12,295	6,502	4,502	7,362	57,313
Textiles, finished products	10,408	7,000	11,935	9,924	15,508	18,656	73,430
Petroleum products	1,443	1,415	1,692	1,965	1,369	1,056	8,939
Minerals and manufactures	19,071	25,764	41,098	31,930	27,529	38,928	184,320
Manufactures	1,576	3,081	2,644	3,991	3,903	5,228	20,423
Machinery	7,881	5,107	6,159	9,634	9,675	11,356	49,813
Vehicles and (transport equipment	1,994	3,079	2,980	4,702	5,129	6,643	24,526
Miscellaneous	1,408	1,550	1,748	2,047	1,215	1,829	9,797
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113,519 173,864 196,251

Total Qu/

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198,297 177,392 249,069 1,108,372

Columns may not add up to totals due to rounding. equivalen 15 hon. 75,000. nvale \$193

Table III

HONG KONG EXPORTS TO MACAO DURING THE MONTHS A SEPTEMBER 1950 TO JANUARY 1951 (in thousands of dollars)

		0	·				
Commodity Group	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Total	
Food products	3 , 378	1,955	2,300	2,915	3,263	13,810	
Non-food products	1,093	1,031	1,033	1,179	1,293	5,628	
Chemicals	4,164	4,360	4,996	4,201	13,501	31,222	
Rubber and manufactures	282	135	239	191	2,092	2,940	
Wood and manufactures	293	416	427	345	444	1,925	
Pulp and manufactures	390	435	524	621	1,138	3,109	
Hides, skins, and leather	57	42	43	57	71	269	
Manufacture of leather	7	7	6	6	4	30	
Textiles, fibers	3 24	469	354	85	1,927	3,159	
Textiles, finished products	1,204	1,306	1,321	1,443	1,316	6,591	
Petroleum products	762	558	1,167	630	757	3,875	
Minerals and manufactures	967	693	1,532	1,153	992	5,337	
Machinery	545	372	791	353	319	2,381	
Vehicles and transport equipment	655	169	300	159	270	1,553	
Manufactures	536	645	954	610	544	3,288	
Miscellaneous	216	158	226	220	267	1,087	
Total O-/	14,862	12,751	16,214	14,168	28,198	86,203 b	/

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b. Equivalent to US \$ 15,086,000.

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