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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY Communist China; Sinkiang

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949

SUBJECT Economic

DATE DIST. 2 Jun 1949

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

WHERE PUBLISHED Hong Kong, Shang-hai

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE PUBLISHED 23 Apr - 4 May 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Chinese

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SOURCE Chinese newspapers as indicated.

APRIL COAL OUTPUT IN COMMUNIST AREAS UP;
SINKIANG PRICES FALL

COAL PRODUCTION INCREASED -- Hua-shang Pao, 2 May 49

Coal production from the three state-owned coal mines at Men-t'ou-kou was greatly increased during April. At Men-t'ou-kou Mine, the average coal output per miner during the first 10-day period was about 1.16 ton but this was increased to 1.19 tons during the second 10-day period. At Hsi-shan Mine, the total output during the first 10-day period was 2,500 tons but this was increased to 3,480 tons during the second 10-day period. At Ch'eng-tzu mine, the total daily output was little over 100 tons during the first 10 days, but was increased to 172 tons during the second 10-day period.

NORTHEAST COAL MINERS UNION FORMED -- Hua-shang Pao, 4 May 49

The first Coal Miners Conference attended by more than 280 delegates from ten state-owned and provincial-owned mines at Fu-shun, Pen-ch'i, Hsiao-kang, Chi-hsi, Ku-ma, Hsi-an, Fu-hsin, Wen-ho, T'ung-hua and Pei-p'iao was held at Shen-yang (Mukden) 5-25 April 1949. Aside from setting the 1949 production goal of these mines at more than 10 million tons, the conference established the Northeast Coal Miners Union electing Yang Ch'ang-shun, Ch'en Keng-fu, Chang Shih-han, Chin Chih-fu and 53 others as members of the Executive Committee.

PRICES FALL IN SINKIANG -- Shen Pao, 23 Apr 49

Rumors of impending opening of Sino-Soviet trade relations are reported to have caused a recent sharp decline of prices in Sinkiang. In Ti-hua 50 silver yuan will buy one and a third ounces of gold. Twill fabric sells for only 5 silver yuan per bolt.

Minting of silver currency in Sinkiang is being rushed and it is hoped that the new silver yuan will be in circulation by 1 May. Besides subsidiary silver coins issued at the same time, gold-yuan notes, old Sinkiang notes, and other accepted currency will continue to be in use.

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