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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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1. HO Ka-i, Vice-Premier and former Secretary General of the North Korean Labor Party (NKLP), committed suicide in July 1953 after he was reprimanded by KIM Il-song and other North Korean leaders for certain mistakes and failures. HO had been demoted from his position as Secretary-General of the NKLP in early 1952.
2. HO was harshly reprimanded because he failed to complete his assigned task of rebuilding the Ch'oson irrigation dam. HO had been given this job, in addition to his duties as Vice-premier, in the spring of 1953 after the dam was destroyed by UN bombing.
3. Although HO was a powerful member of the Soviet faction of the NKLP and second in power only to KIM Il-song, he was demoted for the following reasons:
 - A. During the UN advance into NK in late 1950, many members of the NKLP destroyed their party membership cards to evade detection and arrest. HO himself fled to Harbin where his children were attending a Soviet school.
 - B. When the Communist forces reoccupied NK, HO returned and conducted a purge within the party, persecuting and expelling members who had destroyed or disposed of their party cards. The purge severely depleted NKLP ranks. In December 1951 during the NKLP Fourth General Convention, KIM Il-song criticized HO's actions as unduly severe and frequently unjustified. KIM said that expelling members for destroying their cards was uncalled for in view of the circumstances at the time.
4. In July 1953 when the NK leaders reprimanded HO for his failure to complete the dam project and confronted him with his past errors, he asked for a day to prepare a defense against the charges. He then committed suicide.

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5. During the Sixth General Convention of the NKLP in August 1953, the position of Secretary-General was abolished and three vice-chairmen were named; KIM Il, CHONG Il-yong and PAK Ch'ong-ae.² The chairman was KIM Il-song.

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1. [] Comment. According to P'yongyang press dispatches of 11 August, PAK Chong-ae told the Sixth General Convention of the NKLP that HO had shielded the "anti-party and anti-state espionage" conspiracy that resulted in the conviction of 12 NK leaders on 7 August. She said HO had committed suicide "in betrayal of the party and revolution."

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2. [] Comment. Radio P'yongyang reported on 10 August that newly elected vice-chairmen of the Central Committee of the NKLP were PAK Chong-ae, PAK Chong-ok and KIM Il.

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