

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Manchuria

DATE DISTR. 10 Nov 51

SUBJECT Neighborhood Groups/Society of Soviet Citizens/
Railroad Unions

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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1. All private citizens in Harbin were organized into neighborhood groups. Since persons of various nationalities had to group with others of the same nationality, there was no chance for us to observe the activities of groups other than our own. The Chinese had their own neighborhood groups, and there were societies of Poles and Czechs. The latter two were very small. All the Harbin Germans have gone to Tientsin, so there was no German society. The Lutheran Church is now a Chinese club of some sort. The two Catholic Churches still exist but their schools are closed down. There is no more private education, and all the convents have been closed. 50X1-HUM
2. Each region of the city had a Society of Local Soviet Citizens. [redacted] the Chinese neighborhood groups had different metropolitan divisions than the Soviet groups.
3. Our own neighborhood group, the Society of Local Soviet Citizens for our region, was composed of about 50 to 60 members, all of whom were adults. Children had their own groups [redacted] The adult groups had a chairman and an executive committee of about five members, who were directly responsible to the head Harbin office 50X1-HUM

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of the Society of Soviet Citizens. The chairman and committee members were elected in a public meeting which was attended by visitors from the head office of the Society. These visitors supervised the meeting, and "recommended" nominations of the officers. Their "recommendations" were carried out unanimously, no one daring to oppose them.

4. Incidentally, when the Society of Soviet Citizens was originally set up, the officers were elected by the various neighborhood groups. This was achieved by having each group send its chairman and two or three special delegates (depending upon the size of the neighborhood group) to an election meeting. From time to time this procedure was supposed to be carried out again. All meetings of the Society of Soviet Citizens, the parent body of the neighborhood groups, were attended by the Soviet Consul to Harbin.
5. It was compulsory for all members to attend neighborhood group meetings, and since it was compulsory for all persons who lived in a neighborhood to belong to either their neighborhood group or an office group, everyone had to attend organized meetings. Meetings of all the members of a neighborhood group were not too frequent, and did not follow any schedule. They were usually called for a special occasion, such as a compulsory municipal bond drive or a parade, or a discussion of a specific political problem or group organization problem. It was mandatory to contribute with your group to municipal bond drives, and to attend parades with the group. Municipal bond drives were the only compulsory bond drives. 50X1-HUM
6. Apart from the general meetings of all members, the group did not get together for the purposes of group activities. The executive committee was in charge of political education of the group members, and ran discussion groups and classes in politics, economics, world affairs, and so on. These classes were normally held at night, and the students were split into quite small groups. It was not mandatory to attend the classes. The people were given the choice of studying at home or attending the classes. [redacted] It was announced that all those who were studying individually at home must pass examinations or else attend the classes. The examinations were to be held at the end of each course. The persons teaching the groups, and all other teachers in Harbin, were required to pass examinations in Communist history twice each year.
7. The strictness with which these classes were run depended to a great extent on the neighborhood group chairman. Some of the chairmen were very hard on their members, and there were cases [redacted] where they made eighty year old women study Lenin and Stalin until the poor old ladies nearly went out of their minds. 50X1-HUM
8. In the Changchun Railroad there were two general unions, one for the Chinese employees and one for the local Russian employees. The two unions maintained a culture center, or communal house, which was split into a Chinese section and a local Russian section, for the headquarters employees in Harbin. Non-headquarters, or regional, employees who worked in Harbin had a separate culture center. Each region of the railroad had a regional culture center, with a Chinese and local Russian section. In addition, the Harbin repair shop employees had a separate culture center of their own. Membership in the union and attendance of the union propaganda meetings at the culture center was compulsory for all employees. Both the Chinese and local Russian unions gave the same pay rates to their members for equal work. USSR employees who came from the Soviet Union were not members of the unions. They belonged to their own unions in the USSR. They did not mix with the Chinese or local Russians at all, and had their own section of the culture center. The culture center maintained a theater, and in this theater the USSR Russians sat in a separate section. The USSR Russians were under orders to keep to themselves and never enter into political discussions with their co-workers.

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9. Each department of the railroad elected one member to the central committee of the general union. Thus the central committee of the local Russian union had a Russian member from each department, and the Chinese union had a Chinese representative from each department on its committee. The committees of each of the two unions decided all union matters, undoubtedly in close cooperation with each other.
10. Apart from the general railroad union of local Russian employees, there were professional unions for doctors, engineers, and so on, to which railroad employees could belong. These professional unions, membership in which was not compulsory, were under the supervision of the Society of Soviet Citizens.
11. In addition to the above, there was a Russian-Chinese Friendship Society in the railroad, and also one in Harbin for non-railroad people.

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