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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Tanganyika
SUBJECT Description of Musoma District/Education/
Political Activity

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LOCATION

- Musoma District, Lake Province, is located on the east coast of Lake Victoria in the northwest section of Tanganyika.

POPULATION

- The Basukuma tribe comprises 49% of the population, the balance being divided between the Bashashi, the Bajita, the Luo and other smaller tribes, as well as a few Indians. The Bashashi tribe is on the wane because of certain rites which they practice, one being female circumcision which brings the birth rate down to about one and one half child per couple. The Luo tribe is a fairly recent arrival in the country from Kenya. This tribe is being permitted to come in because the rise of water in the lake due to the dam at Jinga, which is almost 100% completed, will take some of their land. It has been estimated that at one place 10 thousand people will be dispossessed and relocated. Many of these are already coming down into Tanganyika before that happens. This is causing some resentment on the part of the local tribes.

HOUSING

- Housing in Tanganyika depends upon climatic conditions and in this area, due to heavy rains, thatch houses are the most practical as there is sufficient grass and leaves to rebuild them should they be washed away. In the southern section of the country they are going in more for mud houses with stone foundations and floors and in all areas tin roofs are becoming quite popular. Sanitation is nil.

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DIET

4. The basic diet is millet, sorghum and kafir corn. Because an interest in "commercialism" is growing amongst the natives, fostered by the Government and the Indians, they are killing more cattle and selling the meat for cash. From 1937 and up until 1945, in the rural areas, it was only possible to secure beef, mutton and goat once a month or so. Now it is readily available and the price per head has risen from US\$5.00 to US\$25.00, an increase of 500% in 15 years. They eat chicken and fish, the latter both dried and fresh. Sweet potatoes, squash, pumpkins, mangoes, custard apples, oranges, pineapples, tangerines and grapefruit are available on a seasonal basis. Very little sweet milk is drunk by the natives, as they prefer it sour. The supply, however, is limited, as the cows give very little milk.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

5. While some Government facilities, such as the port authority on the lake and private establishments, such as hotels, may have their own small generating plants, electricity is not available to the public. Telephones are not available in this area and the nearest one to the city of Musoma would be 60 miles. Radios are becoming increasingly popular with the Africans, particularly with the teachers, and are on sale in large quantities and at low prices. They are a saucepan type and the lowest price I have heard is 170 Shillings. While I have heard that broadcasts from India have been received on these sets, the majority of the programs come from Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo, Lusaka in Southern Rhodesia and Dar es Salaam in Tanganyika. Programs are broadcast in Swahili as well as other dialects.

ECONOMY

6. The economy of the area is agriculture and cattle raising. Cotton is the primary cash crop although rice is also grown, which crop in the past five years has been very poor. Boran cattle, a hump backed breed, are raised although the Government is experimenting in crossbreeding Brahma and Guernsey cattle in an attempt to produce a type of cattle that will be more resistant to the East African diseases, including East Coast Fever. It is estimated that in the Lake District there are four million head of cattle and only one million, three hundred thousand people. Due to the badly eroded soil conditions, the Government is raising the cattle tax in an effort to force the Africans to cut down on the size of their herds.

WATER

7. The people who live on the lake are very clean living, but those inland are not because water is scarce three quarters of the year. In November and December there may be plenty of water, but from January until May it is very scarce. Water comes from springs and river beds although the Government is drilling wells in many places to bring in more water. The Government also has a program for damming up natural water courses and has an engineer visit the site and advise the African where to put the dam so it will get sufficient water.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO AFRICANS

8. The Government has many plans and programs to assist the African. One of the best of these is known as the Sukumaland Federation located at Malya, Shanwa District, the idea for which I understand came from the wife of a District Commissioner some years ago. The Federation has a council comprised of Sukuma chiefs supervised by an assistant provincial officer (white) and its idea is to develop a self government from this little pattern. The area has a man-made lake which has some two or three million gallons of water in it continuously and with which they are doing some irrigation. European specialists have been

brought in to teach the African various trades, such as blacksmithing, carpentry, etc., and to help them in their agricultural work, animal husbandry, etc. This Sukumaland Federation is a splendid example of what can be done to advance the African.

- 25X1X 9. While the Government assists greatly by bringing in kafir corn and other foods during times of famine, [REDACTED] this aid would not be necessary if only some means of storage could be devised and this is one of the most needed things in Africa. I have heard figures about the value of food destroyed by rats, weevils, etc, which run into the millions of dollars. A man may have five bushels of corn, of which one and one half bushels will have been eaten by rats or weevils before he can use it. While DDT and other insecticides are available they are too expensive for the average African to buy. The only African means of keeping out pests is to build small houses made of cattle dung mixed with mud which, while they do help, are not too practical. [REDACTED]

25X1X [REDACTED] the Government is devising a scheme to set up storage districts and trying to get the local chiefs and authorities to have each family bring in so many bushels of grain each year to be stored for possible famine and when a reserve has been built up to sell off the excess; the money going to the African who brought it in. Unfortunately, corruption is growing by leaps and bounds among the Africans and this plan could cause trouble. For instance, if a man brought in five bushels of grain, the African bookkeeper might put down only three, and then when the man came the next year expecting to be paid for five, he would only receive payment for three.

EDUCATION

10. Education in Tanganyika follows the UK system and falls into three categories: Standards One through Four (primary), Standards Five through Eight (middle) and Standards Seven through Ten (secondary) and into which those exceptional students who have completed sixth standard are placed. Upon completion of 10th Standard a student may enter teacher training. At the present time there are very few of these secondary schools which were begun only in the last three years, and very few teacher training schools. All of these schools are known as "registered" schools. In addition to these, there are many bush schools and adult literacy schools which do not have to conform to Government standards.
11. Education is provided by the Government and by Roman Catholic and Protestant missions, the latter following curriculums as laid down by the Education Department of Tanganyika, except as regards religion. Classes in religion may be conducted, without Government interference, in all schools. By 1956 the Government expects that 33-1/3 percent of the people in Tanganyika will be literate. Schools are supported 95% by the Government and five percent by the volunteer agency or mission operating the school. Most of the five percent comes from fees paid by the students. Fees in all primary schools run from US\$1.00 to US\$5.00 per year; other schools are almost all boarding schools and the fee, including tuition and board, is about US\$50 to US\$60 per year. Teacher training schools are about the same. Schools are carefully supervised by the Government and inspectors make periodic visits to schools, sit in on classes to observe the teacher's ability, and if a teacher starts to fall down he is severely reprimanded. Kiswahili is taught up to and including Fourth Standard after which English becomes the official language.
12. Expansion of the educational system is planned and within a 20 year period there should be practically 100% literacy among the young people. Whether it will be carried out as planned is difficult to tell. [REDACTED] it depends to a great extent on how long the people will be able to pay the increased taxes. I have heard that the Government plans to raise the annual head of the household tax from 20 Shillings to 30 Shillings, whereas two years ago it was between 12 and 20 Shillings. In addition, each African is required to pay a tax on each goat and sheep and each head of cattle. An African may keep up to seven head of cattle without paying tax, but on each head over that number he pays US\$.50 per year. I do not know how many goats and sheep he is permitted to keep tax free, but on each head over the stipulated number he must pay US\$.10 per year. Now the Government is talking of collecting an income tax.

While in some districts the Africans are willing, at least to the extent that anyone is willing to pay taxes, to be taxed to support education. In the poorer districts they are not.

- 25X6 13. [REDACTED] provides financial aid to education in Tanganyika, I believe this goes more toward the administration of the education department rather than into the actual school buildings. I believe as time goes on this financial aid will be reduced as the Africans themselves, through taxation, are able to carry it without outside help. To the best of my knowledge there is no financial support of education from the US or other foreign countries. Industry does contribute to local educational facilities and I know that J T Williamson, the diamond mine owner, has given hundreds of thousands of pounds to different projects, including a geology department to Makerere College, a football stadium in Mwanza, etc. On the other hand I have heard of groups in industry desiring to donate money for a school in a particular area, but the Government has said they could not designate it for a specific project.
14. In the primary schools all teaching is done by African teachers. While the objective is to have all African teachers in the middle schools, with a white supervisor, as yet there are insufficient first-class African teachers to fill the demand; missionaries are now filling these posts. I am not sure about the secondary schools, but I rather imagine these are in the hands of European teachers. Teacher training is done by Europeans entirely. Textbooks, all of which come from the UK, are improving all the time and every course from hygiene to handcrafts has its own textbook.
15. I would say that only one half of one percent of those enrolled in school are girls. Education is not compulsory for either boys or girls, except to the extent that if a new school is opened and has a capacity of 45 pupils and only 25 turn up on opening day, the chief of the village will make it a point to see to it that 20 more children are recruited from his village.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

16. The Africans in the Musoma area have mixed feelings toward the Government. While there is widespread anti-government feeling, just how deep it goes I do not know. Their attitude is usually one of general dissatisfaction or of complete disregard of what the Government does. If the African thinks a certain program is good for him he is for it, but if he thinks a program is not to his best interests he is against it. The white man must be careful in his dealings with the African for if anything goes wrong the African is quick to say it was the white man's fault. The Europeans of course favor white supremacy in Government although there are those with forward thinking, both in and out of Government, who realize that there should ultimately be a society with co-equality among Europeans, Indians and Africans. Three quarters of the Indian population are against white supremacy in Government. The other quarter, the Ismaili group, are followers of the Aga Khan who has told his people that they must become an integral part of the country to which they have migrated and that they must conform to the policies set forth by the Government in authority.
17. The Africans in Musoma district are aware of what goes on in the Gold Coast and Nigeria through pictures and articles in publications coming into Tanganyika. One in particular is a monthly magazine, published by the Kenya Government, called "Tazama", which contains pictures of many of the fine buildings and beautiful homes in the Gold Coast and Nigeria as well as articles written in Swahili telling how the people in these countries rule themselves, which give the erroneous impression that these things are "typical" of conditions there. [REDACTED] the Government makes a mistake in circulating this type of information as it simply plants the idea in the mind of the African that if in other countries the Africans rule themselves, why not in Tanganyika,

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thus giving added impetus to the already too active rise of nationalism. Events in Central and South Africa have had little or no effect on the natives in the Musoma district.

18. The Indian is the economic factor as the whole economic lifeline of East Africa is in his hands. There are some 300 thousand Indians in East Africa, 60 thousand of whom are in Tanganyika. Many of them are extremely wealthy and very few of them are trustworthy. Relations between the Indians and Africans are polite but there is no trust either way between the two. The Africans are being encouraged by the Government to open small shops and "hotelis" and while the Indians resent this competition, their resentment is not to the point of antipathy or hatred, but they will try to devise schemes to force the Africans out of business by offering the same goods and services at a reduced rate. While it is illegal for Indians to finance Africans, they will do this secretly and set an African up in business alongside his (the Indian's) own shop. This looks like competition but actually most of the money goes into the pocket of the Indian. They will also finance Africans in sections where Indians are not permitted to set up shops.

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coast. While he did have some strong words to say against the Government and its attitude, and against the white settlers, he did go out of his way to say that the missionaries were fine people and not out to "do" his fellow countrymen. This particular Meru tribe was living on land that was badly eroded and the Government, acting in good faith, decided to move these people to a new area. The Africans deeply resented the Government's intrusion and their case is still being discussed by the UN. I believe they are to have another hearing in October of this year. While the Government did make some mistakes in their handling of the situation, such as bulldozing their homes out from under them, nevertheless the new territory is so much better - better housing, better land, etc - that they should be thankful instead of resentful. I have heard the Government feels there is some communist infiltration in this organization,

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