

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

HOTELS

1. In [redacted] 1950 Harbin's big foreign-style hotels - the Moderne, the Grand, the Orient, and the Palace - were occupied mostly by Chinese Communist military officers. The hotels were still in private hands although there was talk at the time that the Moderne would be purchased by the Chinese Communist government. [redacted] the few civilian transients who were able to get in were paying US\$.50 a day. There were still some permanent civilian residents in all these hotels and their rates amounted to a little less than US\$.50 a day. [redacted] the hotels in Harbin's Chinatown were also still in private hands and were charging rates commensurate with those of the foreign-style hotels in terms of service and accommodations.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

2. There were 10-12 Russian* doctors, about 10 Japanese doctors, and an unguessable [] number of Chinese doctors practicing medicine in Harbin in [] 1950. The Russian and Japanese doctors, and most of the Chinese doctors, charged about the same fees for their professional services. These are some examples:

*The term "Russian" in this report refers to White Russians who had been living in Harbin prior to World War II.

had been living in Harbin prior to World War II.
SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES
GENERAL / SECURITY INFORMATION

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

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Office call - US\$.10 to .50

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Major operation including postoperative treatment - US\$25

Fluoroscopic examination (there was no X-ray equipment available to the public) - US\$1 to US\$1.50.

3. There were about 20 Russian dentists in Harbin and a much larger number of Chinese dentists. Most of the Chinese charged lower fees than the Russians. The Russian dentists received US\$.50 to US\$1 for fillings, and US\$.50 and up for extractions.
4. The Railway Administration hospital, traditionally for the exclusive use of employees, had more than 500 beds, 10 beds to a ward, and a staff of 20 doctors. [redacted] before [redacted] 1950 both the hospital and the outpatients clinic were made available to the general public. Chinese soldiers were also being treated in the hospital at that time. [redacted]

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[redacted] Other hospitals in Harbin and their capacities were as follows:

Kazem Bek Hospital (private) - about 50 beds and a staff of two doctors and several nurses.

Kazem Bek Hospital (private and a larger sister hospital to the one above) - 200 beds and a staff of 7 to 10 doctors several of whom were only part time. Both these hospitals charged at the rate of about US\$20 a month, including meals, for a bed in a ward. Small private rooms cost twice that much.

Jewish Hospital (private) - about 200 beds and slightly more expensive than the Kazem Bek hospitals.

German Hospital (private) - 100 beds and about the same rates as the Jewish hospital.

Red Cross Hospital - 200 beds or more. [redacted]

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[redacted] It generally charged about the same rates as the Kazem Bek hospitals but it also had charity patients who paid reduced rates or nothing at all.

Dr Golobef's Hospital (private) - 50 beds, a surgical hospital with higher rates than any of the others I have named.

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All these hospitals were doing a brisk business in [redacted] 1950 but were not overcrowded. [redacted]

The Railway Administration and the YMCA operated rest homes in Harbin [redacted]

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PERSONAL SERVICES AND INSURANCE

5. The usual range of personal services under private management were available in Harbin in [redacted] 1950 with the single exception of insurance. The foreign insurance firms simply ceased to exist after the entry of Soviet troops and no insurance of any kind could be purchased in Harbin [redacted] Insurance services may have continued to exist in Chinatown but [redacted] no definite knowledge of this.

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The standard wage for a Russian or Chinese housekeeper was between US\$1 and US\$2 a month, plus maintenance.

The Chinese gardener-coolie who looked after the seven-unit apartment [redacted] received US\$2 a month, plus maintenance, and [redacted] this was typical.

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Typical laundry charges for both Russian and Chinese laundries were US\$.10 for a sheet and the same for a man's shirt. Dry cleaning shops, of which there were very few, charged US\$.50 for a rayon bedspread.

Barbers were charging US\$.50 for both men's and women's haircuts.

Photographers received US\$.50 for passport size photographs and correspondingly higher amounts for regular portraits.

House painting and home repair services were available from private artisans and contractors and were relatively expensive. In 1950 it cost about US\$100 to repair and paint the sheet metal roof of [] seven-unit apartment house []. It cost US\$25 for minor repairs to the boiler in the apartment house.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

6. There was no public library in Harbin in [] 1950, nor had there been one prior to that time, but there were several very good private libraries. The Railway Administration maintained a good general library including Chinese books and periodicals. The Schelkunoff circulating library stocked an assortment of English, French, and Russian books of all kinds. The Tschurin Department Store operated a relatively small general library for the use of employees. The Bobisco private circulating library stocked a collection similar to that of Schelkunoff. Neither of them kept Chinese material. The Polytechnical Institute of the Railway Administration had its own library of technical and scientific volumes. Finally, there was the library of the Commercial Club, a business group which was still in existence in December 1950. The Commercial Club library had a good selection of fiction, philosophy, history and the like in several languages.

In [] 1950 the Harbin sewage system was in some confusion as a result of uncompleted Japanese repairs at the close of World War II but the system was working and was generally adequate.

The water supply, which had been dangerously inadequate at several periods after 1945, was gradually improving by December 1950 and was quite satisfactory at that time. There was plenty of running water for all purposes.

There was a fairly adequate supply of electricity for public and private lighting [] 1950. The street lamps on the small side streets were kept unlit but the main streets were well illuminated and there were no shut-off hours for private residences [].

Garbage collection was still in private hands in [] 1950 and the service was both cheap and satisfactory. Chinese controlled the business.

LEGAL SERVICES AND ARCHITECTS

7. There were five prominent Russian lawyers in Harbin and they were still practicing in [] 1950, as were a number of Chinese lawyers both in Chinatown and in the foreign sections of Harbin. The scope of their activities was sharply restricted under the Communist regime and [] they appeared to be enjoying continued prosperity. Their services were being used by landlords to collect rents and bring various kinds of suits against tenants. They were being used in the transfer of properties, particularly the properties which were being purchased by the Chinese Communists. [] this latter activity - handling the legal aspects of Chinese Communist purchases of private property - provided the lawyers who were still practicing with the bulk of their income. [] about the architects in Harbin except that most of them were always employed by the Railroad Administration and other large enterprises. In [] 1950, [] the few private architects in town, Russians and Chinese, were serving as consultants to the Chinese on new public construction.

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RESTAURANTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

8. Harbin's restaurants were in private hands in [] 1950 but the prices in the good ones were too high for ordinary civilians to pay.
[]
[] In [] 1950 the very best restaurants in Harbin were generally considered to be the restaurant of the Railway Administration Club and the one in the Hotel Moderne. A very good meal, including local or Russian wine, could be had at either of these places for US\$2.50. More expensive meals, with or without French wine, could be bought at these restaurants and perhaps at others as well. []
[] prices in the Chinatown restaurants ran a bit lower on the average but were not too far out of line with the index provided by this US\$2.50 example.

To the best of my knowledge, the motion picture theaters in Harbin, including those in Chinatown as well as the five or six in the Russian area, were in private hands in [] 1950. Only Soviet films were being shown in these houses [] and the admission charge in most of them was US\$.25.

The only first-class entertainment available in Harbin in [] 1950 was provided by the Railway Administration Club which sponsored concerts and drama. White Russians were excluded from the audience of these performances.

The employees of the Tschurin Department Store had a club which staged amateur plays and musicals from time to time.

EDUCATION

9. In [] 1950 all but the following schools in Harbin had been taken over by the government:

The Railway Administration Hospital School (possibly this should be considered a government school, but it was operated directly by the hospital) was training "doctors" in a four-year course of study. There were about 20 students enrolled []

The Red Cross was operating both a dental and a nurses training school but I can give no details.

Two private kindergartens maintained by and for White Russians were still operating.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GROUPS IN THE USE OF SERVICES

10. White Russians in Harbin were popular neither with the Soviets nor the Chinese Communists but the only specific discrimination []
[] was [] blanket exclusion from all the activities of the Railway Administration Club. This was a discrimination of some consequence in view of the Railway Administration Club's importance in the cultural affairs of the city. [] there was no specific discrimination against the White Russians in the medical and hospital services provided by the Railway Administration after those services were made available to persons other than Railway Administration employees. The merchants in Harbin were the target of a general liquidation program carried on in accordance with Communist economic policy and executed by the weapon of taxation and the competition of an increasing number of Chinese cooperatives. This attack on merchant enterprise struck at members of all national groups and was not discriminatory in the social sense of the word.

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PRICES AND AVAILABILITY OF CONSUMER GOODS

11. Prices were fairly steady in [] 1950 and had been for some months. 50X1
[] later [] prices shot up following the 50X1
unification of Northeast currency with that of the rest of China. There 50X1
was no shortage of commodities and consumer goods in Harbin []
50X1 Food (except canned), clothes, small Soviet automobiles, gasoline, oil,
houses - everything, in fact - could be purchased by anyone who had the
money. It was, however, only the military and civilian officials of the
Chinese Communist regime, plus a few favored private persons, who were
in a position to buy such things as houses, automobiles, and expensive
meals at restaurants. Following are some typical consumer goods prices
at private shops and at cooperatives:

One metre of cheap quality blue cotton cloth - US\$.35 at both private
shops and cooperatives.

Good wool cloth sufficient for a man's suit - US\$25 to US\$50 at a private
shop. Such cloth was unavailable in the cooperatives.

- 50X1 One ton of mediocre quality coal - US\$5 at a semi-official coal distri-
bution shop. There was only one private coal dealer in Harbin in []
1950 and he was receiving a slightly higher price for a better grade of
coal.

A wool sweater - US\$5 at a cooperative and slightly higher for slightly
better quality at a private shop. It was common practice to furnish the
yarn to a private shop and have the sweater knit to order at an average
cost of US\$5.

A good quality pair of men's shoes - US\$7.50 at a private shop with inferior
shoes only, at lower prices, available from the cooperatives.

- 50X1 A man's wool overcoat - US\$50 at a private shop. Cheaper coats could be
purchased from cooperatives but [] how much cheaper or what
the quality of cloth and workmanship was.

Soviet tea - US\$1 a half pound at both cooperatives and private stores.

- 50X1 In general, prices were the same for similar articles at both the private
shops and the cooperatives. The difference was that superior quality goods
of all kinds were not stocked by the cooperatives and were available only
from the private dealers who were still in business in [] 1950.

WAGE AND SALARY STRUCTURE

12. Following are some indices of the wage and salary structure in Harbin in
December 1950:

Clerk in the Polytechnical Institute of the Railway Administration -
US\$15 a month.

Sales clerk in the Tschurin Department Store - US\$15 a month.

Engineer employed by the Chinese Communist government - US\$40 a month.

Professor in the Polytechnical Institute - salary varied with degree and
range was from US\$20 to US\$40 a month with only six or seven of a faculty
of 60 receiving the higher figure.

Physician - US\$20 to US\$25 a month from private practice fees, probably
supplemented in most cases by income from part-time hospital staff service.

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Skilled worker, eg, carpenter - US\$15 to US\$20 a month.

50X1 Nurse - US\$7.50 to US\$10 a month, plus food but not lodging.

50X1 [redacted] Chinese Communist officials were [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] responsible for most of the demand in Harbin
50X1 at that time for luxury goods.

50X1 RUSSIAN MEDICAL PERSONNEL

13. [redacted] in connection with health services, [redacted] 10-12
50X1 Russian doctors and [redacted] 20 or so Russian dentists [redacted] were practicing in
50X1 Harbin in [redacted] 1950. Following are [redacted] the number of
50X1 Russian persons engaged at that time in related occupations:

50X1 Nurses - 100

50X1 Veterinarians - 5

50X1 Pharmacists - 25

Laboratory technicians - 20

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LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES

781.11	41L
781.12	41L
781.13	41L
857.311	41L
857.11	41L
762.2	41L
919	41L
888	41L
857.21	41L

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