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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Mongolian People's Republic

DATE DISTR. 2 September 1948

SUBJECT [Redacted]
Marshal Choibalsan

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25X1 Comment. The newspaper story in paragraph 1 appeared in a publication
entitled Autonomous Inner Mongolia, published in the Mongol language in Inner
25X1 Mongolian Autonomous Government territory, issue of 11 July 1947, and is presented
despite obvious bias, for whatever intrinsic value it may have.

25X1 1. "On the career of Marshal Choibalsan:

25X1 a. "Marshal Choibalsan was born in 1895 into the family of a commoner named Heric
in Doronot Aimak (114- , 48-). His parents were extremely poor and his
25X1 mother wanted him to become a lama; he had no desire to be a lama but, not
wishing to oppose his mother, he entered a temple and served until he was
25X1 seventeen years old, at which time he left the temple and went to Ulan Bator ,
where he joined a Mongol movement to free all Mongols from the oppression of
25X1 the Ching emperors and the Han (Chinese) race.

25X1 b. "Arriving in Ulan Bator in a state of near starvation, he engaged in manual
labor. He worked at jobs of all types and experienced all sorts of hardships...
25X1 even imprisonment. It was during these days that he resolved to liberate the
proletarians. Later, he received a wonderful chance to enter a Russian-language
25X1 school, where he was an outstanding student, and in 1914 he was selected for
a scholarship at Irkutsk (104-30, 52-20) High School.

25X1 c. "The October Revolution in 1917 led both Sukhebator, famous Mongol revolutionary,
and Choibalsan to form a revolutionary group of their own, and soon after, they
met and became revolutionary compatriots. Choibalsan was also able to meet
25X1 Soviet revolutionists, thereby laying the foundation of the present close,
brotherly relationship between the Mongol people and the people of the USSR.

25X1 d. "In the spring of 1920 Choibalsan was ordered by his party to proceed to the
USSR and seek Soviet assistance for the Mongolian Revolutionary Movement. He
25X1 suffered many hardships on this journey, especially in crossing the border; once
past the border, he encountered Sukhebator, who had also been delayed at the
border, and together they went to Irkutsk and entered a military academy.

25X1 e. "While in school they received word that the great Soviet leader, Lenin, would
assist the Mongolian Revolutionary Movement, so they hurriedly withdrew to a
region near the border (Kyskhta 106-30, 50-20) to prepare for the revolution.
25X1 Under the leadership of Sukhebator, Choibalsan worked on the enlargement of the
Revolutionary Party, the dissemination of propoganda, and the recruitment of

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troops for the Barchizai troop (sic). On 1 March 1921, at the First Party Conference, he was appointed Director of Party Principles, at which his chief duty was to preach Communism and lecture troops on Marxism and Leninism.

- f. "In May of the same year, he was appointed Vice-commander of the Revolutionary Army by General Sukhebator, and soon thereafter he prevented an imperialistic penetration of Outer Mongolia (Mongolian People's Republic) by defeating Baron Ungern's White Protection Army. (See Latourette, The Chinese, Their History and Culture.) In late 1922 Choibalsan was sent to the eastern border regions to suppress the anti-revolutionary uprising of Tobchin Lama and Chiringpel, who represented the reactionary forces.
 - g. "In 1934 the Emperor of Outer Mongolia, Living Buddha Jebzin Damba, died, and Choibalsan began actively to attack the specially privileged class. During the Third Party Conference in August of that year, he presented a proposal to destroy the capitalistic structure of Outer Mongolia. This proposal was accepted by all (party) members and the character of the Outer Mongolian political foundation had been decided.
 - h. "In 1934 the USSR Government presented Choibalsan with twenty automobiles and stated that he was a true revolutionist and a true leader of the people.
 - i. "In 1935 the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic (MPR) established a Ministry of Internal Security to offset the threat to MPR borders of spreading Japanese imperialism, and Choibalsan was appointed first Minister.
 - k. "In 1939 he was made a Marshal in recognition of his services during the revolution and in defending the MPR from its internal and external enemies. In the Eighth National Assembly, held on 30 September 1940, he was elected Prime Minister of the MPR, and the Choibalsan Constitution, which he drafted, was ratified.
 - j. "Near the end of 1937, Yunteun Khambo Lama, former Chamberlain of the Emperor, offered to assist Prime Minister Genden in overthrowing the revolutionary government by utilizing foreign influence. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Damit, also cooperated with these men and thereby neglected his duty to protect the MPR from Japanese penetration. Because of this attempted plot, Choibalsan carried out a thorough investigation and wholesale purge of these reactionaries.
 - l. "In 1941 the German Fascists invaded the USSR, and the MPR, under the leadership of Choibalsan, cooperated with the friendly Soviet Government.
 - m. "On 10 August 1945, war was declared against the Japanese Fascists (by the USSR) and Choibalsan fought with the Red Army for a few days. Japan was destroyed, the Mongols of Inner Mongolia were liberated and, thus, Choibalsan came to occupy the honorable position of 'Messiah' for all Mongols."
2. The purge (see paragraph 1.j) was the last great political purge in the MPR and involved over 10,000 people from all strata of society. One reason for it was the coincidental Marshal Tukhachevsky purge, the last great purge of the USSR. A more important cause was the outbreak in July 1937 of the Sino-Japanese War. The Japanese Army advanced along the Kalgan (114-55, 40-50)-Suiyuan (134-24, 43-22)-Paotou (110-03, 40-36) line, and in western Inner Mongolia set up a pro-Japanese autonomous government under the nominal leadership of Prince TE, famed Mongol revolutionary. Besides the pressure on her southern border, the MPR felt that if the Japanese should invade the country on one pretext or another, the anti-Soviet "Racial Principle" advocates within the country would cooperate with them. The total number of "Racial Principle" advocates was much greater than that of the pro-Soviet element and many of these men held high military or political authority, including Prime Minister Genden, more than half of the cabinet ministers, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and concurrently Minister of War, Damit, and more than half of the Army's generals. From the pro-Soviet viewpoint, this group had to be disposed of, and the purge of 1937 was the method. At this time, however, Choibalsan's strength was not sufficient to carry out a successful purge. He needed armed assistance from the USSR, and in May 1937 the 36 Motorized Infantry Division, the first Soviet troops to enter the MPR, moved to Dalay Sayn Shanda (109-40, 45-00) via Ulan Ude (107-30, 51-50) and Ulan Bator, to "cope with the danger of the Japanese advance into North China and Inner Mongolia."

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3. More than half of the cabinet members and the majority of military personnel above the rank of division commander were purged. Other victims were found among the important members of the National Assembly and the industrial, agricultural, artistic and labor fields. The standard accusations were that the victims were engaged in espionage for the Japanese or were secretly plotting for the overthrow of the MPR Government. High-ranking lamas were accused of spying for the Panchan Lama, a "reactionary". The purge was well planned and executed. Intended victims were issued travel orders. At their destinations they were arrested or shot. Part of the 36 Division in Ulan Bator cooperated in the round-up by declaring martial law in the city. Danit was ordered to Moscow and poisoned en route. Lt. Gen. Damba, Commander of the Second Army Corps in Bayan Tumen (114-30,48-05), was ordered to Ulan Bator, where he was arrested.
4. This purge left Choibalsan the most powerful man in the MPR and laid the foundation for the present condition of that nation. In commemoration of the adoption of the "New Choibalsan Constitution" and his election as Prime Minister, Bayan Tumen, the second largest city in the MPR and the most important city in eastern MPR, was renamed Choibalsan City.

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