

INFORMATION SECRET

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Economic Information: Conditions in Harbin  
25X1

DATE DISTR. 31 Jan. 1949

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF  
U.S.C. 51 AND 52, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION  
OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-  
HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Harbin is the administrative capital of the Northeast and apparently is run  
25X1 entirely by the Chinese. The Russians are not much in evidence and only  
25X1 occasionally one is seen in uniform.
2. Life is regimented under laws and regulations, and these are applied with  
great strictness. The populace is pleased with the stable and reasonably  
satisfactory standard of life which has emerged after years of strife and  
uncertainty, but unhappy about the iron rule of the Chinese Communist Party.
3. Utilities (light, water, telephones, streetcars and busses) function satis-  
factorily and there seem to be enough cars, trucks and rickshaws available  
to meet requirements.
4. Private enterprise in small-scale industry is encouraged if regarded as  
serving the interests of the community. Most shops are open. Theaters,  
25X1 cabarets and restaurants thrive, and the general tempo of life is brisk.
5. Flour and oil mills (the city's foremost industries) are under rigid state  
control. [redacted] Comment. Possibly the "oil mills" referred to are  
bean oil mills.)
6. There is ample food, particularly grains, and the prices of most basic  
necessities are low and stable. As harvests have been very good there is  
a large grain surplus available for export. The chief shortages are cotton  
textiles, rubber goods, fuel oil and various light domestic requisites,  
25X1 like electric gadgets and cosmetics, which were formerly imported from  
Shanghai or abroad.
7. Trade with Russia passes mainly between Harbin and Manchouli.
8. The gauge of the railway has not yet been changed. [redacted]

|   |                                     |      |                                     |      |              |  |  |  |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY |                                     |      |                                     |      |              |  |  |  |  |
| STATE   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NAVY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NSRB | DISTRIBUTION |  |  |  |  |
| ARMY  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | AIR  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FBI  |              |  |  |  |  |

Document No. 607

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

25X1