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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT: General Treatment of American Prisoners of War

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1. A group of 106 American prisoners of war captured on the Suwon front were taken to Pyongyang by rail on 12 July 1950. They were marched to West Pyongyang and quartered in Primary School 18 there. Four of the prisoners died before 19 July, reportedly from some unspecified disease. On 19 July, the remaining 102 men were transferred to Primary School 19, also in West Pyongyang, and kept there till 8 September. During this period, all prisoners of war in Pyongyang were used as laborers in constructing air raid shelters throughout the city. Their diet was barley and millet (quantities unspecified). On 8 September the 102 prisoners were transferred by rail to Manpojin.
2. A group of approximately 500 American prisoners of war were confined in the Pyongyang Women's Normal College from 14 September to 10 October. Between 14 and 25 September, 26 dead bodies were observed being carried from the college compound on stretchers borne by other prisoners of war. The bodies were buried in the Yaryong Cemetery in West Pyongyang. Townspeople living near the college reported that gunfire was heard daily within the compound. On 10 October 50 of the original 500 prisoners left by train for Manpojin; the fate of the remaining approximately 450 prisoners is unknown.
3. Between 14 September and 2 October, a third group of American prisoners of war, numbering approximately 2,500, were also sent to Manpojin by rail. The prisoners were placed on the roofs of freight cars carrying machinery from the south. During the entire trip which required eight days, only about four to six meals per man were allowed them. Upon arrival in Manpojin, the officers, of whom there were approximately 50, were removed from the group and installed in the former primary school building in the small village of Iyero, three kilometers (approximately two miles) west of Manpojin. The enlisted men were billeted in an unspecified location approximately one kilometer east of Manpojin and put to hard labor, such as carrying rice sacks.
4. The group also included two women prisoners of war, one Korean and American who spoke good Korean. Their location in Manpojin is not known.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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