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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. On 14 October 1952 the Hyang Kyo Kol market place in Kilchu (129-20, 40-58) (EA-2835) was in a valley at EA-292332 in an area within a circumference of approximately seventy meters. None of the buildings were stationery. The temporary wood-framed kiosks were covered with straw bags and were limited by law to a space of four square meters. Twenty-four stalls were used for dry goods, 50 for grain, 14 for fish and 26 for miscellaneous commodities. Many farmers came to the market daily and sold their produce in the open ground area.
2. The shops were stocked with a variety of native Korean products and goods from Communist China, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Japan, and the United States. Commodities from China had been smuggled and were sold "under the counter" in small quantities. These items were usually obtained from the smugglers in exchange for machinery and for opium secretly produced in remote mountain areas of North Korea. When smugglers were caught, all their goods were confiscated. Smugglers picked up for a third offense were sent to forced labor camps in Manchuria.
3. The shop-keepers' average capital investment was about 70,000 North Korean won, with the largest investment about 100,000 won. Each merchant paid a city tax of 30 won per day for using the market place. He also had to pay a dealer's tax that has increased sharply since July, forcing many smaller merchants out of business. In July the dealer's tax averaged about 6,000 won a month. In October, the tax had been increased to about 22,000 won monthly. Some of the merchants forced to close became peddlers. The tax for this type of business was about 2,000 won.

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4. On 14 October 1952 the prices of food and other commodities at the Hyang Kyo Kol market in Kilchu were as stated in the following list.¹ Grain prices, as quoted, were slightly higher than consumers guild prices. However, market merchants compensated for this difference by giving more liberal weights and measurements. This made prices in both places virtually the same. All Chinese items were smuggled into North Korea.

a. Food

| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Wholesale Price | Retail Price |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Rice | 1 large mal | 1,750 NK won | 1,800 NK won |
| Millet | 1 large mal | 1,570 | 1,600 |
| Barley | 1 large mal | 980 | 1,000 |
| Wheat | 1 large mal | 960 | 980 |
| Sorghum | 1 large mal | 790 | 800 |
| Flour (S) | 1 kilogram | Unknown | 120 |
| Beans | 1 large mal | 780 | 800 |
| Red Beans | 1 large mal | 780 | 800 |
| Bean Oil | 1 large mal | Unknown | 2,000 |
| Bean Sauce | 1 kilogram | Unknown | 40 |
| Bean Cakes | 7 kilograms | 320 | 350 |
| Wine | 1 large mal | Unknown | 900 |
| Salt | 1 mal ⁴ | Unknown | 1,000 |
| Potatoes | 1 large mal | 590 | 600 |
| Radishes | 1 kilogram | Variable | 80 |
| Cabbage | 1 kilogram | Variable | 80 |
| Onions | 1 kilogram | Variable | 80 |
| Garlic | 100 cloves | Variable | 800 |
| Beef | 1 kilogram | Variable | 100 |
| Pork | 1 kilogram | Variable | 100 |
| Eggs | 1 | Variable | 15 |
| Salt Mackerel | 2 | Variable | 130 |
| Dried Pollack | 20 | Variable | 500 |
| Sea Laver (seaweed) | 1 kwan | Variable | 480 |
| Apples | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| Pears | 1 | 8 | 10 |

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| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Wholesale Price | Retail Price |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Peaches | 1 | 5 NK won | 8 NK won |

b. Restaurant Prices

| | | | |
|----------------|--------|--|-----|
| Noodles | 1 bowl | | 100 |
| Rice | 1 bowl | | 150 |
| Rice with meat | 1 bowl | | 150 |

c. Services

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|--------|
| Hotel room | 1 night | | 50 |
| Hotel room | 1 night with two meals | | 400 |
| Hair cut | | | 40 |
| Horse-cart hire | Ch'ongjin to Kilchu (3-day trip) | | 10,000 |
| Coolie hire | 1 day with meals | | 300 |

d. Livestock

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--|--------|
| Plowing ox | 1 head | | 50,000 |
| Cow | 1 head | | 40,000 |
| Calf (1 year old) | 1 head | | 7,000 |
| Pig (1 year old) | 1 head | | 2,500 |
| Chicken | 1 | | 500 |

e. Clothing

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Men's socks | 1 pair | 140 | 150 |
| Men's socks (C) | 1 pair | Unknown | 300 |
| Men's socks (C) (second quality) | 1 pair | Unknown | 250 |
| Men's socks (CC) | 1 pair | Unknown | 200 |
| Rayon stockings | 1 pair | 90 | 100 |
| Cotton gloves | 1 pair | 170 | 180 |
| Leather boots (C) | 1 pair | 3,400 | 3,500 |
| Leather shoes (men's) (C) | 1 pair | 3,700 | 3,800 |

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| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Wholesale Price | Retail Price |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Leather shoes (C) (children's) | 1 pair | 1,700 NK won | 1,800 NK won |
| Basketball shoes (CC) | 1 pair | Unknown | 5,000 |
| Tennis shoes (CC) | 1 pair | Unknown | 3,000 |
| Men's rubber shoes | 1 pair | 1,850 | 1,900 |
| Women's rubber shoes | 1 pair | 1,450 | 1,500 |
| Children's rubber shoes | 1 pair | 1,170 | 1,200 |
| Rubber overshoes (S) | 1 pair | Unknown | 2,300 |
| Leather belt (C) (second hand) | 1 | Unknown | 700 |

f. Dry Goods

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--------|--------|
| Cotton cloth | 20 feet | 3,000 | 3,200 |
| Cotton sheeting (Cock brand) (CC) | 40-yard bolt | 30,600 | 31,000 |
| Cotton sheeting (Barley brand) (CC) | 42-yard bolt | 26,600 | 27,000 |
| Cotton sheeting (Special brand) (CC) | 40-yard bolt | 30,600 | 31,000 |
| Black cotton cloth (CC) | 41-yard bolt | 29,600 | 30,000 |
| Cotton gauze | 40-yard bolt | 18,600 | 19,000 |
| Lining material | 20 yards | 900 | 1,100 |
| Cotton batting (used) | 1 kwan | 3,300 | 3,500 |
| Coarse linen | 20 feet | 1,800 | 2,000 |
| Linen gauze (CC) | 40 feet | 2,300 | 2,600 |
| Rayon | 20 meters | 6,000 | 6,200 |
| Terry cloth towel (CC) | 1 | 950 | 1,000 |
| Terry cloth towel (medium) | 1 | 650 | 700 |
| Cotton thread (CC) | 3,000 meters | 3,000 | 3,100 |
| Hand towel | 1 | 550 | 600 |

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| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Wholesale Price | Retail Price |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <u>g. Fuel</u> | | | |
| Gasoline | 1 drum | 70,000 NK won | 80,000 NK won |
| Petroleum | 1 drum | Unknown | 95,000 |
| Charcoal | 1 bundle | Unknown | 480 |
| Wood | 1 cartload | Unknown | 1,200 |
| Pine branches | 1 cartload | Unknown | 1,000 |
| Carbide | 1 kwan | Unknown | 480 |
| <u>h. Medicines</u> | | | |
| Soda (sic) | 1 kwan | 1,700 | 2,000 |
| Penicillin (CC) | 20,000 units ⁵ | Unknown | 2,500 |
| Penicillin (US) | 20,000 units ⁵ | Unknown | 3,000 |
| Streptomycin (US) (powdered) | 1-ounce bottle | Unknown | 7,500 |
| Sulphadiazine | 1 tablet (5 grains) | Unknown | 100 |
| <u>i. Writing Materials</u> | | | |
| Writing paper | 1 sheet | 95 | 100 |
| Note book | 1 | 45 | 50 |
| Lead pencil | 1 | 8 | 10 |
| Lead pencil (C) | 1 | Unknown | 60 |
| Colored crayon pencil (C) | 1 | Unknown | 100 |
| Pen points | 100 (box) | 300 | 330 |
| Lampblack ink | 1 stick | 40 | 45 |
| Blue ink | 1 bottle | 27 | 30 |
| Writing brush | 1 | Unknown | 130 |
| Fountain pen (CC) | 1 | 950 | 1,000 |
| <u>j. Cosmetics and Notions</u> | | | |
| Face powder (CC) | 1 small box | 300 | 310 |

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| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Wholesale Price | Retail Price |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Face cream | 1 jar | 430 NK won | 500 NK won |
| Vanishing cream | 1 jar | Unknown | 1,000 |
| Hair tonic (CC) | 1 small bottle | 480 | 500 |
| Tooth paste | 1 tube | 55 | 60 |
| Tooth paste (CC) | 1 tube | 320 | 340 |
| Tooth brush | 1 | 58 | 60 |
| Tooth brush (second quality) | 1 | 23 | 25 |
| Tooth brush (CC) | 1 | 2,000 | 2,100 ⁶ |
| Toilet soap | 1 bar | Unknown | 100 |
| Toilet soap (CC) | 1 bar | 300 | 310 |
| Comb | 1 | 140 | 150 |
| Hair pins | 100 | 200 | 210 |
| Pocket mirror | 1 | 48 | 50 |

k. Smoking Supplies

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|-----|
| Tobacco | 1 tin | 70 | 100 |
| Tobacco (S) | 1 tin | Unknown | 200 |
| Tobacco (CC) | 1 tin | 300 | 330 |
| Book matches | 1 book | Unknown | 150 |
| Book matches (CC) | 1 book | 200 | 250 |
| Lighter flint (US and J) | 1 | Unknown | 50 |

l. Miscellaneous Articles and Materials

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|---------------------|
| Light bulb (60-watt) | 1 | 550 | 600 |
| Light bulb (100-watt) | 1 | 1,450 | 1,500 |
| Light bulb (100-watt) (CC) | 1 | 1,450 | 1,500 |
| Sewing needle (CC) | 1 packet | 10,000 | 11,000 ⁶ |
| Sewing machine needle | 1 | Unknown | 700 |

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| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Wholesale Price | Retail Price |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Saw | 1 | Unknown | 500 NK won |
| Spikes (4-inch) | 1 kwan | Unknown | 3,700 ⁶ |
| Nails (2-inch) | 1 kwan | Unknown | 6,000 ⁶ |
| Laundry soap | 1 bar | Unknown | 200 |
| Old newspapers | 1 kwan | Unknown | 380 |
| Old magazines | 1 kwan | Unknown | 380 |
| Leather brief case (second hand) (C) | 1 | Unknown | 5,000 |
| Suitcase (C) (second hand) | 1 | Unknown | 13,000 |
| Bicycle tires (with tubes) (CC) | 1 pair | Unknown | 2,300 ⁶ |
| Raw rubber ⁷ | 1 kwan | Unknown | 13,000 ⁶ |
| Pure gold (from any origin) | 3.75 grams | | 60,000 |

5. On 13 October 1952 the consumers guild department store of Kilchu was in the Hyang Kyo Kol market place at point EA-291333. This store had three employes, one in charge of cloth and miscellaneous goods, one in charge of dry grain and beverages, and a third in charge of vegetables, fish, and supplies of this type. Clothing was brought to the store from the Kilchu National Department Store warehouse at EA-291333. Grain was brought in from the Onsup'yoŋ (129-22, 41-04) (EA-3146) railroad station. The source of other supplies was undetermined.
6. The consumers guild store had no warehouse of its own. All available items were displayed in the store. The quantities of these goods were so small that their prices had no effect on free market prices. Actually the reverse was true and free market prices influenced those in the consumers guild store. This store often purchased supplies from independent dealers to keep up the stock.
7. Prices in the Kilchu consumers guild store on 13 October 1952 were:

a. Food

| Item ² | Unit of Measurement | Price |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Rice | 9 pounds | 870 NK won |
| Wheat | 9 pounds | 650 |
| Sorghum | 9 pounds | 600 |
| Flour (S) | 1 kilogram | 120 |
| Soy beans | 9 pounds | 870 |
| Potato flour (CC) | 1 kilogram | 170 |

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| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Price |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Bean oil | .18 pound | 200 |
| Bean sauce | 1 kilogram | 32 |
| Soy sauce | 1.8 pound | 50 |
| Wine | 1.8 pound | 1,170 ⁶ |
| Salt | 9 pounds | 470 |
| Green onions | 1 kwan | 80 |
| Red peppers | 9 pounds | 400 |
| Egg plant | 1 kilogram | 23 |
| White turnips | 1 kilogram | 80 |
| Beef | 1 kilogram | 100 |
| Pork | 1 kilogram | 100 |
| Dried mackerel | 2 | 100 |
| Dried seaweed | 1 bundle | 450 |
| Apples | 1 kilogram | 40 |
| Pears | 1 kilogram | 50 |
| Biscuits (S) | 50 in a box | 450 |

c. Clothing

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Coat (men's) (H) | 1 | 5,000 |
| Undershirt (men's, first quality) | 1 | 500 |
| Undershirt (men's, medium quality) | 1 | 280 |
| Socks (men's) | 1 pair | 150 |
| Socks (wool, men's) | 1 pair | 500 |
| Hat (men's) | 1 | 500 |
| Cap (linen) | 1 | 800 |
| Sweat shirt | 1 | 350 |
| Undershirt (women's) | 1 | 250 |
| Stockings (women's) (CC) | 1 pair | 320 |
| Stockings (women's synthetic silk) | 1 pair | 280 |
| Cap (child's) | 1 | 500 |

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| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Price |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Leather boots (C) | 1 pair | 3,030 NK won |
| Canvas and rubber shoes | 1 pair | 700 |
| Black rubber shoes (men's) | 1 pair | 1,700 |
| Black rubber shoes (women's) | 1 pair | 1,300 |
| Rubber shoes (child's) | 1 pair | 1,100 |
| <u>c. Dry Goods</u> | | |
| Coat material (U) (cotton-wool) | 1 meter | 2,500 |
| Summer hemp cloth (U) | 1 meter | 700 |
| Sheeting cloth | 1 meter | 700 |
| Cotton cloth | 200-foot bolt | 2,870 |
| Cotton towel (first quality) (CC) | 1 | 1,000 |
| Cotton towel (Second quality) (CC) | 1 | 700 |
| <u>d. Writing Materials</u> | | |
| Pencil (CC) | 1 | 60 |
| Pencil | 1 | 10 |
| Pen points (CC) | 100 | 570 |
| Pen holder | 1 | 30 |
| Pencil (color) (C) | 1 | 100 |
| Notebook | 1 | 50 |
| White paper | 1 sheet | 93 |
| <u>e. Cosmetics and Notions</u> | | |
| Toilet soap (third quality) | 1 bar | 100 |
| Laundry soap (third quality) | 1 bar | 200 |
| Tooth brush (medium quality) (CC) | 1 | 420 |

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| Item ² | Unit of Measurement ³ | Price |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Tooth paste (low quality) (CC) | 1 tube | 110 NK won |
| Tooth powder (low quality) (CC) | 1 bag | 110 |
| Cigarettes (S) | 1 pack | 200 |
| Matches | 1 box | 15 |

1. Comment. If these price lists are authentic and no error has been made in units of measurement, comparison with price reports from the same general area reveals a sharp drop in the prices of food staples in a short period of time. for a June 1952 report from Ch'ongjin (129-49, 41-47) (EB-6826) and for a September report from Songjin (129-42, 40-40) (EA-1701). Comparison of food prices from the two reports mentioned above with those at Kilchu showed the following (prices are in NK won per mal unless otherwise stated):

| Item | Kilchu October 1952 | Ch'ongjin June 1952 | Songjin September 1952 |
|----------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| rice | 1,800 | 5,800 | 5,000 |
| eggs | 15 each | 30 | info. not available |
| bean oil | 504 gallon | 2,725 | " " " |
| beef | 100 kilogram | 300 | " " " |
| millet | 1,600 | info. not available | 3,600 |
| potatoes | 600 | " " " | 600 |
| beans | 800 | " " " | 2,600 |
| sorghum | 800 | " " " | 3,400 |

2. Comment. Letter symbols in parentheses immediately following the items indicate the country in which they originated. They are: (S) USSR; (C) Czechoslovakia; (CC) Communist China; (US) United States; (J) Japan; (H) Hungary and (U) unknown. Where no letter symbol appears, the item was produced in North Korea.
3. Comment. Western equivalents of the Korean units of measurement used in this report are: large mal, a little less than 30 pounds of rice or about one-half bushel and for liquids, about 18 liters or 3.97 gallons; small mal, half of a large mal; kwan, 3.75 kilograms or about eight pounds.
4. Comment. In this case did not indicate whether a large or small mal was used in measurement but the small mal was probably intended.
5. Comment. probably mistook a 200,000 unit bottle for a 20,000 unit bottle since a check with medical authorities showed that the smallest quantities of penicillin came in 50,000 unit bottles.

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6. Comment. The contrast between the price of a tooth brush imported from Communist China and one of North Korean manufacture seems incredible. The following prices also seem unreasonable; 11,000 won for a packet of sewing needles; 3,700 won for four-inch spikes in contrast with 6,000 won for the same quantity of two-inch nails; raw rubber at 13,000 won for about eight pounds with the price of bicycle tires with tubes quoted at 900 won; one large mal of wine on the free market at 900 won and in the consumers guild store at 1,170 won for 1.8 pounds (sic).

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7. Comment. the raw rubber was produced in North Korea. It was probably imported from Communist China.

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