



# Intelligence Information Report

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COUNTRY People's Republic of China

DCS REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Dr. George Hatem Not the Minister  
of Public Health/Degenerative  
Diseases a Major Problem/Schisto-  
somiiasis a Problem in the South

DATE DISTR.

12 SEP 1973

NO. PAGES

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REFERENCES [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

PLACE & DATE ACQ. BY SOURCE [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. Dr George Hatem has been associated with the Chinese Communist movement since 1936 and he is a dedicated, humble man who has contributed immensely to the quality of health care prevailing in the People's Republic of China (PRC) today. Due to Dr Hatem's desire for anonymity and his reluctance to accept publicity, many people have speculated as to what his actual position in the PRC is. He recently granted an interview but only after Chou En-lai instructed him to do so.
2. According to Dr Hatem, the only title he possesses is that of Medical Doctor. He is not the Minister of Public Health in the PRC; he is not a Communist Party functionary, even though he is a Party member; and he is not the head of the Fu Chen Men Wai Hospital in Peking. He is a specialist in dermatology, venereology, leprosy, and social epidemiology. Currently he is specializing in occupational dermatosis. Due to his humility, his desire to serve his fellow man, and because he is not a native born Chinese, he has shunned any position of leadership within the governmental hierarchy.
3. His specialization in social epidemiology is one reason speculation has arisen concerning his position within the Ministry of Public Health. He developed the current system of public health and he is responsible for the curtailment of the serious contagious diseases that plagued China for centuries. He travels to all areas of China at least once a year to ensure that the quality of public health is continuing at a high level. Despite the lack of a title, he is recognized throughout the PRC, and all health officials implement his suggestions immediately.
4. Dr. Hatem claims that degenerative diseases are becoming a larger problem than they have been in the past. These diseases are increasing in the larger cities but not in the countryside. Several factors are causing the increase: the tempo of life has become faster; the population is living longer; and famines, and pestilence are taking less of a toll. In addition to the degenerative diseases, schistosomiasis is a major problem

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in the southern part of the PRC. No solution has been developed to control this disease although a high priority has been assigned to the effort.

5. Dr. Hatem reluctantly discussed a few aspects of political life in the PRC. He stated that Communism has not been achieved as yet but steady progress is being made toward that goal. His salary is higher than his son's because the stage of society is now such that each receives according to his ability, not according to his needs. The Cultural Revolution served as a purification of the ranks so now the majority of the masses share the same goal of achieving full Communism. The Cultural Revolution also provided a continuity to the system that was lacking before, and this will not be altered with the death of Mao or Chou.

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