

Intelligence Information Report



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

[REDACTED]

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

COUNTRY China/North Vietnam

DATE DISTR. 2 FEB 1971

SUBJECT Medical Training--Size and Scope/Anti-TB Vaccine Use on All New Born/Vaccines and Antibiotics of Good Quality/US Prisoners in Vietnam Getting Standard Local Diet

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. [REDACTED] commented in December 1970 on his earlier visits to China and North Vietnam, the latest of which took place in January 1970. When asked about modern medical schooling in China, he said he did not know how many medical schools now were operating. In 1965, he had been told there were 35 or 36 medical schools admitting about 200 new students per year. He said most of the hospitals in the larger cities in China were well equipped by his standards, and noted that in the medical school in Wusan the Chinese had six US-made cobalt machines.
2. Curricula in the traditional medical schools were being brought closer to Western teachings [REDACTED]. In the field of anatomy they are now (January 1970) teaching normal human anatomy in contrast to the earlier teaching of the three tubular systems--the arteries, the veins, and this third system that they pierce with their acupuncture. At the same time, the modern doctors have to learn many of the traditional remedies in order to be able to work with the large number of traditional doctors still practicing.
3. The China visitor was questioned about cancer research and surgery in China. He knew of no particular research on malignancies going on there, but he gave good marks to their cancer surgery. Particularly, he noted the quality of their esophageal carcinoma surgery. He thought this specific cancer was somewhat indigenous to China, for no known reason, much as carcinoma of the stomach is indigenous to Japan.
4. Concerning epidemiology, he believed that typhus, cholera, and the like were not rampant in China chiefly because it was easy over there to inoculate the entire population, and he believed this already had been done. In China and North Vietnam, all new babies are inoculated with something like BCG, an anti-tuberculosis vaccine, in addition to inoculations against other diseases.
5. Vaccines and antibiotics that are manufactured in China were discussed, and he indicated that some had been tested in East Germany and proved to be of high quality. He mentioned no particular vaccines, but among the antibiotics he specified chlorellin, phenocoll, and penicillin, plus some other common antibiotics.

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6. Little was said about North Vietnam, but [REDACTED] was critical of the one medical school there, which is in Hanoi. The facilities for handling patients were atrocious--two-tiered wooden beds with a patient on top and a patient underneath. Also, the medical equipment was poor.
7. He said he had tried to visit US prisoner-of-war camps, but had been denied this request. When queried about nutrition, he replied that he believed the prisoners were being fed the same number of calories and the same diet as the North Vietnamese. The problem was that the prisoners could not exist on this diet without medical problems and apparent starvation.

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