THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION CENTER ON CHINA

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This study is one of a number done by academic and other research institutions for the Department of State as part of the Department's external research program. These studies are designed to supplement the Department's own research capabilities and provide independent, expert views to policy officers and analysts on key questions with important policy implications.

The idea for this study of the advisability of a center for the exchange, between government agencies and the academic community, of data on China, was formulated in ad hoc interagency meetings under the aegis of the Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs Research of the National Security Council Under Secretaries Committee (USC/FAR). Overall monitoring of the project within the Department was under the direction of Edward G. Griffin, Program Officer in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR).

The External Research Program is planned and coordinated by the Department of State Research Council and managed by INR's Office of External Research. Comments on this study or queries about the program may be addressed to:

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THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION CENTER ON CHINA

Davis B. Bobrow

Introduction

This report deals with the results of a study to clarify the feasibility of an information center on China to be used and contributed to by the government and the academic community. The immediate origins of the study can be found in the Research Objectives of the Second USC/FAR Consolidated Plan for Foreign Affairs Research, FY73-74 prepared by the Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs Research of the National Security Council Under Secretaries Committee. The relevant objective was to: "Improve external foreign affairs research on the PRC by increasing the exchange of well-ordered data between the government and the academic community."

To formulate this objective, "the USC/FAR Executive Secretariat, working in concert with the Chairman of the USC/FAR Consultative Groups on East Asia and General Research, convened a number of ad hoc meetings of selected officers from Member and other agencies in order better to define the problem and map a course of action. There emerged solid consensus that more precise knowledge was needed about those factors which all agreed are important to making an exchange of China data feasible and useful in addition to its being desirable."

1 To achieve the objective, the Office of External Research of the Department of State awarded a contract to the author to prepare a feasibility study with the assistance of the China Research Materials Subcommittee of the Chinese-English Translation Assistance Project (CETA). CETA's work on a machine-assisted Chinese-English dictionary has involved extensive government-academic cooperation.
Subsequent sections of this report present study tasks and approach, findings and insights, and recommendations.
Tasks and Approach

Tasks

The feasibility study set out to answer the following questions:

1. What is the body of unclassified information to be encompassed? In what forms is the information produced and stored (e.g., text, machine-record text, quantitative raw data, coded data)? Who produces and manages the information? What is its subject matter coverage? What is the time period covered and at what intervals is the information updated?

2. What information collections now exist within the scope of the answers to the first question? Where do they exist in the Government and in the private sector? What major data collections could be created?

3. What possible information collections would be of value to different groups of potential users? What sorts of value would they have or purposes would they serve? What is the relative priority of these values and purposes? What considerations other than demand should bear on assigning priorities?

4. What interests and attitudes relevant to sharing characterize those who now hold and manage key collections of China information? What are the implications of these characteristics for the feasibility of information sharing in general and an information center in particular?

5. Based on answers to the preceding questions, what are the major alternative courses of action for collaborative information sharing on China and the estimated costs and benefits of each?

6. Given this assessment, what is the most advisable first step toward long-term improved information-sharing? What other recommendations merit recognition and consideration at this time or subsequently?
Approach

The study plan called for relying on interviews with relevant members of the U.S. Government and the academic community. It was felt that the attitudes, interests, and information holdings of those who would or would not contribute to and make use of an information center would be the primary determinants of its feasibility and effectiveness. The results of the interviews would then be assessed in the light of experience with information center management in the government and the academic communities. Recommendations would follow.

The author was reinforced in his views about a proper sequencing of study activities by the conclusions reached in an intensive discussion with the China Research Materials Subcommittee of CETA. Those participating in the discussion were James Mathias, Lee Houchins, Franz Mogdis and Thomas Robinson. First priority would go to assessing the nature of unclassified China information of a recurrent kind held by the U.S. Government suitable for diffusion through an information center, and of willingness to engage in sharing. The content and form of the information were to be clarified as well as the extent to which the information was currently available to the academic community and the efficiency of the form in which it was currently available.

If this part of the inquiry found little in the way of serial information not yet available in convenient form or little willingness to share, the issue of user interest would be rendered moot. Unless the information is available on a periodic basis assembled in a consistent form, there is little reason to believe that an information center will have a major function. Otherwise, supply arrangements have to be ad hoc; users have little incentive to develop ongoing relationships with such a center. The form in which information is available has obvious implications for the extent to which users of a center...
find its information worth the cost in time and energy to secure it. Also, the extent to which the information which such a center holds comes well-indexed, and in text or machine-readable forms, has major implications for the resources a center requires and its relationships with existing information sharing organizations. If, in contrast, the findings were more positive, then it would be important to assess user interest. If the initial part of the inquiry found important potentially sharable information and substantial resistance to sharing, then it would be clear that the barriers to feasibility were more substantial than the absence of an appropriately sponsored, funded and managed information center. Potential supply became the initial issue.
Findings and Insights

This section: 1) presents in summary form information about major U.S. Government collections of China information, and aids to retrieval and analysis of that information, including the extent to which they are publicly available; 2) appraises the usefulness of the not yet available information and aids to the academic community relative to its current resources; and 3) comments on the willingness of the pertinent elements of the U.S. Government to share the materials.

Government Collections

To clarify the content and form of major government collections, I attempted to identify them directly, used computer runs of the retrospective retrieval system (AEGIS) maintained by the Central Reference Service (CRS) of the CIA to locate additional collections of unclassified material, and examined the card-catalogue of the Foreign Affairs Research Documentation Center (FARDC) of the Department of State. This summary will deal in turn with information on the Chinese economy, installations and organizations, activity and position information on persons, media, FARDC holdings, retrieval systems for China information, and the results of the cross-checking computer runs and examination of the FARDC catalogue. It should be noted that our primary concern is with recurring and substantial sets of information whether of a textual or statistical kind rather than with "one-shot" material.

ECONOMIC STATISTICS. The overwhelming share of U.S. Government activity to create and update economic statistical series occurs in the Office of Economic Research of the Central Intelligence Agency. The series include:
a) Annually updated PRC economic indicators: GNP, mid-year population, per capita GNP, grain, cotton, industrial production index, crude steel, coal, electric power, crude oil, cement, chemical fertilizers (supply, production, imports), machine tools, trucks, locomotives, freight cars, cotton cloth, foreign trade (total, exports, imports).

b) People's Republic of China: International Trade Handbook: issued annually, provides series on exports, imports, balance by Communist countries and Non-Communist countries since 1950; trade by area and country (exports, imports, balance); major trading partners; commodity composition of trade (commodity as percentage of exports, imports); commodity composition of exports (commodity monetary value by Communist countries, Non-Communist countries); commodity composition of imports (commodity monetary value by Communist countries, Non-Communist countries); commodity composition of trade with Non-Communist Countries (commodity monetary value by Japan, Western Europe, West Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong and Macao, less developed countries); imports of grain and chemical fertilizer (tons and monetary value); contracts for whole plant imports (nation, firm, type, value, date contract signed, date completion, financing).

c) People's Republic of China: An Economic Assessment includes or suggests the existence of numerous series on agricultural production and modernization, production of particular industrial commodities, computer development and manufacture, production of transportation equipment and performance in the modern transport sector, population, education, foreign reserve position, foreign trade in particular commodities, and extensions of economic and technical assistance. A more detailed listing is provided in Appendix A.
What is the availability of the series noted above? The *International Trade Handbook* is published every autumn and made public through the Documents Expediting Project (DOCEX) of the Library of Congress. (We shall say more about DOCEX later.) Item c, "...an Economic Assessment...," has appeared and may be expected to continue to appear every three to five years as a print of the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress. Item a, the basic indicators, is updated frequently and often made available on an informal basis.

My impression is that the vast majority of the key series are for practical purposes in the public domain. Some considerations remain about timeliness, level of aggregation and form. For example, the last Joint Economic Committee Print (May 18, 1972) contained many series whose most recent point was 1970. This problem is not serious if the basic indicators and *International Trade Handbook* are available although their depth is not as great. On level of aggregation, much data on flows between the CPR and specific less-developed countries is not reported in the collections cited. The role of the China trade in the foreign trade of specific trading partners also is not summarized. Such data clearly does exist in government collections but varies in classification levels and sensitivity. Attempts to make it public would probably involve a substantial number of specific decisions about individual items of information or a general change in classification policy. Finally, the series cited are made available in non-machine readable form. It apparently is the case that they exist in machine-readable files together with suitable programs for their manipulation (e.g., CROSSTABS). However, it is also clear that it is a rather minor matter (less than 40 hours of inexpensive labor) for academic researchers to have the available series key-punched in formats suited to standard programs which are available at most University computer centers.
INSTALLATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS. Substantial collections of information on Chinese installations and organizations are maintained by C.R.S. Some suggestion of their contents is given by occasional fragments in the public domain. I refer to: a) the organizational charts and breakdowns included in some of the information on office-holders referred to in our next section; b) the Appendix on foreign trade corporations (name, mailing address, cable address, area of responsibility) included in the International Trade Handbook; and c) the Appendix on major facilities in China's electronic industry in the People's Republic of China: an Economic Assessment.

These collections apparently are large, all manual without a computerized index, and of mixed classification levels. In order to secure general access to information added from now on to these files the input process would have to be changed. In order to secure unclassified information from the material already collected and filed, the files would need to be searched by an appropriately trained and cleared person and item by item classification decisions made.

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHIES, POSITIONS, ACTIVITIES. A major portion of CRS activities on China are devoted to biographical information. In addition to the manual biographical files, four major computerized files are maintained under the CHIP (Chinese Personalities) system. After describing these files, we will summarize the reference aids containing position and activity information produced by CRS. This section concludes with a brief description of an R&D project currently under way to improve the ability to retrieve from and perform analysis on biographical files.

a) CHIP files. CHIP is a computer-based system designed to identify Chinese political, economic, and scientific personalities. Input to the file
is prepared and controlled by China Branch, FEPAC Division, CRS. The reports produced serve as an analyst's reference aid and are disseminated as needed by the China Branch. There are four major files within CHIP.

(i) The Contacts File identifies Chinese officials who met with foreign delegations visiting the People's Republic of China. Provided for each entry in the file is the name of the Chinese official, country of the visiting individual or delegation, the type of contact, a simple description of the individual or group involved in the contact, and the dates of the delegation's stay in China. The Contacts File may be arranged by name; type of contact, country, and date; and printed reports can be produced in these orders.

(ii) The Political File identifies Chinese officials reported in major positions since the publication of the Directory of Officials of the People's Republic of China, a CRS reference aid. Provided for each entry in the file is the officials' name, location, new position title, first day identified in the position and page number cross-referenced to the Directory. Data in the file may be sorted and printed in various ways and for various classification levels.

(iii) The Scientific File provides information on Chinese scientists active since 1970. Data elements for each record in the file includes name, occupation, location, organizational affiliation and other pertinent data about the individual. Records may be selected and printed by occupational specialty, organization, and location as well as by name.

(iv) The Trading Companies File identifies Chinese officials with the major Chinese firms engaged in international commercial activities. Data elements for each record in the file includes name, location, position title, organizational affiliation, first and last date identified in the position.
Records may be sorted and printed by name, organization, location, and earliest date.

The Scientific and Trading Companies files are formatted and fielded in ways which make them usable through efficient retrieval programs, e.g., they are suitable for hierarchical sorting. Retrieval from the Political file would involve search of text for key words, e.g., names. The Contacts file is unclassified; the Political and Trading Companies files include material at a variety of classification levels; the Scientific file contains primarily highly classified material.

b) Reference Aids. CRS more or less regularly produces or hopes to produce five serials dealing with the activities and positions of probably important individuals.

(i) **Appearances and Activities of Leading Personalities of the People's Republic of China** is updated weekly and distributed within the intelligence community. The reference aid is produced semi-annually. The edition covering each full year presents activities of individuals identified as holding major Party, PLA, Government and diplomatic positions. The exact categories included are given in Appendix B. For the categories included, a typical edition provides the following information: 1) an occupational list where individuals are listed in alphabetical order under the following "occupational" categories -- Politburo (Full Members; Alternate Members); Provincial Figures (under each province); Military Figures; Government Figures; Other Functionaries ("Cadres"); 2) a listing of group appearances, described as "major functions held in China" during the time period covered, in chronological order, with the members of the Politburo reported present listed in order of rank (the criteria for a major function are not made
explicit -- 21 were so treated in 1972); 3) an alphabetical list of
dividuals who did not make an officially reported appearance together with
the date of their last reported appearance; 4) a listing of reported foreign
travel with individual names in alphabetical order together with dates,
activity, places visited, position if known in delegation; 5) an alphabetical
list of the individuals noted; and 6) a chronological list of the known
appearances and/or activities of the individuals. In the alphabetical listing
the appearances are arranged chronologically for each individual; in the
chronological version, alphabetically within date. Both the alphabetical
and chronological versions include the date, nature, and location of each
appearance and/or activity, the source of the information, and the position
of the individual as described in the source.7

(ii) The Chinese Communist Party Central Committee reference aid is
intended to be an annual reference aid containing basic current biographical
data on all Central Committee members. That on the 10th Central Committee
has yet to be published. The publication of this reference aid is expected
to continue on a "time available" basis. For all full and alternate members,
a typical edition provides information on: current major positions, member-
ship on past Central Committees, a few selected former positions with
inclusive dates, and (when available) early and late dates of criticism of
the individual during the Cultural Revolution, date and place of birth, date
and location of last public appearance.

(iii) An analogous aid deals with Chinese Communist Provincial Leaders.
While also originally conceived as an annual publication, work is now only on
a "time available" basis.
(iv) The **Directory of Officials of the People's Republic of China** appears annually as a reference aid and monthly supplements are distributed to members of the intelligence community. Based entirely on Chinese Communist sources, the **Directory** usually provides the earliest and latest date on which a person was identified in a particular position. A typical edition provides lists of officials associated with: the Central Committee, provincial level CCP committees, selected municipal CCP committees, provincial revolutionary committees, military leadership organs, military service arms, military regions, military districts, selected military garrison commands and military subdistricts, officers of the PRC, officers of the State Council, ministries of the State Council, commissions of the State Council, diplomatic and consular corps, selected mass organizations, selected scientific organizations, special agencies of the State Council.

It is important to note that the hierarchical depth of the positions reported within types of organizations varies and that the selection criteria for some types of organizations are not explicit. Also, it is not clear to the researcher whether the absence of positions from the listing results from the position being nonexistent or merely unfilled as gleaned from Chinese Communist sources.

(v) The final relevant reference aid is that entitled **Chiefs of State and Cabinet Members of Foreign Governments**. Completely revised for publication each month, this aid contains the list of government officials through the heads of ministries for the governments of the world including some which are not yet fully independent and some with which the U.S. does not have diplomatic relations. In addition to naming the occupant of the office (if any and if known), military rank is shown when applicable and those on
acting status or absent from their territory are so indicated. China is one of the governments included.

All of the reference aids described are provided on a regular basis to the DOCEX Project of the Library of Congress for further dissemination. They are all provided in text form which includes person indexes. Are they currently available within the government in forms more suited to retrieval and analysis? Appearances and Activities ... draws alphabetical and chronological lists from a fielded, computerized file which can be sorted on name and date. It cannot be sorted by position because of non-uniform terms for positions. Both the Central Committee ... and Provincial Leaders ... have been created as computerized files which can be updated using on-line terminals. The Directory ..., while drawing on two computerized files, also draws on manual files and is produced manually. Its contents are not fielded. Finally, Chiefs of State ... includes an automatically produced index which implies that the contents do exist in a fielded computer file. In sum, much of the information in the reference aids exists in machine readable form but is not currently released in that mode.

c) Retrieval from biographical files. The material in the reference aids and in the CHIP system comprises only a small fraction of that in a voluminous set of biographical files. Like the files on installations/organizations, numerous classification levels are involved and no mechanical sorting by levels is feasible. Making new unclassified information already filed available would require item by item selection by an appropriately trained and cleared person. We can get some sense of the size of such an effort from the fact that it took such a person three man-months to pull and organize the information included in the "Who Was Who of North Vietnam"
published for general use. Obviously, aggregate or "pattern" information on groups of Chinese elites would pose less of a classification problem. An R&D project currently underway at the RAND Corporation to design a computerization of biographic materials on PRC leaders would make such information readily easy to generate. However, such prospects are contingent on the success of the R&D project and the subsequent implementation of its methods in the government. Appendix C presents a draft of the coding frame and provides some idea of the retrieval and analysis possibilities which the system creates with its use of numerical codes with standardized referents.

MEDIA. Certainly the most voluminous and most familiar body of information on the PRC consists of Chinese press and radio items and translations of them, and of analyses by third parties of China matters. Relevant series include: Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) Publications; Survey of the China Mainland Press; Selections from China Mainland Magazines; Current Background; Joint Publications Research Service; Trends and Highlights; China News Analysis; Radio Free Europe Research Reports; Radio Liberty Research Reports; Centre Documentation Chinois Publication; Union Research Services Publications; Issues and Studies; International Arts and Science Press Publications; New China News Agency Daily News Report; Mizan; Peking Review; Japanese Press Translations; China News Summary; and China Topics. These series are already available at major research centers. The problem is that, with the notable exception of Joint Publications Research Service products, they are not well indexed individually let alone across serials. Nor are they disseminated in a form which allows for rapid search except, in some cases, through the use of a text-scanning machine, e.g. G.E.'s GSCAN. My inquiry focused on the extent to which U.S. Government prepared translation series
were a) transmitted in electrical form which would lend itself to storage in computer-readable forms, and/or b) programmed for depth indexing.

CRS has terminated attempts at depth indexing in general in favor of text-scanning by the analyst. The retrieval system discussed in a subsequent section (AEGIS) does index some translations on the highly selective basis of usefulness to intelligence community China analysts. The cross-checking computer runs reported later will give some idea of the small fraction of the press translations picked up in this way. AEGIS does pick up about 25% of FBIS China broadcast translations. With regard to the Hong Kong produced translation series of the Chinese press and the Tokyo produced series of the Japanese press, none are transmitted electronically or indexed in more than the most general fashion. No effort is underway to address making those portions which are typed (as contrasted with xeroxed) machine-readable at this time.

With regard to FBIS broadcast translations, almost all of the Chinese material is included in the publicly available series. No publicly available information makes it possible to determine the criteria for inclusion and exclusion. FBIS is transmitted electronically and a program is now under way to preserve and edit the translations electronically. As envisioned, in the editing process no substantive retrieval fields will be added. Thus, retrieval will be limited to author, title, and producer based on a keyword search. Indexing for retrieval may (or may not) be taken up for consideration by the end of 1975. In editing and storing, no consideration is being given to making the materials compatible with the AEGIS retrieval system referred to earlier.

Less available are FBIS produced translations of broadcasts pertinent to
China emanating from sources other than the PRC or the USSR. No cross-index exists for the universe of FBIS material and part of that universe is classified. FBIS does produce one statistical series which consists of the percentage of attention to topics in given weeks in commentary, i.e., lengthy items, by the Moscow and Peking domestic and international services. The statistics appear weekly on a For Official Use Only basis as part of the more highly classified (Confidential) weekly analysis prepared by FBIS. The series is not assembled for any time period but would have to be put together from the individual weekly reports.

The major collection of coded, machine-readable data on Chinese media coverage is that of the PAMIS (Psychological Operations Automated Management Information System) FMA (Foreign Media Analysis) Subsystem. With regard to Chinese media, coverage consists of the following periodicals and radio broadcasts: Jenmin Jihpao (People's Daily); Hung Ch'i (Red Flag); Peking Review; China Pictorial; China Reconstructs; Radio Peking Foreign Service (English, 1 hour daily); and Radio Peking Domestic Service (Mandarin, 1200 GMT News and Press Review and 2230 GMT News and Press Review). The periodicals are covered from January 1, 1972, through March 31, 1974; the radio broadcasts from January 1, 1972 through April 30, 1974. The manager, the Counterinsurgency and Psychological Operations Division of the Joint Staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, plans to continue coding and updating the data bases for only two Chinese media series -- Jenmin Jihpao and Hung Ch'i. Each source is analyzed in its entirety and whole articles or broadcasts are coded for: source; date of source; subject (topic and country or region); other country or region mentioned in the item; international organization mentioned in the item; political groups mentioned in the item; tone (favorable, neutral, or
unfavorable) of the item as it relates to the subject country's authorities; page of publication or time of broadcast in which the item appeared; size of item in square centimeters or its length in minutes; and the number and type and total area of illustrations.

The data base can be manipulated by standard computer programs to produce statistical data on the content of the media coded and indexes to the coded material. To be diffused all that is necessary is to have the subsystem prepare one of its standard outputs -- a computer tape of data with identifying labels in a form readily usable on IBM 360 computers and adaptable to others. With such a tape and a copy of the code book, most university researchers can move quickly to analysis of the PAMIS FMA collection.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH DOCUMENTATION CENTER (FARDC). FARDC is a document repository established to facilitate the diffusion of foreign affairs information between the government and the academic community and within each community. Its holdings are largely unclassified. Analysts are invited to supply FARDC with a copy of professional papers, articles, and books. Periodic acquisition lists are circulated within the government and are available to outside analysts by subscription through the Superintendent of Documents. Documents held by FARDC are available directly to government users and government contractors; others secure them directly from their author(s).

FARDC holds approximately 1,000 unclassified documents pertinent to China presented and/or published since 1968. Approximately 5% of the China holdings have been prepared by U.S. Government analysts. With the exception of some of the unclassified U.S. Government documents, all are announced in the periodic Papers Available publication circulated in the U.S. Government and which has several hundred non-governmental subscribers through the Superintendent of Documents.
FARDC obviously plays a useful function. However, several limitations need to be recognized. First, FARDC does not provide a reliably comprehensive collection of non-government analyses of China. While it solicits actively, it only has those documents which individuals choose to submit to it. Secondly, FARDC does not seek to be a comprehensive repository of unclassified U.S. Government serials on China. It is clear that it receives publications from U.S. Government agencies which are not members of the intelligence community to a greater extent than it does from agencies which are and which produce most of U.S. Government data about and analyses of China. Third, FARDC does not act as a filter for quality or topical relevance. The recipient of the acquisition lists is left to do that largely on the basis of the title, and name and institutional affiliation of the author(s). Finally, FARDC does not have a computerized retrieval system but rather a more customary form of library cataloguing and classification.

**RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS.** The ability to locate China information quickly and efficiently can facilitate analysis as can the sharing of the information itself. Accordingly, special attention was paid to the AEGIS system of CRS as a potentially diffusable information aid. AEGIS is a retrospective document indexing system with coverage beginning approximately in January, 1968. What is AEGIS? "The AEGIS system provides indexing coverage since 1968 of intelligence documents issued by CIA, State, DIA, Army, Navy, Air Force, NSA, NPIC, and other major intelligence sources of the United States and British Commonwealth. Open literature, non-CIA cables, FBIS reporting, and ground photography are included on a selective basis only."  

The fielded, formatted AEGIS files contain for each documentary item included: document number; title; classification level; dissemination
controls; extensive subject codes; extensive place codes (including Chinese provinces and cities); keyword lists; originator (source); and date of publication.

If one were to be provided on a periodic basis with a run of unclassified AEGIS holdings, one would also need documentation on the subject and place name codes to locate items of interest. If the information on holdings were provided in machine-readable form and the documentation was also diffused, then focused retrieval would be an easy matter. However, it is important to note that AEGIS does not provide biographical or institutional coverage.

Also, no explicit criteria are available on the rules which governed the inclusion or exclusion of documents other than those from sources whose total output is placed in the system. Three examples illustrate the substantial questions about the extent to which an academic (or a government) researcher can rely solely on AEGIS as a retrieval instrument. First, our examination of the FARDC catalogue revealed a number of USIA publications which did not appear in the "selected and finished" AEGIS run discussed later. Second, that same run indicates that something less than 20% of the documents submitted to the FARDC appear in AEGIS. While this says nothing about the relevance of the remainder to the intelligence community, it does imply that the external researcher cannot be sanguine that his or her criteria are reflected in the selection nor can the U.S. Government analyst with different problems from those of the intelligence community be sanguine either. As a third example, AEGIS probably indexes about 25% of FBIS China materials. The academic user would not be certain in many cases about the relevance to his or her area of inquiry of the contents of the remaining 75% of FBIS material.

CROSS-CHECKING COMPUTER RUNS. In an effort to check on the nature and
quantity of unclassified government China information, two types of AEGIS runs were requested on unclassified holdings. (Unclassified refers to all holdings below the level of Confidential.) We close our summary review of government collections by discussing those runs. In the first type, the author requested search by a variety of topical fields indicative of the interests of the external China research community. There were five runs of this kind dealing respectively with: a province (Kwangtung); relations with a foreign area (Africa); a major sector of international relations (foreign trade); and decision-making (State Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

The second type of run involved a search of the unclassified portion of the complete file of so-called "selected and finished" documents. In all cases the runs covered the entire time-span of AEGIS holdings up to the time of the search at the end of 1973, i.e., holdings covering about six years.

Table 1 presents a summary of the volume and sources of the material found in the five topical runs.

See Table 1 (p. 22)

 Several comments are in order at this point. First, although all-source runs were requested, the author was provided only with runs where the originator was associated with the U.S. Department of State. Second, with the exception of foreign trade, there really are very few items given the time coverage. Third, with the exception of the Kwangtung run, the bulk of the items consisted of internal State Department communications to Washington from embassies and consulates. Fourth, in no case did these runs refer to serial publications of elements of the Department of State other than press translations, let alone to serials originating elsewhere.
## TABLE 1

### TOPICAL AEGIS RUNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Total Number of Documents</th>
<th>Number by Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kwangtung</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>43 U.S. Consulate-General Hong Kong press translations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 INR paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39 cables and memoranda from embassies/consulates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2 INR papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>64 cables and memoranda from embassies/consulates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Trade</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>17 INR papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>700 cables and memoranda from embassies/consulates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Council</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3 U.S. Consulate-General Hong Kong press translations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 INR papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24 cables and memoranda from embassies/consulates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Affairs Ministry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 cable or memorandum from embassy/consulate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 presents the numbers of documents from different major sources contained in the "selected and finished run" which listed a total of 407 documents.

**TABLE 2**

"SELECTED AND FINISHED" AEGIS RUN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source*</th>
<th>Number of Documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
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<td>U.S. Universities:</td>
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* Sources listed which are identified as "publishers" of five or more documents over the six year period covered.

**Of the total number associated with the Department of State, about 75% (125) are papers deposited with the FARDC.
The information reported in Table 2, unlike that in Table 1, reflects document holdings up to the Confidential level of classification for all sources. Again the volume is not massive -- if averaged out we have less than 70 documents per year. Over 1/4 of the total number are papers voluntarily deposited with the Office of External Research of the Department of State. We find only a small number of regular producers of China related documents according to this computer run.

Of great importance for our purposes, this run seemed particularly likely to reveal assembled collections of information which would be of fairly broad interest to the academic community and appear periodically. That is, this run would provide important indications of the sort of material which in both volume of demand and regularity of supply would be appropriate for an information center. If the documents exist, collections of information to support them have and may still exist. To pursue this line of thinking, the author examined the run and selected those items which potentially could offer such regular and non-esoteric information about China. Titles, publication dates, and producing organizations are given in Appendix D.

Fifty-five documents seemed to meet the recurrency and information for subsequent analyses criteria we stressed initially. They deal with propaganda and cultural diplomacy, information about office-holders, international trade, domestic production and extraction, foreign aid, military capability and order of battle, diplomatic relations and representation, and Communist Party membership and organization. There are a
small number of organizational producers (7th Army, CIA, State, USIA, British Foreign Office) and only a small number of producing units within the major organizations. Much of the China information appears in publications which have substantially broader coverage. Even out of this small number of documents, a substantial number are less than automatically available being in For Official Use Only or Official Use status.

For information to be available in practice, researchers must be able to learn easily of the existence of documents and secure copies. If the AEGIS listing would alert researchers to documents which they otherwise would not know of, then dissemination of selected and finished AEGIS runs on a periodic basis would increase information availability on the first score. The extent of the benefit obviously is affected by the extent to which the researcher can assume that AEGIS does in fact contain all the documents which fall within its terms of reference quoted earlier.

In an attempt to assess the extent to which researchers without special connections with the government and without broadside inquiries of government officials could discover that the documents existed, a check was made of the central library of one major university without a major China research center, the Wilson Library of the University of Minnesota. If the results are positive, one will still feel that many less substantial academic libraries may not be able to provide the necessary information. If the results are negative, then one can reasonably conclude that most academic libraries do not inform researchers
that the documents exist. Also, if the check discloses documents or document listings which apparently should have been on the AEGIS listing but were not, the advantages of disseminating the AEGIS list will seem less than they would be otherwise. The check produced negative results on both scores.

With regard to evidence of existence, if a researcher goes to the Documents section of Wilson library what will he learn? He will find some issues of each of eight series mentioned in the AEGIS list. He will find some issues of several of these series not on the AEGIS list and will not find some of the issues on the list. The series noted in Appendix D for which some issues will be found are: International Trade Handbook; . . . Provincial Party Leaders;Appearances and Activities; . . . World Strength of Communist Party Organizations; Trade Patterns of the West . . .; Educational and Cultural Exchanges . . .; Diplomatic Relations . . .; Trade of European Non-NATO Countries and Japan . . .; Indicators of Comparative East-West Economic Strength . . . . He will find only 8 of the individual documents on the AEGIS list of which four are from World Strength of the Communist Party Organizations.

More importantly, neither the librarian or the researcher will be able to tell how complete the series represented are or what others exist. The Monthly Catalogue of United States Government Publications only shows the World Strength . . . series as is the case with the most recent edition of U.S. Government Publications edited by John L. Andriot. None are listed in the National Technical Information Service Index or the annual Catalogue of Government Publications published by Her Majesty's
Stationery Office. These sources do lead to other sources, none of which are available at Wilson library. The other sources are: for the Foreign Office, British National Bibliography; for USIA, Worldwide Communist Propaganda Activities and Soviet Orbit Propaganda; for State, Publications of the Department of State, Quarterly List, Selected Publications (monthly), and Bibliographies and Lists of Publications. Even if these other aids to our China information hunter are at hand, none will provide anything about CIA publications.

In the course of this feasibility study, some individuals suggested that the availability problem for at least the U.S. Government produced documents on the list presented earlier was adequately handled by the activities of the Documents Expediting Project (DOCEX) of the Library of Congress. The check reported and other information strongly suggests that this is not the case. The Wilson library is one of the approximately 175 academic libraries which subscribe to DOCEX. First, DOCEX receives almost no China material except for the CIA reference aids produced by CRS mentioned earlier. Second, many major libraries (including those of Harvard and Yale) do not subscribe. Third, materials are distributed on an as available basis. Fourth, DOCEX apparently provides no index of publications it knows of and supplies to at least some of its members, at least in a form which is useful to and reaches the document librarians with whom the researcher deals in a search for "non-depository U.S. Government Publications which are not available by purchase either at the Government Printing Office or at the issuing agency."
The results of this check suggest that availability requires both some improved generally available comprehensive index of government documents and a clear and straight-forward set of procedures to secure copies of documents found in such an index. The last requirement can be met to the extent that the documents are removed from the burdensome status of Official Use and its variants.

Potential Usefulness

The usefulness of additions to already available China information depends on what is already available and on the nature of the additions themselves. We will limit our discussion to the "tip of the iceberg" of U.S. Government collections, i.e., that portion which is held at less than Confidential status. It seems best to open our discussion with a summary of the context of China information availability outside of the U.S. Government.

Very substantial collections of documentary material, including media in both Chinese and English translation forms, exist at numerous centers in the U.S. already. These include: the Center for Chinese Research Materials in Washington, major regional centers of China studies (Harvard, Columbia, Michigan, Chicago, University of California (Berkley), Stanford--the Hoover Institution), as well as at Yale, Princeton, George Washington, Indiana, Cornell, Illinois, UCLA, and Washington. Guides to these materials are generally available as is the registry of new analysis, the Modern China Bulletin.

What are the major inadequacies of existing, publicly available collections? Would improved sharing of classified U.S. Government materials remedy the situation? First, there is little substantial,
in-depth information on internal politics and administration and on persons below the highest elite levels. The review earlier did not locate promising but completely inaccessible unclassified collections. It did suggest that some of the reference aids are less than readily available to the scholarly community in general and remedies would be helpful.

A second area of insufficiency of China information can be described as the context and interactions of China's foreign affairs activities. There is little in the way of systematic series which capture both China's relations with other international actors and their relations with China. With the exception of some of the less than generally available State Department documents listed earlier, this inquiry did not find substantial unclassified collections.

A third problem with existing publicly available collections is that they are primarily the raw ingredients for research rather than information sets immediately susceptible to analysis. For example, there are few chronologies of events or social indicator time series, for example, about domestic social performance or media emphases. While we did find some unclassified government collections which at least potentially could be of this character, we found relatively few.

Finally, even the available raw materials pose such massive problems of search and retrieval as to deter many a researcher or substantially limit the research activity. This is particularly true with regard to the fragmentary state of indexing of media and media translations. We found no substantially adequate index or indexing capability in the government. AEGIS has insufficient coverage and
inclusion decisions are based on implicit criteria which may not be fully appropriate to external research questions. PAMIS PMA is limited in coverage to a small portion of Chinese media and the subject codes may also have appropriateness problems similar to those of AEGIS.

To summarize, improved availability of the unclassified collections and aids discussed previously would in general be useful. However, it would not massively contribute to China research. At a time of extremely scarce resources to maintain the existing public information bases, it is difficult to argue that resources should be diverted to the distribution of currently unavailable, unclassified government collections. If we are considering instead some additional resources, there are some useful possibilities of a modest kind. Some of these involve the dissemination in machine-readable form of material currently not available in such form.

**Willingness to Share**

The desirability of a China information center to facilitate the exchange of research data and aids between the government and the academic community depends on the potential usefulness of the information which may be shared. In the preceding section, we suggested that the usefulness of currently unclassified and imperfectly shared collections is modest.

The feasibility of such an information center depends in the first instance on the willingness of U.S. Government officials and bureaus to share existing information collections and aids or to prepare and share information and aids which would be more useful than those which now
exist. The merit of expending resources to create willingness, whether the resources be financial or those of bureaucratic leverage, can be thought of as commensurate with the expected amount of usefulness. When we expect usefulness to be modest, only a modest expenditure of resources to generate willingness to share seems warranted.

Experience in the course of this feasibility study has convinced the author that a major bureaucratic battle(s) will have to be fought and won for the present state of willingness to share information to improve substantially. And the pressure probably will have to be kept on for the flow of information to continue. Like any generalization there are positive exceptions and these should be noted. The FARDC is committed to sharing. The managers of the PAMIS FMA system solicit requests for their data and offer to copy their data base on tapes supplied by academic or other researchers. Individual government China analysts would like to help and are willing to try to make their files available.

Unfortunately, those offices in the best position to supply directly an external information center and to provide it with information about China material produced elsewhere are highly dubious about and resistant to sharing. This resistance is intense for information below the level of Confidential and they prefer to keep hidden the contents of files at and above the Confidential level. Furthermore, for information which is at less than the Confidential level but of the "Official Use" variety, a case by case battle will have to be waged of a very time-consuming kind to put it into fully available status.
There also is marked unwillingness to enter into any arrangement which would compete with existing dissemination arrangements, e.g., DOCEX, or the National Technical Information Service.

For practical purposes, these entrenched attitudes will have to be changed or an interpersonal network constructed with individual analysts to directly secure particular materials. The latter course is both time-consuming and vulnerable to the higher priority tasks of government analysts as well as a less than supportive bureaucratic climate. The analysts do feel some common interests are shared with the academic community; the librarians see no possible benefits to themselves and instead perceive more work and more criticism of the quality of their information systems.

The obstacles to sharing go well beyond the problems of classified collections or even of collections which can only arduously be sorted by classification levels. Key offices are unwilling to incur any firm obligations to regularly share information which involve commitments that limit the discretion of U.S. Government agencies to be retentive.
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

We conclude that:

1. Most government China information is classified at the Confidential level or above and there is little willingness to share generally much of the information at a lower, administratively controlled level.

2. Less than Confidential U.S. Government collections can partially ameliorate but not fundamentally remedy the inadequacies of China information already available to major non-government research centers.

3. Much of the China information at a level below Confidential is inaccessible to many non-government analysts due to selective diffusion and poor documentation, or is accessible only in forms which are very sub-optimal for the external (and indeed internal) researcher.

4. In the absence of basic changes in U.S. Government classification policy of China information (classify until proven otherwise) and incentives to information service offices, there is little reason to expect substantial benefits from a "new" China information center. Indeed, it wouldn't have much work to do.

5. The FARDC provides the most useful existing vehicle for sharing of external analyses with government officials and also serves to inform external analysts about the work of their non-government colleagues.
Recommendations

Conclusions 1, 2, and 4 lead us to:

Recommendation A. **No efforts should be made at this time to establish a China information center.** This recommendation should be reviewed when and if a larger portion of China information becomes unclassified or U.S. Government bureaus responsible for China information services are given incentives to share their stock. These general requirements over-ride questions of detail about external information demand.

Conclusion 3 leads us to recommend two modest steps which involves minimal resources compared to the establishment of a full-fledged information center:

Recommendation B. The USC/FAR and its member agencies should extend modest support to improve awareness of and access to the unclassified document collections and research aids identified in this study. This recommendation can be implemented through a modest subvention to an existing organization, e.g., the Joint Committee on Contemporary China of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council or the Center for Chinese Research Materials. The recipient would periodically prepare and widely distribute an annotated bulletin of available U.S. Government China information and aids. The bulletin could be disseminated through existing China research publications and mailing lists, e.g., of the Association of Asian Studies, and professional media addressed to the
broader international relations and comparative studies communities, e.g., the Newsletter of the International Studies Association. This particular recommendation would involve not more than a half-time person trained to the M.A. level in the social sciences and the study of China (resident in Washington), and mailing costs.

Recommendation C. The USC/FAR and its member agencies should extend modest support to improve awareness of and access to the machine-readable, unclassified files identified in this study. The most appropriate institution to conduct the necessary activity with respect to the files identified earlier—those used to generate some of the CIA reference aids on office-holders and on appearances and activities, and the PAMIS FMA data base—is the International Relations Archive of the Inter-University Consortium for Political Research located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The tasks involved are to secure tapes of machine-readable China materials, publicize their availability, and to diffuse them to researchers with necessary documentation. Extremely modest support should suffice to cover tape handling, copying and documentation costs.

Recommendations B and C are of course complementary and to some extent mutually reinforcing. If such efforts are undertaken, the subsequent record of use by and demand from external analysts will provide much more reliable evidence about the consequences of making additional U.S. Government collections available than would answers at this time to interviews.
Conclusion 5 leads to a final recommendation:

Recommendation D. Private China scholars should deposit their pre-published papers and other fugitive publications in the FARDC. Greater efforts in this direction will increase the awareness of and access to their research among their counterparts in the Government. It would also, through the listing of their research papers in Papers Available, serve to broaden the set of private analysts who would be aware of pertinent, recently completed research on China matters.
APPENDICES
Appendix A

People's Republic of China: An Economic Assessment

This publication includes or suggests the existence of these series: indexes of grain, food, non-food, agricultural and industrial production, and of per capita GNP; estimated production of selected industrial commodities (electric power, coal, crude oil, crude steel, chemical fertilizer, cement, timber, machine tools, paper, cotton cloth, sugar); production of selected industrial commodities (commodity by coastal, inland provinces); imports of electronic equipment from Non-Communist countries (type of equipment by monetary value); chronology of development of digital computers (initial year of serial manufacture, and model and manufacturer by arithmetic speed, storage, input-output); chronology of development of analog computers (initial year of serial manufacture, model, manufacturer, specifications); output of grain; cultivated area, cropping index, and sown area for selected crops; acreage, yield, and production of cotton; imports and exports of major agricultural commodities; official claims of area under irrigation; total area, increase in the area of stable, high-yield farmland and annual increase in the amount of grain associated with these fields; use of electric power in agriculture; estimated production of tractors; supply of nitrogen fertilizer; railroad mileage (regional percentages); production of freight cars; production of locomotives; length of transportation network (railroad, highways, inland waterways); performance of the modern transport sector (mode by tons carried, ton-kilometers, average length of haul); inventory and operating data on railroads and trucks; population with completed
(6-year) primary education (number in primary school, number of 12
year-olds, percent graduating, number graduating); estimate of
graduates from secondary schools; graduates from institutions of higher
education; population and vital rates (size, birth rate, death rate,
natural increase rate); reserve position (beginning reserves, foreign
exchange balance, gold purchases, gold production, year-end reserves);
direction of foreign trade (with Communist, Non-Communist countries);
trade with the Communist countries (U.S.S.R., Eastern Europe, other);
commodity composition of trade; imports of grain and chemical fertili-
zer from Non-Communist countries; trade by area and country (monetary
value); commodity composition of imports and exports (percentage of
total); commodity composition of exports (monetary value); commodity
composition of imports (monetary value); percent of total trade by area;
commodity breakdown of trade with Communist and Non-Communist
countries; balance of trade with Non-Communist countries; commodity
composition of trade with Non-Communist countries; trade with the
less-developed countries (area and country by monetary value); extensions
of economic aid to less-developed countries (region by monetary value);
Chinese economic technicians in less-developed countries; Chinese
trade with less-developed countries (monetary value imports, exports);
extensions of economic aid to other Communist countries (country by
monetary value); extensions of economic aid to less-developed countries
(country by monetary value).
Appendix B

Appearances and Activities of Leading Personalities of the People's Republic of China

The edition covering each full year presents activities of individuals in the following categories:

"all full and alternate members of the 10th CCP Central Committee, elected on 28 August 1973; the Chief and all Deputy Chiefs of the PLA General Staff; the director and all deputy directors of the PLA General Political Department; the commander and political commissar of the PLA General Logistics Department; the commander and political commissar of all service arms of the PLA; all commanders and political commissars of military regions and military districts; a few other important military officers; the Premier and all vice Premiers of the State Council; all Ministers and Chairmen of State Council Ministries and Commissions; the directors of important State Council special agencies, like the Civil Aviation General Administration and the New China News Agency; all Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs and National Defense; the Ambassadors to Albania, Canada, Japan, Mexico, the United Nations and the USSR and the head of the PRC Liaison Office in the United States; all provincial first and second CCP secretaries; all chairmen and first vice chairman of the Provincial Revolutionary Committees; a few other important provincial leaders."
Appendix C

RAND Chinese Elite Biographical Coding Frame

Codes have been developed for: date of death, date of birth, place of birth (Chekiang, Fukien, Heilungkiang, Honan, Hopeh, Hunan, Hupeh, Inner Mongolia, Kansu, Kiangsi, Kiangsu, Kirin, Kwangsi, Kwangtung, Kweichow, Liaoning, Ningshsia, Peking, Shanghia, Shansi, Shantung, Shensi,Sinkiang, Szechwan, Tibet, Tientsin, Tsinghai, Yunnan); generation (pre-May, 1928, 6/1928-11/1931, 12/1931-12/1936, 1/1937-12/1940, 1/1941-8/1945, 9/1945-10/1950, 11/1950-9/1954, 10/1954-9/1959, 10/1959-12/1963, 1/1964-1/1967, 2/1967-3/1969, 4/1969-9/1973, 10/1973-); field army affiliation by generation (1st Field Army, 2nd Field Army, 3rd Field Army, 4th Field Army, North China Field Army, Central); commander or commissar; date entered party; combat experience (Korea, Taiwan Straits, Sino-Indian Border, North Vietnam, Sino-Soviet Border); awards ("August 1" medal, "Independent Liberty" medal, "Liberation" medal); civil education (grade school, high school, college, study in USSR, study in Germany, study in Japan, study in France); military education (basic school, Anti-Japanese College, Nanking Staff College, Peking War College, Soviet advisors -- including study in USSR military schools); military region affiliation by generation (Sinkiang, Kunming, Nanking, Canton, Peking, Ch'engtu, Fuchou, Lanchou, Shenyang, Tsinan, Wuhan, Center); functional affiliation (Armor, Artillery, Engineers, Infantry, Signal Corps, Railway Corps, General Political Department, 2nd Artillery [Missiles], Public Security Force, Air Force, Navy, General Chief of Staff, General
Rear Service, Propaganda and Education, Industry and Communication, Finance and Trade, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Forestry, Political and Legal, Organization and Personnel); position level/rank by year (Military, Party, and Government at the National, Regional, and District levels with several rank levels for each -- also purged, dismissed, disappeared, and attacked).
### Appendix D

**Potentially Appropriate Documents**

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Communist Propaganda Trends</td>
<td>July, 1968</td>
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<td>Appearances and Activities of Leading Personalities of the People's Republic of China</td>
<td>Oct., 1972</td>
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<td>Chinese Communist Party Provincial Leaders</td>
<td>Jan., 1973</td>
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<td>Appearances and Activities of Leading Personalities of China</td>
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<td>1 January-31 December 1972</td>
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<td>Appearances and Activities of Leading Personalities of China</td>
<td>Sep., 1973</td>
<td>CIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 January-30 June 1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Oil '71 Facts and Figures (World Crude Oil Production, Reserves, Refining Capacity, Pipelines, Natural Gas, Tanker Fleets, Prices)</td>
<td>Aug. 1972</td>
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<td>Communist Aid Offers and Contributions (To the UN Programs; Number of Soviet, E. European &amp; Chinese Technicians in Underdeveloped Countries)</td>
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<td>Chinese Aid to the Developing World (Trade; Statistics)</td>
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<td>BriForOff</td>
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<td>Chinese Relations with Africa-1968 (Including Aid, Propaganda, Subversion)</td>
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<td>Treaties and Agreements Entered into by the People's Republic of China</td>
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<td>BriForOff</td>
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<td>Strengths of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Bloc, China and Certain Other Communist Countries (Army Air Force Navy SRF)</td>
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<td>Communist States and Developing Countries: Aid and Trade in 1972 (LDC Economic Aid, Tied Aid, Loans Value)</td>
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<td>World Strength of the Communist Party Organizations (Membership, Legal Status, Sino-Soviet Dispute, Activities)</td>
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<td>Communist States and Developing Countries: Aid and Trade in 1970 (Student Transfers, Economic, Military, Technical, Statistics on Personnel Travel and Goods)</td>
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<td>China: External Information and Cultural Relations Programs (Exhibits, Performing Arts, Sports Exchange, Language Training, Student Exchanges, Foreign Aid, Tourism, Front Orgs)</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>USIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worldwide Propaganda Operations of the People's Republic of China</td>
<td>Feb., 1972</td>
<td>USIA</td>
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NOTES


11. Personal communication from Dr. George C.S. Sung, RAND Corporation, February 7, 1974.


13. Quoted from introductory printout to each AEGIS run.
14. Based on descriptive materials from the Library of Congress (the quote is from a mimeod handout entitled "Documents Expediting Project") and a telephone conversation (14 December 1973) with Nathan Einhorn, Chief, Exchange and Gift Division, Library of Congress.


17. An Economic Assessment, op.cit.


19. Personal communication from Dr. George C.S. Sung, op.cit.