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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PAMPHLET

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**COMMUNIST INTERROGATION  
INDOCTRINATION, AND  
EXPLOITATION OF  
PRISONERS OF WAR**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

MAY 1956

# COMMUNIST INTERROGATION, INDOCTRINATION, AND EXPLOITATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR

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# CODE OF CONDUCT

## FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I hereby prescribe the Code of Conduct for members of the Armed Forces of the United States which is attached to this order and hereby made a part thereof.

Every member of the Armed Forces of the United States is expected to measure up to the standards embodied in this Code of Conduct while he is in combat or in captivity. To ensure achievement of these standards, each member of the Armed Forces liable to capture shall be provided with specific training and instructions designed to better equip him to counter and withstand all enemy efforts against him, and shall be fully instructed as to the behavior and obligations expected of him during combat or captivity.

The Secretary of Defense (and the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the Coast Guard except when it is serving as part of the Navy) shall take such action as is deemed necessary to implement this order and to disseminate and make the said code known to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

THE WHITE HOUSE  
*August 17, 1955.*

### I

I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

### II

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command I will never surrender my men while they still have the means to resist.

### III

If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

### IV

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

### V

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am bound to give only NAME, RANK, SERVICE NUMBER, AND DATE OF BIRTH. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

### VI

I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

## INTRODUCTION

For 3 years in Korea, the military forces of the United States, as part of the United Nations Command, assumed their traditional role in defending freedom and opposing military aggression. During the Korean campaign, more than 6,000 American soldiers were captured by the Communist enemy. Approximately one-third of this number died while in Communist hands. After repatriation, those who had survived as prisoners of war related experiences that were without parallel in the history of the United States Army. They were the first Americans to struggle with an enemy whose objectives were not only military but ideological as well. Using the POW camps in North Korea as an extension of the battlefield, the Communists made an all-out effort to gain an ideological victory over their captives.

American POWs were subjected to a well-planned and well-organized type of warfare with which few were familiar and for which few were prepared. Briefly, this warfare was aimed at undermining their loyalty to their country and their faith in the democratic way of life and, thereby, conditioning them to accept communism.

How did the enemy wage this new type of war against our fighting men? What strategy and tactics were employed? What kind of weapons were used? A thorough study of hundreds of interviews with repatriated American prisoners provided the answers to those questions. It revealed that the enemy in North Korea waged this ideological war through the clever employment of various methods of interrogation in conjunction with a coercive indoctrination program.

Beginning in the spring of 1951 a disciplined, trained Communist organization, rigidly following this strategy, created an environment in the prison camps in North Korea that was characterized by fear, distrust, and confusion. Through the medium of vicious propaganda, the enemy tried to confuse the American POWs into questioning the sincerity of our objectives in Korea. "Divide and conquer" was the insidious keynote. Only a few Americans were casualties in this battle to

capture their minds in the POW camps. The Communists, nevertheless, regarded their interrogation and indoctrination program as an effective weapon in exploiting American POWs.

No one denies that the American fighting man is the best-trained and best-equipped soldier in the world. He has consistently acquitted himself with honor on the field of battle. It is a proud heritage of our military service that our soldiers will fight to the last and will resist capture to the utmost of their ability. Army training is designed to prepare the members of an isolated unit to resist capture by fighting their way back to their own forces as a unit or, failing that, to evade capture as individuals and rejoin friendly forces. However, since avoiding capture is not always possible, this unfortunate circumstance must be taken into consideration.

The introduction of the "ideological" war in Korea created a new training requirement for the American fighting man. He must be trained to use knowledge and information as weapons. This document has been prepared to supplement conventional military training by providing the soldier with specific information about the Communist enemy, his objectives and his methods of exploiting prisoners of war by employing interrogation and indoctrination as weapons of war. In the event of capture by such an enemy, the soldier will be armed with this information and will be able to understand the enemy's strategy and tactics. With this information, he will be better equipped to continue the battle in a POW camp—our extension of the battlefield. Specifically, the purpose of this pamphlet is to acquaint the American soldier with some of the tactics, techniques, and methods of Communist interrogation, indoctrination, and handling of prisoners of war and to suggest some fundamental defenses against these enemy weapons in the event such defenses may some day be required.

By way of accomplishing this purpose, the succeeding chapters of this pamphlet are devoted to historical and factual information which reveals that the experiences of the American POWs in

Korea are not new, unique, or mysterious, but rather, have been reported from every area over which the Communists have gained control. The more common characteristics of Communists interrogation, indoctrination, and propaganda methods will be reviewed so that they may be recognized and resisted. The so-called "brain-

washing" technique and the torture of POWs will be discussed in order to dispel some of the misconceptions which exist concerning these subjects. It will be pointed out that determined resistance to these Communist practices is not only logical and possible, but is the only honorable course of action open to an American soldier.

## CHAPTER 1

# BACKGROUND OF COMMUNISM AND COMMUNIST HANDLING OF PRISONERS OF WAR

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### Section I. HISTORY OF COMMUNISM

#### 1. Definition

a. What is communism? To most United States Army prisoners of war in Korea, communism was a nightmare of confusion and contradictions. During their captivity under Chinese and North Korean Communists, they were persistently lectured on the "advantages" of the godless Communist system in contrast to our American democratic way of life. It has repeatedly been reported by repatriated Americans that a lack of knowledge of communism made them vulnerable to the enemy's program of indoctrination. For this reason, a brief history of communism is essential background to a clear understanding of what actually transpired in the POW camps in North Korea.

b. For centuries, ideas have been advanced for changing the basic structure of society and government. Some of these ideas have had a tremendous appeal to the imagination and emotions of people. Modern communism, like some of the other movements, began with an idea of promoting the welfare of the common man. This is what dedicated Communists would like to have people believe is the central idea of communism. Present-day communism, however, is not based on any such noble and worthy purpose. Communism is an organized international movement that conspires, among other things, to destroy the economic system of free enterprise and the democratic system of Government under which our economic and social freedoms exist. World domination by the rulers of the Soviet Union is the moving force and basic objective of communism.

c. The founder of modern communism and the international Communist conspiracy was Nikolai Lenin, who planned and directed the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and who, subsequently,

became the first Communist dictator of the Soviet Union. Lenin received his ideas of communism from the works of two German intellectuals, Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx. Engels and Marx considered themselves authorities on the subject of economics and advanced some novel ideas on the subject of socialism. They believed in a high degree of socialism and felt that capitalism was an evil against the workers. They believed that capitalism was an unstable economic system and that eventually the proletariat, the working class, would rise and destroy capitalism. These ideas were voiced by Engels and Marx in books, pamphlets, and in newspaper articles. *The Communist Manifesto*, published in 1848, was a joint effort by the two authors, whereas *Das Kapital* was the work of Marx alone. At the time these ideas were being propounded, Engels and Marx were the chief spokesmen for The Communist League in Europe, an organization which was not related to, and which existed long before, the modern Communist movement.

d. Lenin was fascinated by the works of Marx, but differed with him as to the means of achieving certain objectives. Lenin believed that the proletariat would not rise of its own will to destroy capitalism. He contended that the masses should be incited, guided, directed, armed, and led against capitalism. Thus, in modern Communist strategy, force and violence are part of the established procedure for gaining communism's objectives. Lenin believed and advocated that the masses not only should destroy capitalism, but also should be directed and incited against the very society and government under which the systems exist. Lenin's revolution in Russia followed his ideas and pattern. The manner of achieving world domination for communism is the same.

e. Unfortunately, many people have been deceived about the true purpose of communism and, because of that deception, have given support to it in the mistaken belief that it would help to make their lives better. Such, for example, was the mistake made by a large portion of the population of China. The same mistake is also being made today by people who believe that communism is the solution to every imperfection of society and government. If these people realized the vicious objectives of communism, they would no doubt oppose it and dedicate their lives to its destruction. As citizens and soldiers of the United States of America, we owe it to ourselves to take a very good look at communism—its real purpose, its teachings, and its methods of deluding and influencing people.

## 2. Lenin's Objectives

a. Lenin wrote the philosophy of modern communism and organized the Communist Party in Russia. As a violent and uncompromising enemy of democracy and freedom, he rejected the idea that the workers were qualified to think or act for themselves. He considered them an irresponsible segment of society that required direction and rigid discipline. To meet this requirement, he advocated an organization, small in membership, but with strong and ruthless leaders. He organized the Communist Party for this purpose and declared it to be a dictatorship of the proletariat. Lenin and his small group of Communist followers proposed that all power would be placed in the dictatorship and that it would not tolerate any degree of opposition from the people. In his numerous writings, Lenin declared that, under the dictatorship of the proletariat, the workers would surrender their freedoms to the small Communist organization that constituted the dictatorship. This idea has never been repudiated by the Communist conspiracy. Indeed, it is the *dogma* of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union and in every other Communist country.

b. This idea was not and is not an idle gesture. In the Soviet Union itself, in Communist China, and in every other country under the control and domination of communism, the people have no freedoms. This fact alone is indicative of communism in action.

c. Our democratic system of Government and our American way of life are vastly different from the Communist system and way of life. Under our democratic form of Government, no single

group, however large, can claim that it alone knows what is best for the American people. The democratic system recognizes that each individual has his own aspiration and opinions and possesses absolute political freedom to express himself in political elections. Under our system of Government, no particular group can impose its ideas on our citizens indefinitely. Our country and Government thrive on competition of ideas, freely expressed and shared by the people, and not on a monopoly of ideas such as exists under communism.

d. Nikolai Lenin and Joseph Stalin declared prior to 1917 that the Communist movement would employ certain methods in gaining control of duly established governments and societies. They declared that the basic means of gaining political power in Russia and in every other country would be by force and violence. They also declared that various forms of subversion would be used and, ultimately, communism would employ any means, legal or illegal, to achieve its ultimate objective of world domination. Of particular interest to the American soldier is the fact that Communist leaders have voiced the opinion, verbally and in numerous manifestos, that war between capitalism and communism is inevitable.

## 3. The Revolution in Russia

a. In pursuit of the initial objective, the Communist Party of Russia planned and brought about the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917, which resulted in the overthrow of the established Government of Russia and the assumption of power by the small revolutionary Communist Party. Once in power, the Communists produced all the evils that can be detected in the Communist doctrine and conspiracy today. By assuming complete control and monopoly of power over the economic, political, and social life of the people, the Communist regime in Russia has reduced the people to a state of human slavery. The Communist idea of promoting a better life for the common man is today a grim joke in the Soviet Union. Instead of advancing the cause of the workers, which the shouting dupes of communism would have people believe, the regime in the Soviet Union live in the manner and fashion of potentates, at the expense of the workers who slave for the comfort and luxury of the Communist Party membership. Communism claims that all property belongs to the state. In the Soviet Union today, the Communist leaders own the state—and the workers.

b. The first official act of the Communists after assuming power in Russia was to establish safeguards for perpetuating their reign. Calculated and heartless terror, efficiently exercised through a nationwide network of secret police, spies, investigators, and "stool pigeons" served as a weapon of oppression and, with numerous police-state agencies, the Communists swept away every personal freedom. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of press, freedom to own property, freedom to work in one's chosen field, and freedom to live as one wishes—all were abolished. Following the doctrine of not tolerating opposition, thousands of Russian people were murdered in gangster-like fashion or sent to concentration camps, from which there was, and is, no release. These helpless victims of Communist terror were arrested, murdered, or imprisoned for not supporting the Communist regime. The vast Russian population that survived the numerous Communist purges, were forced to declare their loyalty, not to God, not to their country, nor to the state. They were forced to declare their loyalty to the Communist Party. Throughout the world, Communists pledge allegiance and loyalty, not to their own countries and governments, but to the Communist conspiracy and, therefore, to Communist Russia.

#### 4. Interrogation and Indoctrination

a. Interrogation and indoctrination in the Soviet Union always have been a method of controlling and influencing groups of people. As an officially accepted procedure, it is practiced by Communist regimes all over the world.

b. One of the first major agencies established by the Communists after the Bolshevik Revolution was the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The function of this superministry was to keep a close watch upon every person and organization inside the Soviet Union and insure nondeviation from Communist doctrine. The MVD, operating under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, specializes in detecting counter-revolutionary elements in Russia. Subjecting counter-revolutionary suspects to interrogation is a routine, but vital and continuous, function. The MVD interrogators operate on the premise that all suspects and arrested persons are guilty and enemies of the people. This is another aspect of communism which is directly opposite to the police procedures practiced by democratic governments. Under our system, a person is innocent until he is proved

guilty. Under Communist rule, a person is guilty until he is proved innocent, which is impossible since the interrogator's first act is to obtain a confession regardless of the suspect's guilt or innocence. This procedure is found in all Communist police systems. The Chinese and the North Korean Communist forces were no exceptions.

c. Since no one can be sure when an MVD informer may be listening, Soviet citizens have learned to keep their mouths shut. Just a word that shows discontent with the Communist regime may be enough to send the speaker to a forced-labor camp. Failure to achieve planned production goals, inefficiency, and absence from work may have similar results. The higher the position, the greater the fall. Stalin sent many Communist leaders to their deaths and thousands to forced-labor camps simply because he did not trust them. To obtain confessions of guilt, the MVD uses intensive interrogation, threats, promises, and every other coercive-type Communist trick available. The MVD also operates the forced-labor camps, which are situated in the far north and in the vast areas of central Asia where few people would go of their own free will and from which escape is impossible. More than 120 of these camps are known to exist. How many prisoners have been sent to these camps will never be known with any degree of accuracy.

d. In addition to forced labor, the Soviet Government has sent many people into exile in these distant areas. Exiles are free to find whatever work they can in the town or region to which they are sent, but they can never leave without permission of the MVD. People condemned to exile have been mostly national minorities who the leaders believed, with or without reason, were not entirely loyal to the regime. Included among the minorities shipped off to Asia were Tartars from the steppes of central Asia, mountain tribesmen from the Caucasus, Greeks from Odessa, thousands from the Baltic States, about one-half million Volga Germans, and several thousands Jews—an indication of the difference between what the Communists say and what they actually practice. To the rest of the world, the Communists claim to be the only country where minorities share all privileges.

e. The Soviet people's knowledge that this system of exile and slave labor exists generates fear and compels overt obedience. There can be no doubt that they know about the terror, for no single group has escaped having some of its mem-



bers sent into forced labor or exile. These are the ever-present shadows under which the Communist Party bosses force their subjects to live. Force and terror can thus be added, along with indoctrination, to a list of the means by which the Soviet people are governed.

f. Communist indoctrination plagues the Russian people. From nursery schools to the universities, the labor unions, and, in fact, every source of information and education is used as a loud speaker for Communist indoctrination. The Soviet peoples are told that communism is the only system of government under which people live in "freedom and equality." They are told that communism is superior to every other system of government and that the lot of people of the Soviet Union will become "brighter" as communism moves closer to its objectives. This constant justification for communism no doubt becomes monotonous but, in the absence of any other information from the outside world, the Soviet citizen has no choice but to believe what he is told by professional agitators and propagandists. By repeating the same party line every day over the radio, in school rooms, on billboards, and in the controlled press, the people's conception of communism, and toward the outside world, are formulated and controlled.

g. In deriding the former Government of Russia, Communist indoctrination included attacks on the Czar of Russia and every aspect of the then constituted Government. The leaders of the overthrown Government were referred to as "crooks" and enemies of the people; demands for their arrest and death by firing squad were shouted by Communist agitators. Every non-Communist government was branded as an enemy of the people and called a tool of capitalism. Of all the non-Communist governments in the world, the United States is probably the one most violently attacked by Communists. Degrading criticism of the United States and vicious attacks on American political and military leadership are a standard ingredient of Communist indoctrination in the Soviet Union and in every Communist country in the world. It was the principal theme of Communist indoctrination in North Korea. Of the several United Nations countries represented during the Korean war, none received so much abuse as did the United States. The principal target of communism today is the United States.

## **5. Communist Imperialism: Aims and Methods**

a. The Communist conspiracy affects all people in the Free World because it represents the most dangerous and cunning form of aggressive imperialism in history. It has won successes to date, especially in Asia, mainly because its ideology has been fostered by subversion and propaganda backed by military force and secret police.

b. In their imperialistic drive, the Communist rulers of the Soviet Union have both a long-range and an immediate set of objectives. The long-range goal calls for nothing short of establishing a Communist system throughout the world. The Communist rulers aim at this because they are convinced that the Communist regime in the Soviet Union cannot continue to exist so long as there are hostile "capitalist" countries. Lenin, Stalin, and many other Communist leaders have stated repeatedly that sooner or later a clash between the two systems was bound to come. This gives them their more immediate goal—to weaken other countries so as to give the Soviet Government the advantage in its dealings with them or their allies. The international Communist movement has been one of the principal levers used to achieve this purpose.

c. Imperialism usually has involved the use of military force, either directly or indirectly. The Soviet Union has never hesitated to use its armies for that purpose when it thought force would succeed. Today, for example, the rulers in the Kremlin are the real rulers of the countries of Eastern Europe, except for Yugoslavia and Greece, largely because the Soviet armies occupied the key countries of this region after the defeat of Germany; therefore, the installation in power of those who were faithful to the rulers of the Soviet Union was facilitated.

## **6. Boring from Within: The Communist Parties Abroad**

a. Military power is not the only weapon of Soviet imperialism. In fact, for the first 20 years of its existence, the Communist regime was too weak to use its armed forces for that purpose, except in a few minor instances. Soviet imperialism employed a new technique of aggression. Instead of attacking other countries from without, it proceeded to undermine them from within by

subversion, using the power of Communist propaganda and indoctrination. Specifically, the Soviet regime organized, supported, guided, and controlled in Europe, in Asia, and in the Western Hemisphere, Communist Parties that pretended to be champions of the hopes and welfare of the common people in each country.

b. In most countries, these Communist Parties found some opening wedge for their propaganda. Most of the people of the world, especially in underdeveloped areas like China and southern Asia, were poverty-stricken and believed communism offered them a better life. Actually their life is one of bondage and misery under communism. Even where the standard of living was higher, as in the industrial countries, there were numerous factions at work to cause unrest which the Communists distorted and magnified with propaganda.

c. Finding this unrest ready-made for them, Communists have followed a simple strategic rule, they present themselves as a purely domestic party, concerned solely with the immediate grievances and desires of the people. Most people, they realize, have little or no interest in abstract theories or in plans for the wholesale reconstruction of society but do have specific and urgent grievances to which Communist propaganda can appeal.

d. The farmers in China, for example, wanted land of their own and lower taxes; workers in France wanted higher wages—the list is almost endless. So the Communists concentrated most of their energies in appealing to these grievances felt by the people. If, by doing this, they can win a sufficiently large following to bring them to power, they can then proceed with their Communist program whether the people favor it or not.

e. Thus the Chinese Communists succeeded, in the 1930's, in selling to the peasants in China, and to many people elsewhere, the idea that they were really "agrarian reformers," concerned mainly with improving the lot of the common peasant. Although the Communists thus won many followers, armed might was actually needed to establish a Communist regime in China.

f. This strategy also has another important purpose, even when it does not bring Communists to power. If it helps them to become popular with a representative section of public opinion, as is the case today in France and Italy, they can then use their influence to support any policies of their own governments that are favored by the Soviet

Union, or they can try to obstruct any policies to which the Soviet Government is opposed. In doing this they are careful not to reveal their real purpose. Their arguments and slogans always try to persuade their audience that this or that policy is either good or bad for their own country. But nothing is more certain than the fact that Communists everywhere have always used only one test in judging the foreign policy of their own governments: Does it suit the policies of the Soviet Union? Even this has never been left to their own judgment. The general "line" has always been proclaimed in Moscow first, with the Communists all over the world taking their cue from it as quickly as they can. Communists Parties are not domestic political parties in any sense of the word. They are merely local branches of a worldwide organization controlled by Moscow with the sole purpose of serving the interests of the Soviet Union. This is the lesson learned, time and time again, from the history of Communist activities since the establishment of the Soviet regime in Russia.

## 7. Conclusion

a. The Soviet people are governed by a totalitarian dictatorship as absolute and as ruthless as any the world has ever seen. The one-man dictatorship of Stalin appears to have been replaced by the dictatorship of a small group. This group is the Presidium of the Communist Party Central Committee, and it completely controls the Party and the Government.

b. It does this by making sure that all the key positions in the Government are filled by Party members who owe their success to the Party and who can, therefore, be counted on to be completely loyal. These members occupy the "commanding heights" of Soviet life all the way from the Kremlin down to the smallest factory or collective farm. At the lower levels, they are in constant contact with the masses of the Soviet people and dominate all organized activities.

c. The men in the Presidium enlist the loyalties of the people where possible and compel their obedience where necessary. They think of themselves as being in a continuous war, fighting for the Communist cause against the capitalist enemy. It is a war for the eventual enslavement of all peoples throughout the world by communism. In 1930, Dimitri Z. Manuilsky, Stalin's Deputy to the Comintern, stated the Communists' true objectives in a speech delivered at the Lenin

School of Political Warfare in Moscow, when he said:

“War to the hilt, between communism and capitalism is inevitable. Today of course, we are not strong enough to attack. Our time will come in twenty or thirty years. To win we shall need the element of surprise. The bourgeois will have to be put to sleep. So we shall

begin by launching the most spectacular PEACE MOVEMENT on record. There will be electrifying overtures and unheard of concessions. The capitalist countries, stupid and decadent, will rejoice to cooperate in their own destruction. They will leap at another chance to be friends. As soon as their guard is down, we shall smash them with our clenched fists!”

## Section II. COMMUNIST INTERROGATION AND INDOCTRINATION OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR

### 8. Processing of German POWs

a. In October 1941, the Red Army—as the Soviet Army was then called—sent a directive to all Communist interrogators which read in part as follows:

“From the very moment of capture by the Red Army, and during the entire period of captivity, the enemy enlisted men and officers must be under continuous indoctrination by our political workers and interrogators.”

b. This initial directive was followed by a series of other directives which explained in detail what type of information would be extracted from German prisoners first, how the interrogations should be conducted, and the manner and extent of the indoctrination. Analysis of these directives revealed that the Communists were more interested in economic and political information than in purely military information about Germany. The Communists, however, did not overlook military information. Military information was sought, as a rule, soon after the prisoner was captured and while he was being evacuated from the combat zone to the rear. Although a political worker was present during the evacuation, he did not assume complete control of the prisoner until he reached army level. From the time the prisoner reached army level, he was under the direct and rigid control of Communist political interrogators and experts.

c. The processing of German prisoners of war in Europe during World War II was accomplished rapidly. The reason for this haste was to get the Germans out of the lines, thus decreasing Hitler's manpower, and to detach them completely from German communities—to isolate them in a Communist environment and to subject them to a lengthy Communist indoctrination program.

d. After capture, the German prisoners were evacuated from the Red Army battalion area,

where they were interrogated for approximately 30 minutes on purely military matters pertaining to the immediate military situation. After this first interrogation was finished, the prisoners were moved to the regimental area where they were questioned in more detail about the military situation, to include order of battle. When the interrogation was completed at regimental level, the prisoners were evacuated to a Red division level, where German officers and noncommissioned officers were subjected to additional interrogation on military subjects. It was at army level that the German prisoners received a prepared questionnaire which contained approximately 140 questions. These were listed under the following headings:

- (1) General data, which covered the POW's whole past life up to his military service.
- (2) Condition of the German armed forces, an elaborate quiz on all phases of the POW's career as a soldier.
- (3) Conditions in the zone of the interior, a searching inquiry into all phases of home-front activity.
- (4) Political attitudes and convictions of the prisoner.
- (5) His attitude toward Soviet propaganda.

e. These questions had two purposes: To gain information about Germany and conditions in the German Army; and to determine the basic attitudes and susceptibility of the prisoner to Communist influence.

f. These first questionnaires were completed by the prisoners at army level and while en route to a permanent prison camp. The Communists demanded that all questions be answered in detail and in a most comprehensive manner. Use of the questionnaire is one of several standard Communist techniques of interrogation and was used against American prisoners of war in Korea.

g. After the German prisoners were interrogated at army level, and the questionnaires completed, they were evacuated to a permanent prisoner-of-war camp. After reaching the permanent camp, the prisoners were placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Soviet Union and under the immediate control of the MVD.

## 9. Interrogation and Indoctrination After Evacuation

a. Once located in the permanent camp, the German prisoners were subjected to an organized program of Communist indoctrination. For thousands of these prisoners of war, the indoctrination and imprisonment were to continue as long as 10 years.

b. Soon after the MVD accomplished the administrative processing at the permanent camp, the prisoners were required to complete another questionnaire, which covered important aspects of their lives. This questionnaire elicited information which gave the Communists a complete knowledge of the prisoner's political beliefs, his income, his education, and his friends, associates, and their political beliefs. It also included extensive information about the prisoner's family and all known relatives, their political beliefs, and economic status. The two different questionnaires were later compared by the MVD political interrogators, and discrepancies were checked.

c. After the German prisoners of war had completed all questionnaires, they were subjected to an intensive series of interrogations, which were conducted on a cycle basis. The first was brief and confined to routine questions. Gradually they became longer and more detailed as the process was accelerated. All interrogations were related to the questionnaires. They furnished the enemy with certain basic information which served as a guide for the interrogators.

d. In addition to the questionnaires, the Communists employed the following psychological techniques:

- (1) Scanning by intelligence officers of POW mail which revealed data about the POW and his family.
- (2) Withholding of mail from the prisoner's family except mail of a depressing nature.
- (3) Obtaining signatures of prisoners on innocent appearing documents and later using such signatures for psychological warfare purposes.

- (4) Attempting to deceive the prisoner and decrease his natural resentment towards his captors by use of a "friendly approach" on the part of the interrogator.
- (5) Shifting abruptly from a friendly to a menacing approach in which the prisoner is accused of lying, betraying a trust, and the like. This technique was aimed at placing the prisoner on the defensive. In an attempt to defend himself, the prisoner spoke emotionally rather than rationally and revealed more than he should have. If the prisoner refused to answer questions contained in the questionnaire, the Communists immediately accused him of having a "hostile attitude," which they classified as a serious offense.
- (6) Flattering the egotist and encouraging him to talk about himself and his experiences. This resulted in the enemy gaining both biographical and military information.
- (7) Destroying the assurance of the confident individual by catching him in an error or in a lie. The person, thus exposed, might be humiliated to the point that he would reveal important information to the interrogator in an effort to cover his error.
- (8) Concealing microphones to monitor POW conversations. The usual practice was to plant one microphone in an obvious location which the prisoner would easily locate and neutralize. Another microphone, more ingeniously concealed and difficult to locate, picked up the conversations of the unwary prisoners.
- (9) Obtaining information from informers, enemy personnel posing as prisoners or from unsuspecting and careless POWs, concerning a POW of special interest to the captors.

## 10. Physical Pressures

The Communist interrogators also employed physical pressures against the German POWs in an effort to lower their resistance to interrogation and to make the job of the interrogator easier. Physical pressure, when used, was directed against selected individuals and not against groups of prisoners. They realized that the application of physical pressure against a prisoner group would

serve to strengthen the unity of the group and defeat their purpose of obtaining information. Examples of the type of physical pressure exerted against selected individual prisoners were: Solitary confinement; requiring the prisoner to assume rigid and uncomfortable positions for long periods of time; prolonged interrogation of the prisoner by using relays of fresh interrogators; depriving the prisoner of sufficient sleep or rest; and denying the prisoner the use of the latrine. The pressures that can be exerted against a prisoner are many and varied. It is important to remember that the object of interrogation is to obtain information. A badly injured prisoner, or one too exhausted or confused to talk intelligently, is of no use to the interrogator; therefore, there are definite limits on the amount of physical pressure that can be exerted on a man under interrogation. It should be noted that the use of such methods as mentioned above was reserved for selected prisoners who were known or thought to possess important information and was not applied to the prisoner population as a whole because of the obvious expense in both manpower and time.

## 11. The Indoctrination Process

a. Although some attempts at indoctrination of the German prisoners began near the front lines, almost immediately after capture, the organized, concerted indoctrination program began at the permanent POW camps.

b. To assure the success of the indoctrination program and resultant control of the prison population, the captives were screened and segregated for the following reasons:

- (1) To discover and isolate incorrigibly anti-Communist elements.
- (2) To convert neutral or disillusioned POWs to the Communist way of thinking, and to alienate them from fellow prisoners by arousing class-consciousness and make Communism more palatable to them.
- (3) To discover and thoroughly indoctrinate those POWs who were pro-Communist and thereby form a hard core of Communists in the POW ranks.

c. The German POW was introduced to the formal indoctrination program while he was still under the initial shock of capture. During the first few months in captivity, the average prisoner was fatigued, confused, and frightened. Therefore, he was more susceptible to Communist indoctrination than he normally would have been

after having recovered from the initial shock of capture. The Communists took full advantage of the prisoner's state in the initiation of their indoctrination process. Following are some of the Communist practices which contributed to the success of the program and assured control of the POW population by the Soviets.

- (1) Prisoners were not allowed time for relaxation or diversion of their own choosing. Their activities were rigidly controlled by their captors. They were subjected to Communist propaganda in the form of slanted lectures, movies, and discussions. The only reading material available was pro-Communist literature.
- (2) The Soviets emphasized the theme that Hitler and the Nazis had betrayed the POWs and the German people. The purpose of this theme was to alienate the prisoners from their basic loyalties, to create doubts and confusion in their minds, and to destroy any group unity that might exist.
- (3) A series of anti-Fascist and pro-Communist lectures were presented, and the Soviets led the prisoners to believe that those who did not voluntarily attend were looked upon with suspicion. This belief served to increase the attendance at the lectures. Topics for discussion during the lecture series were: "Defects of Fascism," "Attractiveness of Communism," "Betrayal of the German People by Their Leaders," and similar themes. Native-born Germans who were pro-Communist were utilized as guest lecturers. This practice created a favorable impression on some of the prisoners but was generally unsatisfactory because many of these persons had been away from Germany so long that they obviously were "stooges" for the Soviets. The pro-Communists, native-born Germans, who initially conducted the lectures, subsequently were replaced by pro-Communist German prisoners who had been thoroughly indoctrinated in the Communist way of thinking.
- (4) Prisoners were segregated according to rank, nationality, social background, and religion.
- (5) Camp newspapers were established. Radio broadcasts made by the prisoners

were transmitted to Germany and throughout the prisoner-of-war camps. These were carefully planned and staged by collaborating prisoners and had a depressing effect upon the average captive.

- (6) The pro-Communist captives received somewhat better food and quarters and were groomed to handle the POW administration. Eventually, they were entrusted with the administration of the anti-Communist POW camps.
- (7) Ultimately all prisoner-of-war camps were controlled by pro-Communist, collaborator POWs under supervision of a Soviet officer-in-charge.

*d.* The basic technique of Communist indoctrination against the German prisoners was to discredit not only Hitler but the whole German concept of government. The Communists attacked all German leaders and all German schools of thought, except communism. In fact, in typical Communist fashion, every system of government in the world was described as being against the common man. Communism was advanced as the salvation of the workers and of peace.

## 12. Propaganda

*a.* Communist propaganda was perhaps the most effective part of Communist indoctrination of German prisoners. The Communists collected a large number of diaries and letters of dead German officers which indicated defeatist attitudes after Hitler's forces began to slow down on all

fronts. These documents were disseminated to all newly captured prisoners. They were used to discredit and degrade the officer class and served to create doubt and to weaken the enlisted POWs faith in their officers and in Germany.

*b.* German prisoners were asked to make recordings, supposedly to be broadcast to relatives in Germany. The recordings were broadcast, instead, as propaganda to the opposing troops on the front line, and gave the impression that life with the Soviets was pleasant. These propaganda recordings caused many Germans to surrender to the Red Army.

*c.* "Peace" was the basic theme of the Communists. However, this theme was merely a front to hide their true motives. In actuality it meant peace, on Communist terms. Through fraud, deception, and some German collaborators, numerous German prisoners signed "peace petitions" which the Communists published throughout the world. These "petitions" gave the German soldiers and civilians the false impression that only the Communists wanted peace. As a matter of fact, the modern Communist "peace crusade" started in their prisoner-of-war camps in 1945, had a somewhat successful run in North Korea, and is still making the rounds in the same counterfeit garment of deception.

*d.* The interrogation and indoctrination methods used by the Soviets against the German prisoners of war followed the same pattern as those used against the Russian people. It is a Communist trade mark, an established procedure peculiar only to communism.

## Section III. COMMUNIST INTERROGATION AND INDOCTRINATION OF JAPANESE PRISONERS OF WAR

### 13. Handling of Japanese POWs

*a.* The Communist methods of handling Japanese prisoners of war were generally the same as employed in handling the German prisoners. The methods of interrogation were the same, and their techniques of indoctrination were identical. The illegal and unjustified detaining of Japanese prisoners, years after all hostilities had come to an end, paralleled Russia's illegal holding of the German prisoners, some of whom were released as late as October 1955, 10 years after they were captured. Others, so-called "war criminals," may never be released.

*b.* The following points, however, are worthy

of emphasis to illustrate how the Communists appeal to certain groups for certain specific reasons:

- (1) Wide use of informants among the Japanese prisoners, usually obtained by such coercive means as threats of punishment, nonrepatriation, or by promises of better food, quarters, and treatment. Former military police or intelligence personnel were especially sought for use as informants because of their training in observation.
- (2) The Soviets appeared to be especially interested in the following types of

personnel whom they classed as "war criminals" and, therefore, were not repatriated initially:

- (a) Field-grade officers and above.
  - (b) Military police, intelligence, or border guard personnel.
  - (c) Communications personnel.
  - (d) Graduates of military Russian-language schools.
  - (e) Specialists in such fields as bacteriology, chemical warfare, aviation mechanics, and electronics.
- (3) The use of young females as interpreters.

#### 14. Indoctrination Techniques

a. The indoctrination techniques were so similar to those used against the German prisoners that the following serves to reiterate that the basic policy of the Communists was to divide and confuse the prisoners and to imbue them with Communist ideology:

- (1) Attempting to discredit the Japanese Emperor and making "Emperor Worship" unpopular.
- (2) Attempting to disrupt the military discipline and unity of the Japanese Army personnel which were based on the traditional Japanese military caste system.
- (3) The formation of youth groups, consisting of young and naive prisoners, and allowing them a degree of control over the other prisoners. Members of these youth groups were given special privileges, such as better quarters, food, and treatment.

- (4) Generating anti-American sentiments among the prisoners, thereby transforming their resentment away from the Russians.
- (5) The formation of pro-Communist organizations within the prisoner ranks.
- (6) Developing pro-Communist feelings among the prisoners. This was accomplished by subjecting the prisoners to compulsory formal instruction in communism. A special effort was made to convert the better-educated prisoners in order to use them as group leaders.

b. The Soviet political indoctrination program gained support through threats, fear, and promises of reward rather than through any spontaneous desire to learn and study the Soviet way of life. However, many of the Japanese who were captured and later interned in the U. S. S. R. could not justly be classified career soldiers because such a large percentage of them were former students, businessmen, and civil officials who were drafted into the Japanese Army very late in the war and had little Japanese Army training. It was within the ranks of these more intelligent and better educated individuals, who resented being drawn into Japanese military life, that the indoctrination program found some of its most earnest followers and leaders. However, the majority of prisoners participated in the movement through fear that nonparticipation would delay their return to Japan. These prisoners were not permanently affected by the indoctrination program and did not constitute a security threat upon their return to Japan.

## CHAPTER 2

# COMMUNIST TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN KOREA

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### Section I. TREATMENT UNDER NORTH KOREANS

#### 15. Periods of POW Control

*a.* Communist prisoner-of-war handling in Korea can be separated into two distinct periods. On 25 June 1950, the North Korean Communists invaded South Korea. A short time later, the first United States troops were taken captive. By the fall of 1950, the United Nations Forces had driven to the Yalu River along the Manchurian border and had practically defeated the North Korean Army. At this time, well-trained and experienced military forces from Communist China swarmed across the Yalu River into North Korea and, during the latter part of November 1950, launched a surprise offensive against the United Nations Forces. Communist propaganda referred to these Chinese troops as the Chinese People's Volunteer Army. Actually, they were hardened, thoroughly indoctrinated troops of Communist China's Army. From July 1950 to April 1951, Americans and other United Nations prisoners of war were under the control of the North Koreans. However, in the spring of 1951, the Chinese Communist Forces assumed control of all military operations, including the control and administration of prisoners of war. For the most part, these two periods are distinct, one from the other, not so much in regard to time, but more in regard to the treatment the United States prisoners received. Atrocities and brutal treatment characterized the first period under the ruthless and almost barbaric North Koreans. On the other hand, comparatively lenient treatment characterized the latter period. This "lenient policy", however, was employed only as a device to make United Nations prisoners of war more receptive to the Communist interrogation and political indoctrination program. Communist propaganda was the only element common to both periods.

*b.* Any discussion of atrocities, brutalities, and mistreatment of prisoners must logically include

some reference to the provisions of the Geneva Convention. From Biblical times to the present day, the question of treatment of captives has been written into the accounts and histories of every war that has been fought. In an attempt to insure humane treatment for soldiers taken captive during future wars, representatives of the civilized nations of the world convened at Geneva, Switzerland, in 1929 and again in 1949, to draft a set of rules to govern the administration and treatment of prisoners of war. It was agreed that the Detaining Power would be responsible for the health and welfare of any prisoners held. It was also agreed that punishment, of any type, would be restricted to infraction of laws, orders and regulations in force within the armed forces of the Detaining Power.

*c.* The manner in which the North Korean Communists treated the Americans and other United Nations prisoners of war under their control shows that they conveniently ignored and defied the provisions of the Geneva Convention and the generally accepted standards of dealing with human beings.

*d.* The North Koreans were not particularly interested in collecting intelligence information. Their primary interest was to impress United Nations captives and the Korean civilians of Korean "superiority" over "Western Barbarians." They operated on the theory that "might was right" and demonstrated that "right" by some of the most inhumane types of atrocities and brutalities that Western civilization has seen. To impress the civilian population, the North Korean Communists placed American captives on display in the village squares of Korea. They beat and even murdered exhausted, sick, and wounded Americans who could not defend themselves. Human sentiment and respect for human dignity were foreign to them.





## 16. Capture by the North Koreans

*a.* When captured by the North Koreans, prisoners were subjected to cursory searches and all personal items of value were confiscated. After the search was completed, the prisoners were marched to one of several so-called "camps", which were nothing more than collecting points for prisoners. American prisoners designated some of these "camps" as Bean Camp, Cold Camp, Death Valley, and Peaceful Valley. They were located wherever the Koreans happened to assemble a group of prisoners. Since very few of the Korean Communist soldiers spoke English, little or no questioning was conducted. Instead, to terrorize their captives, they engaged in acts of brutality.

*b.* The North Koreans had no facilities for housing the prisoners and had little food to offer them. In addition, they did not have the vaguest idea of prisoner administration and refused to consider the provisions of the Geneva Conventions which were brought to their attention numerous times by

Americans and other United Nations prisoners. Several Americans made sincere efforts to help the North Koreans establish some kind of orderly care and administration for the prisoners, but the North Koreans refused to accept such help and advice. Instead, the North Koreans forced the prisoners to make long, gruelling marches to consume time and to keep the prisoners occupied. Many of the marches surpassed the infamous "Bataan Death March" of World War II.

## 17. "Death Marches"

*a.* During the early part of November 1950, such a march was begun from Mampo in North Korea. Approximately 700 prisoners, mostly Americans, started the journey through deep snow and subzero weather. Within a month after the march started, only 250 prisoners remained alive. The North Korean officer in charge of this march, a major known as the "Tiger", became notorious for his cruelty, and he was personally responsible for murdering many prisoners. Sur-

vivors of the march have testified that this officer shot an American for every mile of the 120-mile journey. These same eye witnesses revealed that 130 Americans perished on that march when they could no longer walk because of their serious wounds. These same sources also testified that an undetermined number of other Americans froze to death, primarily because the North Korean enemy had deprived them of their shoes and other clothing.

b. On 29 November 1950, approximately 2,000 United Nations prisoners of war, most of whom were Americans, and many of whom were sick or wounded, started a march that did not end until February 1951. During this ordeal, prisoners were shot when they were no longer physically able to walk. Those who were slow because of their physical condition were prodded with rifles and bayonets. Americans who wanted to carry their sick and wounded, or attend them along the road of march, were shot or beaten when they attempted to give such aid. During the so-called rest periods on this particular march, the prisoners were given a small amount of ground corn, which was distributed to the prisoners in the manner of a farmer feeding chickens. These prisoners finally arrived at a location which the prisoners referred to as the Cold Camp, along the banks of the Yalu River in extreme North Korea. While at this point, Korean Communist officers held formations in knee-deep snow. When the prisoners complained about the cold, the enemy officers berated them for complaining. Most of the prisoners were in ragged shirts, and many had no shoes. At this collecting point, as many as 50 prisoners lived in a hut provided for 3 or 4 people. They drank water from a stream flowing downward from an enemy bath house. Within 2 weeks, prisoners began to die at the rate of 30 a day. To the Korean Communist enemy, these deaths eliminated the responsibility for providing food and shelter for that many prisoners.

c. In December 1950, another group of 400 prisoners was captured near the town of Kunu-ri. Only 75 of these prisoners lived long enough to reach the collecting point. These deaths were due directly to the enemy's complete indifference to medical treatment, which the Korean Communists refused to consider essential. Early in February 1951, a mixed group of prisoners, about 200 in number, was located about 15 kilometers

from the front line near the Imjin River. For 3 days these prisoners received no food. Approximately 60 of them died from malnutrition and brutality at the hands of the North Koreans.

d. Throughout the first period of captivity, the North Koreans committed acts of brutality for no apparent reason, except to intimidate the prisoners and to impress the civilian population. Although most of the vicious crimes against United Nations prisoners were without reason, some were committed for alleged offenses against the Korean people. An American soldier attempted to take a vegetable from a Korean farmer's garden and was observed by a Korean guard. For this "crime" the soldier was kicked, beaten on the head, and hit in the stomach. The soldier had not eaten in 4 days, and the Korean civilian had approved his taking the vegetable. Two other American prisoners attempted to obtain a drink of water from a stream and, because they did not obtain permission first, the Korean guards threw them down a slope. The two Americans were never seen again.

e. These long marches were usually conducted during the hours of darkness. During the daylight hours, the prisoners were assembled at a collecting point—wherever daylight caught them, usually in some Korean village. Most of the time the prisoners were not allowed to talk to each other and were guarded closely by Korean guards whose reputation with their superiors depended on how many Americans they beat or killed during a certain period. In one instance, a Korean guard reported that he had not killed an American during his tour of duty. His superior told him that he was afraid of the Americans and directed him to kill one during his next tour of duty.

f. It should be remembered that the brutalities and mistreatment inflicted on American prisoners by the North Koreans did not have any relationship to interrogation and political indoctrination. There is a popular misconception that some Americans committed acts of disloyalty in North Korea because of torture. The period of brutality and torture was the first period under the North Koreans, who were not primarily interested in collecting intelligence information or exploiting the prisoners of war. They did not conduct an organized program of indoctrination. Most of the atrocities, brutalities, and torture about which the United States public and the world read occurred during this period:



## 18. Interrogation by North Koreans

For the sake of accuracy, it should be mentioned that the North Koreans did conduct some interrogations of United Nations prisoners. These interrogations were limited, crude, and aimless, and did not produce enough tactical or political information to constitute an achievement. One of the stock questions was, "Why did the United States invade North Korea"? The North Koreans asked questions about the organization to which the soldiers were assigned. Most Americans ques-

tioned by the Koreans were asked, "How many automobiles has each American"? The manner in which the Koreans conducted their limited interrogations, using threats and beatings, usually resulted in opposition by the prisoners rather than cooperation.

## 19. Propaganda

*a.* From the time the North Koreans launched their attack against South Korea until the armistice was signed, Chinese Communists were at-

tached to the Korean Red Army as "advisors". During the period of North Korean control, these Chinese advisors limited their activities to prop-  
aganda. The crude and somewhat primitive North Koreans did not possess the skill in disseminating propaganda that the Chinese did. Since propaganda is a traditional element of communism, the presence of the Chinese propagandists in North Korea is understandable.

b. North Korea had few printing plants, and paper was a critical item. Most of the propaganda in North Korea during the entire Korean war originated in Peking and Moscow and was transmitted to Korea by Chinese liaison officers and other categories of Chinese personnel attached to Korean Red Army.

c. Generally, two types of Communist propaganda were prevalent in North Korea during the first period. One type of propaganda was built around the public display of United Nations prisoners of war—picture propaganda. These propaganda efforts were accomplished by parading the prisoners through large towns and directing a rest period in the center of the town. There the civilian population would mill around the prisoners looking at them, throwing dirt on them and, in some instances, kicking them. Such display of the prisoners usually amounted to a holiday for the civilians. This type of propaganda was primarily for local consumption, but it assumed national and international interest to the Communists. The Chinese advisors made numerous photographs of the prisoners and disseminated them to every Communist country in the world. From July 1950 until April 1951, photographs of captive United Nations prisoners, especially Americans, were front-page items on every Communist newspaper in the world. These photographs were used to propagandize every Communist trick connected with the war in Korea. They were used in the "peace crusade" in Europe. They were used in connection with prisoner peace petitions. These photographs, which were doctored by the Chinese propagandists to appear that the prisoners were enjoying sunshine on some beach, were dropped over the United Nations lines.

d. The other type of propaganda was written propaganda. This effort was also directed by the Chinese advisors. When the prisoners were marched to one of the larger cities, such as Seoul, Pyongyang, or Pyoktong, some of the prisoners were requested to make recordings, allegedly for the purpose of transmission to their families in the

United States. To hide their true purpose, the Communists selected those Americans who had not been maltreated. Not seeing through the trick, the Americans ended their broadcasts with a required word of kindness for the Communist enemy. Most American prisoners did not know that these broadcasts would be used against them at a later date—in the form of propaganda for the Communist enemy. Transcription of these broadcasts, like the photographs, were published in Communist countries for propaganda purposes.

e. The American public has heard considerable talk about some Americans who collaborated with the Communist enemy in North Korea. This talk is not without foundation in truth, for some Americans did cooperate with the enemy during their captivity. One of the very first acts of collaboration with the enemy was during the latter part of July 1950, when several Americans permitted their names and pictures to be used on surrender leaflets. This technique was also instituted by the Chinese advisors attached to the Korean Red Army. It should be noted here that "brainwashing" was said to be the reason for most collaboration with the enemy. Some prisoners collaborated with the enemy within days after their capture—before the enemy could have possibly subjected them to "brainwashing." Those prisoners who failed to conduct themselves in the highest tradition of the United States Army had everything to lose and nothing to gain. In the end, they lost self respect, and in some cases, personal freedom. The Code of Conduct for members of the Armed Forces of the United States states:

"If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy."

f. Under the North Koreans, life for the prisoner of war was miserable. The enemy provided no shelter and very little food for the prisoners under his control. There were no organizations for the health and welfare of the prisoners and no inclination on the part of the enemy to provide medical care for the sick and wounded. The prisoners, while under the Korean Communists, were moved constantly from one point to another, from the area of the front lines to the northernmost part of the Korean peninsula. This type of prisoner control can best be compared to the manner in

which cattle is rounded up and moved from one place to another. To the North Korean Communists, American prisoners were less than cattle.

*g.* The administration and control of United

Nations prisoners of war by the North Korean Communists was one continuous orgy of ruthlessness, callousness, and brutality, and the Americans were singled out as special victims.

## Section II. TREATMENT UNDER CHINESE COMMUNISTS

### 20. Assumption of Control by Chinese

The Chinese assumed control of the Communist military operations in Korea soon after they entered the conflict in October 1950. In anticipation of assuming control of all United Nations Prisoners of War in Korea, the Chinese began constructing camps in which to confine the prisoners, and establishing the facilities to accomplish the political indoctrination of United Nations captives. It was during the second period of captivity, under the Chinese Communists, that the United States and other United Nations prisoners were first subjected to organized Communist interrogation and indoctrination. There is a very definite reason for the great differences in prisoner control during the first period under the Koreans and the control exercised during the second period by the Chinese. The Chinese Communist leaders, military and political, were educated—many, in the United States. Many also spoke English fluently. Most of them possessed a fairly good understanding of Americans and of the other nationalities that composed the United Nations Forces. The North Koreans, on the other hand, generally were uneducated, ill trained, and conducted themselves in a rather primitive manner. Most Koreans knew nothing about Americans and less about Western civilization. In addition, the Chinese Communists constituted a very important link in the world-wide Communist conspiracy. They recognized the potential value to the Communist cause of converting prisoner of war camps into laboratories in which they could experiment with various methods of group-handling and indoctrination of United Nations prisoners, especially Americans.

### 21. Capture by the Chinese

*a.* The harsh manner in which the Koreans treated captives became known to thousands of American troops in the fighting line. Reports of murder and other atrocities soon reached all echelons of the United Nations Forces. As a result of these reports, many soldiers had a feeling that, in the event of capture by the Chinese, they would be subjected to the same kind of brutal treatment which hundreds of their fellow-soldiers

had experienced under the North Koreans. Therefore, when the soldier was captured by the Chinese and was not shot or otherwise mistreated, he was shockingly surprised and, in many instances, assumed an attitude of gratitude. Our troops discovered that a display of kindness and friendliness had replaced the harshness employed by the Koreans. But what the Americans did not know was that this display of kindness and friendship by the Chinese was a calculated part of their game of deception.

*b.* On 19 May 1951, a unit of the 38th United States Infantry Regiment found an enemy document which read in part:

“Basic consideration of the American prisoners of war are fear of death, home-sickness, tiredness of war, and not knowing why they should fight in Korea. If we treat them well and convince them of our policies, they are apt to give us valuable information due to their weakness and lack of convictions.”

*c.* During the general prisoner exchange in August 1953, an American repatriate delivered an enemy document to the military authorities in the Far East which read in part:

“The American newspapers are calling us uncivilized because of the way the Koreans treated the American prisoners before we took command of the people’s struggle in Korea. Don’t give the prisoners any excuse for getting information out of North Korea to support the Americans in their charges that we are not civilized. Be kind to the American prisoners, share what you have with them, pretend that you are their friends, don’t threaten them, but use deception.”

*d.* These enemy documents, and others of this nature, were disseminated to Chinese Communists troops in the line with orders not to deviate from the general policy of deceiving the United Nations prisoners into believing that the Chinese were their friends. The Chinese troops carried out these directives and helped establish the foundation for the indoctrination program that soon engulfed many United Nations prisoners. The prisoners’ gratitude for the “lenient treatment”

by their captors resulted in little or no active resistance to the enemy's indoctrination.

*e.* When an American soldier was captured by the Chinese, he was given a vigorous handshake and a pat on the back. The enemy "introduced" himself as a friend of the "workers" of America and then proceeded to give the soldier an "explanation" of the Korean Campaign. The soldier was told that the Chinese people were not against the American "workers" but against American capitalism for profits. He was told that the "Wall Street Warmongers" were responsible for the war in Korea. In many instances, the Chinese did not search the American captives, and frequently offered them American cigarettes. This display of friendship caught most Americans totally off-guard and many never recovered from the initial impressions made by the Chinese. That the Chinese soldiers were trained and indoctrinated themselves in communism and all of its techniques, was demonstrated by their bitter criticism of everything American and by repeated reference to the "capitalists".

*f.* After the initial contact with the enemy, some Americans seemed to believe that the enemy was sincere and harmless. They relaxed and permitted themselves to be lulled into a well-disguised trap by a cunning enemy. During their captivity most Americans learned the hard way that no enemy is a friend in a prisoner of war camp; that friendships must be developed among their own people and not with the enemy. In the event of another conflict with a Communist foe, American soldiers can expect similar treatment. There is no difference between a Soviet indoctrinated soldier and a Communist indoctrinated soldier, regardless of their race or country. All Communist soldiers are trained for one purpose—defeat of the capitalistic democracies, especially the United States.

## **22. Collecting Point Briefing**

*a.* Shortly after capture, American prisoners were escorted to a point some distance behind the front lines. The Chinese used these points for the purpose of assembling and briefing the prisoners before they were marched to permanent prison compounds. When assembled at the collecting point, the prisoners were briefed by an English-speaking Chinese Communist officer. The officer termed his remarks a "welcome address", but told the prisoners in no uncertain terms what was in store for them. He also indicated clearly

that the Chinese Communist enemy thought that the United States, its military and political leaders, and not the United Nations, was the primary target of communism. This English-speaking officer usually opened his briefing by telling the prisoners that they should have turned against their superiors in the field and shot them for waging war against the "peace-loving" people of North Korea.

*b.* The officer then told the prisoners that the war in Korea was a civil war, like the Civil War in the United States in 1861. The prisoners were told that the United States, and not the United Nations, was the real "aggressor" in Korea and that the American capitalists "forced" other nations to send troops to Korea to help fight a war for Wall Street. The prisoners were told that the military "aggression" by the United States so angered the Chinese people that the "workers" of China decided to "volunteer" for military duty and come to the rescue of the North Korean people. The prisoners were told that the war in Korea was "illegal" because the Congress of the United States did not declare war against the People's Republic in North Korea.

*c.* The Communist officer further told the prisoners that, in view of the fact that the war was not legal, the Chinese and Korean people would not consider the captives prisoners of war but would consider them as "students". The prisoners were told that as "students" they would be reeducated by the Chinese and Korean People's Governments. The reeducation about which the enemy spoke meant indoctrination—Communist indoctrination. It should be remembered that the idea of designating prisoners of war as "students" and informing them that they would be subjected to reeducation in ideas and concepts foreign to their national origin is peculiar only to communism. Of all military conflicts in which the United States has been engaged, never have American soldiers been subjected to education in a foreign ideology by a Detaining Power.

## **23. Evacuation to Permanent Camps**

*a.* After the prisoners had undergone the briefing at the collecting points, and had been identified and tagged, they were evacuated to one of the permanent camps in North Korea. The evacuation under the Chinese was more orderly and more humane than under the North Koreans—another instance of the Communist deception technique in operation. The sick and wounded were assisted by

Korean civilians who used carts to help them along the marches. The food en route did not meet American standards but was far better than the food given prisoners by the Koreans. Medical attention for the marching prisoners was poor, but the Chinese made what they had available to the more serious cases of sick and wounded. This treatment by the Chinese was such a radical change from the treatment under the Koreans that the Americans were further disarmed so far as maintaining a strong belief that the Chinese Communists were not their friends. The enemy's constant display of alleged friendship during the early stages of the second period of prisoner-control was nothing more than a deceptive prelude, a "softening up" process for what was to follow.

b. The first permanent prisoner of war camp to which American prisoners were evacuated was the United States-British Prisoner of War Camp Number 5. This installation was located near the city of Pyoktong, North Korea, on the Yalu River. It was several hundred miles from the fighting front, with an endless series of mountain ranges separating it from the combat zone. The climate in the area was extremely cold in winter and moderately warm in summer. This camp, like all other Communist camps in North Korea, was a Korean village whose civilian inhabitants had been dislodged by the Chinese to make room for the prisoners. There were no electrical fences, spotlights, or guard dogs at any of the compounds, although barbed wire fences were used as enclosures in some cases. The primary means of securing the camps were walking guards or guard posts. The guards for the most part were Chinese. Camp Number 5 was the largest prisoner of war camp and was the enemy's model installation. In addition to serving as the enemy's "showcase", Camp 5 was also the Headquarters for the Prison Command in North Korea. The Chinese general who served as commanding officer for the camp also served as commanding general for the Communist prison command.

c. After arriving at permanent camps, the prisoners were immediately organized into units comparable in size to United States Army units. They were grouped into squads, platoons, and companies, each under a unit leader. Originally, the leaders were selected by the Chinese Communists on the basis of military leadership, bearing, and a loud, commanding voice. This manner of selecting was contrary to Communist procedure, however, and was discarded almost immediately

because the units were run too much like regular military organizations and this was contrary to the Communists' strategy. The enemy reexamined the original leaders, checked their backgrounds, and determined which ones could be depended upon to lead the units in the way the Communists wanted them led. In many instances, the unit leaders also served as study group leaders and monitors for indoctrination classes. Approximately half of the original leaders were replaced by new leaders whom the Chinese selected generally from the minority groups in the camps. In addition to being members of minority groups, the new leaders had backgrounds that were associated with the so-called working classes in the United States, such as truck drivers, railroad yard workers, construction workers, and a few from farms. The idea behind this move by the enemy was to make the minorities believe that the Communists were for the "common man", and against the so-called rich. This initial step by the enemy was to be followed by a more deliberate and damaging practice of playing one group of Americans against another—the old technique of divide and conquer. Obviously the objective behind all this was to gain and maintain complete control over the prisoners.

d. Once inside the prison camp, all of the activities of the American prisoners were manipulated to suit the enemy's purposes. In that situation, stubborn RESISTANCE to the enemy was the prisoner's most valuable asset. RESISTANCE to the enemy by every available means is a traditional doctrine of the United States Army. That doctrine not only applies to the American fighting man on the field of battle, but it applies equally to the prisoner of war—the fight does not end with the battle.

## 24. Conditions Under the Chinese Communists

a. Coincident with the political indoctrination effort, the Chinese instituted and deliberately promoted an environment in prison camps which also should be discussed and explained. Information about the enemy and about his manner of treating American prisoners of war forms a solid basis of knowledge which the soldier can fall back on in resisting an enemy and in protecting himself and his fellow soldiers.

b. After the Chinese had established a POW organization that would satisfy their purposes,

they then began a conditioning process designed to render the prisoners more vulnerable to their propaganda assaults and to their political indoctrination program. The enemy's initial objective was to gain the prisoner's neutrality, if not cooperation, by undermining their sense of duty, their friendships, and their democratic ideals. In short, the Chinese enemy desired to thwart OUR extension of the battlefield to the prisoner of war camp. In this attempt, the enemy had no set of rules. No trick was too dirty or mean; no weakness too unjust to exploit; no threat too violent or subtle to be used again and again to batter the resistance of the prisoners and to crush their will. This type of attack was difficult for Americans to understand and to oppose. The principles of fairplay are deeply ingrained into Americans and, when those principles are flagrantly defied and prostituted, it causes confusion and consternation. For the first time, most American prisoners found from bitter experience and observation that communism is not the alleged decent, legitimate, orderly way of life, dedicated to peace and the promotion of good for the common man. They saw communism in action, stripped of its false fronts. The American prisoners, most of whom resisted the Communist enemy to the very end, found that communism is a ruthless and revolutionary conspiracy, whose bloody banner is carried by paganistic individuals who implement its designs on the world by methods of deceit and subversion.

c. It should be remembered that the organizational structure of the Communist prison camps in North Korea was not designed to administer to the welfare and interests of the prisoners of war in accordance with the accepted concepts of the Geneva Conventions or in accordance with the accepted standards of humane treatment by civilized nations. The structure of Communist prisons in North Korea, as in the Soviet Union and in every other Communist country, was designed to control, and accomplish mass re-education, or political indoctrination in an ideology, completely foreign to the governments under which the prisoners lived in their native countries. In pursuit of this general objective, the Communist prisons included every facet of communism. The organizational structure itself paralleled the established Communist organization.

d. The Chinese Communists in North Korea employed several of the traditional and typical Communist measures of control in the prisoner of

war camps. Fear, threats, confusion, tension, isolation, retaliation, informers, and censorship of mail were just a few used effectively by the Chinese. Since these control measures played such an important part during the period of control under the Chinese, and since they will probably be used again and again in any future situation, it is important to explain some of these in detail.

## 25. Fear

a. Fear is a natural human emotion and all humans react to it in some way or another. All humans at some time experience fear in varying degrees. It is manifested in many ways in ordinary life. When a soldier enters combat, he has fear of possible death. That fear increases as he enters certain areas of danger. His fear is greatest at capture. It was one of the enemy's strongest methods of initial control.

b. Fear is as much a part of the Communist world as freedom is in the Free World. The Communists first employed fear on a large scale following the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. They used it first in Moscow and later in all parts of the Soviet Union. Through Communist agents and the Communist informants throughout the world, fear was carried and instilled in the population of every Communist country in the world. The U. S. S. R.'s alleged approval of the Four Freedoms, one of which was freedom from fear, was an empty act. Fear is in the Soviet Red Army. Every unit, from the highest to the lowest, has a political advisor whose duty is to report on any deviation of its members from the Communist doctrines.

c. The Chinese Communists generated fear first among the prisoners by warning them that they might be strafed by our own planes in Korea. This was not an unfounded warning, because we had air superiority in Korea at the time, and the Chinese did not report accurately the locations of the various POW inclosures. This warning created a peculiar fear in the minds of the prisoners—fear of harm by friendly forces. Stories of atrocities and brutalities, a few of which were based on fact, were deliberately spread. In this instance, the implication was that in some rare and unusual situation, the enemy might find it necessary to resort to torture but, if he did, it would be a last resort for the sake of discipline. The enemy spread rumors that some prisoners might be shipped to Manchuria and to China and that the



trip might be a one-way affair. The prisoners had no liking for prison life in North Korea, a second-rate Communist Power, and less for China, the number two Communist Power in the world. The fact that such a move was a possibility instilled fear among the prisoners. The enemy spread another rumor that if prisoners did not cooperate with the Chinese and Korean People's Governments for peace, some might not be repatriated. This deliberately planted rumor also created the worst fear in the minds of the prisoners—to spend an indeterminate period as prisoners of the Communists.

d. Devoid of humane consideration and playing on basic human instinct and emotions, the enemy started a rumor that food might be withheld from those prisoners who did not cooperate with the enemy. This rumor, coupled with another that even the primitive medical care would be withheld in case of illness, intensified the normal fear of sickness and disease. This fear was further increased as the prisoners looked around and realized that they were living under conditions far below the normal sanitary standards in the United States and other modern countries of the world.

e. Perhaps the most significant and destructive fear was fear of the unknown. This fear was present not only in Korea, but it is promoted by the Communists throughout the world. It was, and is, a large part of the "cold war" of nerves. This fear of the unknown is probably the strongest of all fears. The Chinese played upon this fear and enlarged upon it in the hope of reducing the resistance of the prisoners. Thus, this fear of the unknown, this fear which the prisoners could not identify, and could not even explain, caused some prisoners to weaken and a few to accede to Communist demands. An analysis of this aspect of group-handling by the Chinese Communists revealed that the prisoners actually were more afraid of something they could not see, than of those things which they could see, feel, and hear. To preclude any misunderstanding that the Communists could ultimately force a prisoner to capitulate, it can be pointed out and stressed that the large majority of the American prisoners of the Chinese Communists, under the very conditions described, resisted the enemy in the highest tradition of the service and of our country. They demonstrated the courage of their convictions and were just as determined as the enemy. After demonstrating such determination, and after proving to the enemy that they were not spineless

individuals without convictions, faith, and a will to RESIST, their captivity became relatively easy. They were no longer subjected to fear, no longer were they asked to sign confessions, no longer were they asked to admit to offenses they did not commit. They were not pressed to commit acts of disloyalty against their fellow-prisoners or to their country. The Chinese enemy referred to them as "hopeless reactionaries." In the end, those Americans fared about as well as the others who chose the road of least resistance. They returned to a grateful nation without fear of answering for acts they committed while in captivity.

## 26. Isolation

a. "United we stand, divided we fall" is a familiar axiom to all Americans. It is also familiar to the Communists. The Communists attempted to divorce the prisoners from all those things to which they were accustomed as free American citizens. By isolating them from every emotional and social support, on which, as prisoners, they so heavily relied, the Chinese tried to reduce or destroy their *resistance*. As part of the enemy's plan, every conceivable device was employed to instill doubt and insecurity in the minds of the prisoners. A certain amount of doubt exists in the mind of every normal individual under certain conditions. The Chinese deliberately magnified doubts, playing upon them to make the prisoners feel that every person, in whom they had trust, had deserted them; every institution in which they had faith was not really sincere in its purpose. Thus, the prisoners, according to the enemy, had been misled and tricked by the agencies of capitalism.

b. By attempting to destroy the prisoners' faith in friends, in family, and in such institutions as the Church, the Government, and the Armed Forces in which they served, and by fostering distrust and suspicion among the prisoners, the enemy attacked them on an emotional level. Without sufficient valid information about the true nature of the Communist enemy with which they could defend themselves against this attack, the prisoners were left to their own personal resources. These resources based on honesty, justice, decency, and fair play were strained when matched with the dirty, deceitful, and vicious tactics of communism. Only through personal courage and perseverance were the prisoners able to put up a successful defense in the one-sided struggle. Against such

odds, these fighting men of ours proved that successful *resistance* is possible.

c. Under the circumstances just described, the American prisoners discovered that the best means available to thwart the isolation techniques was to develop the companionship and friendship of their fellow prisoners. In this way, each prisoner gave moral and emotional support to the others. They soon recognized that the only friendships in a prisoner of war camp must come, not from the enemy, but from fellow-captives. They recognized that the enemy was interested in only one objective so far as the prisoners were concerned, and that was to use the prisoners as tools with which to hack at the very heart of our democratic way of life and, ultimately, destroy it. Isolation, like fear, is a universal Communist technique of control, but one which once recognized can be overcome.

## 27. Informing

a. One of the most vicious and despicable tactics employed by the Chinese Communists was the organizing of an informant net. The Communists actively sought to select and to develop informers among the prisoners. This control device, like all others, originated with the Communist conspiracy in Russia following the Bolshevik Revolution. It is an accepted practice with Communists everywhere. To the American, informing is about the most degrading act one can commit. During World War II, American prisoners generally had group cohesiveness, based on sharing similar experiences and the feeling of constantly opposing a common enemy. The Communists were around in World War II and had observed such conduct on the part of the American prisoners. When it came their turn to detain, hold, and control American prisoners in North Korea, they aimed to destroy any and all traces of this kind of feeling, spirit, and fellowship. They managed to undermine such feeling, spirit, and fellowship. They managed to undermine such feeling by recruiting an undetermined number of informers from among the prisoners. This informing system has been described by many American repatriates as the most destructive single factor against organized or individual resistance to the enemy in a prisoner of war camp. The informer-system worked to the advantage of the enemy and enabled him to exercise a tighter control over the prisoners.

b. The enemy had two types of informers. One was the regular informer who reported to the enemy at night, and at other specific hours designated by the enemy. These weaklings were given special instructions by the enemy to seek certain information about prisoners and their activities and to report it both verbally and in writing. The other type was the unwitting informer. He did not have specific instructions from the enemy and, as a matter of fact, he did not realize that he was serving the enemy as an informer. He was called to the enemy headquarters at various times and engaged in general conversation. The conversation would always lead to prison life and prisoner activities. Through careless talk, the prisoner gave the enemy information about other prisoners and unwittingly informed on them. The regular informer gave the enemy information about other prisoners through weakness or to enhance his position in the eyes of the enemy. It was not unusual for a regular informer deliberately to give the enemy false information about some prisoner or prisoners which resulted in unwarranted punishment or hardship for the victims. As a result, prisoners were tried and severely punished for offenses about which they knew nothing—the work of the informer.

c. The position of the informer was so insecure that he had to report any questionable act in case some one else informed on him, thus causing him to lose his position. These "questionable acts included such indefinable accusations as "unwholesome" or "hostile" attitude, the recording of "improper notes" at an indoctrination lecture, and "expressing a capitalistic philosophy". The type of prisoner recruited by the enemy for this work was the opportunist, who stopped at nothing to further his own gains. In return for informing, the Chinese enemy permitted him to conduct various activities, such as selling food to hungry prisoners. The informers were feared, to some extent, by the other prisoners, but their attitude and conduct more frequently were viewed with anger, shame, and disgust.

d. These informers and opportunists created an atmosphere that almost approached unreality. But this was part of the life fostered by the enemy for the purpose of exercising control. This life defied every decent American concept. Our national philosophy embraces the idea that the weak is protected by the strong, the welfare of the group placed before that of the individual

and, basically, that what we consider good will triumph over evil. In the Communist-controlled prison society in North Korea under the Chinese, these values were reversed. The opportunists assaulted the weak to their own advantage. The depraved and despicable informer was rewarded by the Communists for disclosing any acts of resistance or opposition on the part of the prisoners. In short, the Communist enemy was preventing evil from being vanquished by the forces of good. As a result of this reversed standard of values, the American prisoner of war in North Korea found that he had become removed, if only temporarily, from his old concept of right and wrong. This kind of life, deliberately sponsored by the Communist enemy, was completely different from the life in which American prisoners

had placed their faith. This faith in our American way of life was weakened in some prisoners. In some few cases it was completely destroyed.

e. The foregoing description is not that of the kind of life an American soldier looks forward to. But in the event he finds himself in such a position and in such an environment, he can have satisfaction in the knowledge that the United States Government will not forget him and will never overlook any means of obtaining his release.

"If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way."

## CHAPTER 3

# COMMUNIST INTERROGATION IN KOREA

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### Section I. CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERROGATION

#### 28. Methods Were Not New or Mysterious

*a.* As has been mentioned previously, the emotion of fear was employed by the Communists as a weapon. Although it was generally employed for the purpose of exercising control over the prisoner groups, it was also used in connection with their interrogation of United Nations prisoners of war. During these interrogations, the Communists deliberately tried to create a fear in the minds of the prisoners that, by some mysterious technique, all prisoners would "break" under questioning. The idea of "brainwashing", and "menticide" was spread by the Communists for the sole purpose of creating the false impression that their method and manner of conducting interrogations were irresistible.

*b.* Actually, the methods used by the Communists to obtain information are not new, mysterious, or irresistible. They have been used by law enforcement agencies for centuries. These methods are based on the simple and easily understood idea of progressively weakening an individual's physical and moral strength. They are not based on some weird psychological theory. Numerous persons have faced Communist interrogations and withstood their so-called "methods" for weeks, months, and even years, without "breaking", or even demonstrating fear of any kind. Many of those persons have returned without showing any peculiar or unusual ill-effects as a result of their experiences.

*c.* The cases of complete resistance to the most skilled Communist interrogators are examples of courage, determination, and endurance. The American soldier should remember that the Communist interrogator is not a superman with mystic powers and that he does not possess any unique methods by which he can accomplish the impossible. Communist interrogators are not all-knowing nor are they all-powerful, even when dealing

with a seemingly powerless victim, such as a prisoner of war.

*d.* The erroneous idea that the Communist interrogator has the ability, and the power to create some kind of a "Charley McCarthy" is utterly without fact. The person who faced the Communist interrogator was not stripped of his independent will, of his consciousness of what he was being asked to do, or of his ability to continue to resist or to evade the demands of his captors.

*e.* This false notion that Communist interrogations were conducted by individuals with some rare power over man should be disproved. The Communists have no such powers. The aura of mystery and fear which has long been associated with Communist methods of interrogation is, in itself, a major factor in their effectiveness. The anxieties the victim already has at the moment of capture—from what he has heard about the enemy of "brainwashing" and the like—may be sufficient in themselves to destroy his ability to resist with no particular effort on the part of the captor needed. The Communists place great importance on the fact that most of their victims among United Nations prisoners of war in Korea did not know what was happening to them when they were subjected to interrogation. The Americans who withstood the enemy's interrogation were those who were able to understand their detached situation and understand what the enemy was proposing.

*f.* In the characteristics of Communist interrogation of United Nations prisoners of war in Korea, two significant principles should be emphasized. One such principle is that the Communist objectives frequently limit their use of physical coercion or torture. Although the Communists will attempt to make use of a prisoner's natural anxiety and fear, most of the prisoners who are subjected to Communist interrogation will not be

physically tortured, even though they refuse to cooperate with the enemy. The reasons for this vary, but a very important one is that the Communists are practical in their approach to interrogation. They learned during their early reign of terror in Russia that physical violence, more frequently than not, stiffens the group resistance of people, rather than the reverse.

*g.* Another significant principle is that communism assumes many disguises. At various times and places, it may seek to achieve its purposes by presenting itself as a friendly, kindly, and solicitous smiling creature, as was demonstrated by the Chinese when they captured American prisoners. On the other hand, depending on the situation, it may be displayed in all its naked brutality. Some American prisoners observed both sides and guises during their captivity in Korea. Others saw only one side of communism. Most Americans were impressed by the manner in which communism can undergo quick changes from one guise to another. Any soldier falling into Communist hands in the future should be prepared to encounter communism in any of the forms it may assume—even the indignant denial that it is communism at all.

*h.* Although the characteristics of Communist interrogation discussed herein have been determined mainly from the experiences of American prisoners of the Chinese in North Korea, it is quite likely that any Americans who fall into the hands of Communists in the future will encounter the same or similar treatment, whether the enemy is Oriental or European. The Communists also gained valuable experience in Korea in handling American prisoners. As a result, they probably will be better prepared to conduct any possible future political indoctrination. We, too, can capitalize on our experiences in Korea by preparing our fighting men to resist and overcome any such Communist program.

## 29. Nature of Interrogation

*a.* Interrogation has some characteristics of both a science and an art. It resembles a science when it is conducted by a shrewd and trained interrogator who knows all the aspects of what he wishes to develop from a particular interrogation, and can proceed in an orderly, logical, and determined fashion to elicit the desired information.

*b.* Interrogation resembles an art when the interrogator establishes a relationship between

himself and the person being interrogated wherein the latter is subtly persuaded to cooperate in giving complete information beyond the simple answering of questions. The interrogator, by demonstrating patience, tolerance, sympathy, and understanding, is able to obtain cooperation in achieving his desired results.

*c.* Interrogation as a means of obtaining information is not new, even though some of the techniques as applied to prisoners of war in North Korea received new emphasis. Interrogation is an established function of police and other law enforcement agencies throughout the world. In the Army, interrogation is conducted within the protective framework of Article 31, Uniform Code of Military Justice, which is based on the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. This article prohibits compulsory self-incrimination. Interrogations so conducted must meet protective court standards. Such protection is recognized by the Geneva Conventions, and is generally recognized by most civilized nations, and all democratic governments. This protection of the individual never has been recognized by the Soviet Union or by any other Communist Government. In Korea, the Communists conducted themselves in true fashion by ignoring this concept. They used interrogation not only to obtain military information, but also to obtain information about the prisoners which could be used against them later on. The Communists in Korea used interrogation to delude or trick prisoners into admitting certain acts which the Communists claimed were "war crimes". It is appropriate to point out that the U. S. S. R. and the Communist Bloc Nations have made a significant reservation to Article 85 of the Geneva Convention. According to the Communists, any prisoner of war who is convicted of an alleged war crime under the laws of the Restraining Power loses the protection afforded by the Geneva Convention. Therefore, any admission, either verbal or written, by a prisoner of war, may be sufficient to convict him as a war criminal who, according to the Communists, has no protection under the Geneva Conventions. Any admission by a prisoner of war is subject to interpretation by the Communists. If it suits their purpose, the Communists can interpret the normal combat duties of a soldier as a war crime. Even if the Communists go to the extent of conducting a trial, the results and sentence are already predetermined. The only evidence considered is

the prisoner's admission. The prisoner of war who deviates in any way from giving only his name, rank, service number, and date of birth runs the risk of actually convicting himself as a "war criminal".

d. Some of the Chinese Communists interrogators in Korea were skilled and well-informed, and possessed the drive, tolerance, and patience to obtain the information they were after. It should be remembered that Communist interrogation as

such did not stop at any given point, to be followed later by the indoctrination program. The two processes were interrelated, and one was used to support the other. An analysis of the results of the interrogations enabled the Communists to select or determine the subjects or attitudes that should be emphasized and exploited in the indoctrination program. In this way they could hand-tailor the indoctrination given to the various groups of prisoners.

## Section II. COMMAND STRUCTURE FOR INTERROGATION

### 30. Organization

a. The Chinese Communists recognized the tremendous importance of interrogation, and the Communist Prison Command gave full support to the operation. Although interrogation was intimately tied in with and overlapped many aspects of indoctrination, it was, nevertheless, considered as a separate command responsibility. Both interrogation and indoctrination, as command responsibilities, were assigned to the prison camp commander. The interrogation responsibility was carried out by the camp commander's staff officer who most nearly compared with the S2 in the organizational structure of the United States Army. This officer was charged with the responsibility of collecting intelligence information from United Nations prisoners of war, especially the Americans. He accomplished this mission by interrogation, and by requiring the prisoners to complete numerous forms, some of which were similar to our personal history statement. All were designed for the sole purpose of collecting information. The evaluation of the collected information and its use for the enemy's political indoctrination were under the staff officer whose position corresponded most nearly with an S3 in the United States Army. This staff officer's title was Education and Training Officer. He received guidance and support from technical personnel in the enemy's general headquarters, and enjoyed more freedom of action than the counterpart to our S2. The major distinction between the enemy Education and Training officer at the prison camp and the S3 in the United States Army was that the training was political rather than military. In addition to the foregoing responsibilities, the Education and Training Officer was responsible for enforcing compliance with Communist doctrines in the indoctrination program

and designed the punishments for those who did not cooperate.

b. The interrogation section in the Communist Prison Command was staffed with trained and skilled personnel, versed in the English language and, in many instances, well-informed about various aspects of life in the United States. Some of the Chinese personnel were educated in the United States and were familiar with the economic and political institutions of the United States. In fact, some of the enemy personnel in the interrogation section were better advised on certain aspects of American life than many of the prisoners. This fact made it difficult for some Americans to counter successfully some of the enemy arguments in which alleged weaknesses of the United States system were criticized.

### 31. Initial Interrogation

a. As previously mentioned, after United Nations prisoners were captured by the Chinese Communists, they were marched to areas behind the lines called collecting points. Here a Communist officer would deliver a "welcome address", to the prisoners, in the form of a briefing. While the prisoners were at this point, or in this area, they were subjected to their first interrogation, which was more of an interview than an interrogation. Generally, the enemy asked the prisoners several routine questions, and a few questions on the military situation in the United Nations areas. After the enemy completed his direct interrogation, he distributed numerous forms to the prisoners and told them to sign them. Some of these forms carried American and International Red Cross markings, and many other headings, most of which were invalid. In addition to signing and completing numerous forms, the prisoners were told to sign just their names on blank pieces of paper which the

enemy collected and, subsequently, used for propaganda purposes.

b. Most Americans signed the various forms because they did not know or believe at the time, that the enemy would use the contents of the forms for purposes of incrimination. During the initial interrogation, most Americans talked freely with the enemy and answered most of the questions asked by the enemy. The lack of resistance during the initial interrogation by the enemy resulted from the friendliness which the Chinese displayed when the prisoners were captured. However, those Americans who were naive enough to think of the enemy as a friend and revealed information beyond the name, rank, serial number, and date of birth, later regretted their actions when the enemy used the information not only against the persons who gave it, but against the United States Government, the Army, and against other prisoners.

c. Some Americans, unaware that the information they gave the enemy would be used as a potent weapon against them in the future, claimed that they thought and considered what they told the enemy was "not classified". Those soldiers should have known that any information, classified or not classified, is helpful to an enemy—especially the Communist enemy, who is a master at distorting truth beyond recognition.

d. Other Americans, hoping to obtain some kind of bargain with people who have no moral values or respect for bargains, traded information which they hoped, in some vague way, might obligate their captors to release them or give them preferential treatment. To their regret, they found that their actions only indicated moral weakness and unstable loyalty which the Communists later exploited.

e. As an example of the ideological implications of the initial interrogation, a brief review of some of the questions asked revealed the following:

- (1) *The prisoner's unit.* This question was an obvious attempt to obtain some kind of Order of Battle information, which would enable the enemy to determine the location of battalion, regiment, and division. This information is always valuable to an enemy in evaluating the capabilities of opposing forces.
- (2) *Next of kin.* Although this question appears harmless, it served the Communist enemy to gain access to personal infor-

mation with which to launch an attack against the prisoners on an emotional level in the prison camps. In some cases, the prisoners were later threatened with "retaliation" against their relatives if the prisoners did not cooperate with the enemy. Although there is no record of any such threats made against the families of the prisoners, it is understandable how a prisoner might be led to think that such action might be taken against his family.

- (3) *Social and economic status of the prisoners.* This question, like the others, was designed to develop a clue to the prisoner's possible ideological background, and the amount of possible resistance to indoctrination. As an example, if the prisoner's father was a coal miner or a steel worker, it was assumed that the prisoner would be likely to appreciate an attack on "big business" and against "capitalism". This question also enabled the enemy to tailor his indoctrination to fit the individual.
- (4) *Name of commanding officers.* This question was aimed at obtaining Order of Battle information. If the prisoners gave the names of their commanding officers, the enemy interrogator used those names in the interrogation of other prisoners to give the impression that he already had considerable information, and what the prisoner told him was of no real importance. The enemy used this technique successfully time and time again.

f. At the various collecting points where the prisoners were assembled, briefed, and interrogated before moving to the permanent camps, there was a detachment of Chinese whose duties were to screen the completed forms and to record the results of the initial interrogations. They studied the answers to the questions on the various forms and compiled a personnel file on each prisoner which included the questionnaires, results of the initial interrogation, and the blank slips of paper on which the prisoners had signed their names. These files were subsequently forwarded to the camps to which the prisoners were assigned. The results of all subsequent interrogations were made part of these files.

## 32. Interrogation at the Permanent Camps

a. It is obvious that the Communist prisons in North Korea were not designed to provide for the welfare of the prisoners. The structures were designed, for the sole purpose of exercising control over the prisoners, so that the enemy could facilitate interrogations and indoctrination.

b. After the prisoners had been assembled at the camps and organized into units, interrogation became an important mission of the enemy. Every other phase of prison life was designed to make the accomplishment of that mission easier. In the spring of 1951, the Communist Prison Command issued an official directive to personnel charged with the responsibility of conducting interrogation, part of which read:

"After the United Nations prisoners arrive at the camps that we have prepared for them, they will be organized and interviewed every day and night until they have told us all the information we need to help us teach them our policies. We are interested in all of the prisoners from the capitalistic countries, but we have a special interest and concern in the American prisoners. We have our best opportunity to win over these prisoners for use in the future. They are weak and don't understand what is behind the war in Korea. Be patient with them and don't beat them or shoot them. They are our prisoners for a long time."

c. To implement the enemy's system of organized interrogation, appropriate physical facilities were provided by the prison command. The United States-British Prisoner of War Camp Number 5, located near the city of Pyoktong, North Korea, was the model for all other camps in Korea.

The interrogation sections were located in the camp headquarters, usually near the commanding officer, or near the security officer. They were equipped with wire recorders, exposed and hidden microphones, two-way mirrors, and a version of a "lie detector." The interrogators were Chinese officers, assisted by Chinese women, whose duties were primarily those of recording interrogations on paper in Chinese characters, and maintaining accurate rosters of prisoners who had and those who had not been interrogated. The sections operated on a 24-hour basis and conducted some of the most fruitful interrogations at night. Some American prisoners were permitted to observe the interrogation of other Americans for psychological reasons.

d. The enemy interrogators were educated Chinese and most of them spoke excellent English. Some were educated in the United States and had visited various sections of the country. Some of them specialized in certain areas of the United States and were able to converse with prisoners from these sections on many customs of the areas. In addition, some of the interrogators were well-read in various fields of American interest, such as sports. Some of them knew the names of sports personalities, such as Joe DiMaggio, Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, and Leo Durocher, and spoke of those personalities with admiration. With this extensive background, the enemy interrogators, pretending to be friends, attempted to reduce the resistance of many prisoners. The conditions at the camps were designed to cause feelings of insecurity and anxiety. The Communist interrogator was highly instrumental in generating and fostering these feelings among the prisoners.

## Section III. TECHNIQUES OF INTERROGATION

### 33. Commonly Used Techniques

The Communist enemy in North Korea used a number of tricks and techniques in his interrogations depending on the individual being interrogated and the immediate objective of the interrogator. Of the numerous techniques used the following seemed to have been those most widely used: Deception, harassment, repetition, the "201 file", implied threats, walking conferences, "Mutt and Jeff" approach, biographical essays, fear, accusation, and surprise.

a. *Deception.* A common practice under this technique was to request the prisoner to prepare a

TOE of the military organization to which he was assigned at the time of his capture. If the prisoner gave the enemy false information, the interrogator would produce the correct answer from the United States Army Field Manual. The prisoner was then given a long lecture on lying and warned that any further falsification would not be tolerated. The enemy asked the same question again and had the prisoner give the correct answer. He was then told that the enemy had all the correct answers and that the reason he was asked such questions was to test his honesty. If the prisoner fell into the trap, he was open for future interrogation and



other deceptions. On this particular question, like many others, the enemy did have the correct answers. However, the idea that he had all the correct answers to all questions asked was completely untrue. If he did, there would be no reason for the interrogation. The Communists continued by representing the whole interrogation as a purely routine function and indicating that the role that the particular prisoner was playing was of no real importance. In truth, no enemy will spend time on a useless interrogation. If he had the information, he most certainly would use his personnel in other ways. Prisoners were a fruitful source of information for the enemy, and it is a serious mistake to be allowed to be persuaded that what any prisoner had to say was not important. Another Communist device was to encourage the prisoners to write on subjects which, on the surface, did not appear to have any military or propaganda significance. A volume of papers was produced on such subjects as American banking methods and systems, industrial finance and management, journalism, bridge building, and the like. The captors would show the prisoners various publications bearing these titles to give the impression that they already had the information and that they merely wanted to obtain the prisoners' views on these subjects. The prisoners also were told that any statements and confessions signed by them would never be used but would be filed away for future educational use, with the prisoners' signature deleted. This also was a deliberate deception. The signed statements were used later to blackmail the prisoner into further acts of collaboration. He was told that he would be exposed as a collaborator to his fellow prisoners or that the statements would be sent to the United States authorities and he would be prosecuted after repatriation. Some statements were read over the Communist radio, and used in the enemy propaganda effort to convince the world that the prisoners were against "American Aggression".

*b. Harassment.* The persistence and annoyance of harassment made it an effective technique of interrogation, especially when the prisoners were not aware that the harassment was, in fact, a technique. The prisoner would be called to the interrogation room at odd hours of the day and night. He would be awakened from his sleep, or summoned during meals. Sometimes he was dismissed, only to be recalled a short time afterwards. The prisoner became exasperated and was led to believe by the Communists that if he

would just talk, or answer the simple questions that were then being asked, he would then be let alone. In fact, it never happened that way—*NO PRISONER who ever gave any information was let alone.* He was then pressured to explain his previous answers, and to give additional details. He was told that since he had already given some of the facts, further explanation could do no harm.

*c. Repetition.* Although repetition was, in a sense, harassment, it was considered an independent technique of interrogation. Repetition of questions, and repetition of any answers given, was wearing and boring to the prisoner, but the interrogator would be sympathetic, understanding, and tolerant. This technique was useful in eliciting whether or not the prisoner really had the information that was being sought. It was a successful test in this respect. If often broke down stubbornness in a prisoner, and produced answers given only in an attempt to escape the exasperatingly patient questioning.

*d. The "201 File".* The Communists prepared files on each prisoner and kept these files up to date. They were used for reference and background information, when the prisoner was summoned for interrogation. When the prisoner faced the interrogator, he was shown a folder with his name and serial number written in English and in Chinese. Even if the folder contained nothing but blank paper, the prisoner was told that the Communists knew all about him, his background, his family, and all important aspects of his life. The results of the initial interrogation at the collecting point, the numerous forms the prisoner had completed, and the pieces of blank paper with his name on them were part of the file. In addition, the file contained information taken from letters he had received and from those he had written, but which had never been mailed. Faced with this material and the claims that the enemy had much more information about him, the prisoner wilted and, in most cases, gave the enemy additional information. This is an old technique and has been used by most law enforcement agencies throughout the world. To resist this technique, it is necessary for the prisoner to retain his confidence, and to recognize the trick that his captors are attempting to put over on him. The enemy relies heavily on the ignorance of a prisoner's not knowing what is happening to him in such a detached situation. The prisoner need only remember that if the enemy were certain of all this ma-

terial, it would not be necessary to continue to obtain the information from him. In addition, the prisoner should remember that it is his captor's prime goal to get him to talk, knowing that the prisoner then will not be able to stop. To thwart the enemy in his attempt, it is necessary for the prisoner to keep his wits, and his confidence—and to keep his mouth closed.

*e. Walking Conference.* It was not unusual for an enemy interrogator to approach a prisoner and invite him to go for a walk outside the prison compound. This appeared to be a harmless request to the prisoner, and often was regarded as a welcome change to the monotony of the routine camp existence. During this walk, the interrogator usually engaged the prisoner in informal and personal conversation. The prisoner forgot, or did not fully realize that Communist interrogators were chosen for their ability to elicit information. The interrogators in some instances had attended American Universities, and were familiar with some United States cities. They were well acquainted with the names of books, movies, baseball players, and other aspects of life in the United States. Some Americans found that it was difficult to resist this personal, seemingly friendly technique. The object of this approach was the same as the more formal interrogation—to get information from the prisoner. The prisoner must not forget that a Communist has no friends. He is interested only in doing his job, not in making friends—especially with Americans. The prisoner needs companionship, but it must come only from another prisoner, not from his enemy.

*f. The "Mutt and Jeff" Approach.* An old technique which is used by many investigative agencies is what has come to be known as the "Mutt and Jeff" Approach. One interrogator opens the questioning session. He acts ferocious and soon becomes enraged, even to the point of slapping or kicking the prisoner. If the prisoner is frightened into divulging information, the enemy has then obtained his goal. If the prisoner, however, cannot be bluffed into giving information, another interrogator comes into the room, often acting as though he is superior in rank to the first interrogator. This second man seemingly becomes angry at his assistant and may even strike him. Banishing his assistant from the room, often with threats of punishment, the newly arrived interrogator apologizes to the prisoner, assuring him that his assistant's behavior was crude, unsoldierly, and adapted only to prisoners who were not intelligent.

This implied that something in common existed between the POW and his questioner—they are both intelligent, certainly more intelligent than the "crude" assistant. Now that this bond had been established, the interrogator would be free to turn on the "friendly" approach and often the prisoner, unaware of the trick would lower his defenses and start to talk.

*g. Biographical Essays.* Another technique was to urge the prisoners to write long, comprehensive biographies to include details about members of their families, friends, and practically every aspect of their lives up to the time of their capture. This was a widely used, and most profitable means of obtaining a tremendous amount of information from prisoners. By using this device, the enemy actually obtained information which the most skilled interrogators could not have obtained. As a general rule, the initial biography prepared by the prisoner repeatedly was returned for additional details, and each time the prisoner added a little more information, hoping that it would satisfy his captors. What he did not realize was that, so long as he continued to supply information, the Communists would not desist in their demands for more. From the enemy's viewpoint, these biographies served to categorize the prisoner and permitted the Communists to subject him to a very specialized indoctrination approach. They also served as leads to other points which the enemy exploited. Many of these documents gave information about other prisoners and thereby rendered the latter vulnerable to the designs of the captors. Some prisoners wrote as many as 500 pages of material about themselves, their families, friends, their military service, their civilian life, hobbies, occupation, and everything they could think of. The enemy studied these biographies and always called the prisoner back for "clarification" of some portion of the document. Each time the prisoner "clarified" some point, he automatically gave more information to the enemy. One American prisoner wrote a total of nine personal biographies. The "clarifications" which the enemy requested, eventually included comments favorable to the enemy and the system he embraces—communism. It is obvious that in yielding to the initial demand to write such a biography, the prisoner made an irreparable mistake. He was hooked and could not free himself. A flat refusal to comply may have subjected him to some pressure or coercion from his captors but, eventually, he would have been left alone—and with a clear conscience.

*h. Threats.* Prisoners who prepared or signed certain documents, such as the personal biographies or petitions, automatically made themselves suitable targets for coercive threats. All such documents contained something derogatory about the United States Government, or the United States Army. When the enemy felt that a prisoner who had prepared such documents was not cooperating by giving more information, he was told that if he did not continue to cooperate, those documents, which he had prepared and signed, might be forwarded to the American "authorities" for future legal action against him. Although no such action had ever been taken against an American prisoner by the enemy, the prisoner felt that the possibility did exist. Those implied threats used by the Communists, directly and indirectly, caused many American prisoners to comply with endless enemy requests for additional information. The documents the prisoners had prepared and signed previously, came back to plague them for the duration of their captivity and could, conceivably, be used against them long after they had been repatriated. Again, the prisoner has everything to lose, and nothing to gain by cooperating with the enemy.

The implied threats worked to the enemy's advantage in many different ways. All such threats were particularly meaningful to the prisoner because, by the time the prisoners had arrived at the permanent prison camps, they had heard all of the atrocity stories, and had experienced some of the pressures which the Communists found advantageous to employ. To prisoners who were not prepared, this hostile atmosphere served the Communist well. They tried to make the prisoners believe that anyone who resisted was sent away, either to be shot or worked to death. Many prisoners, when interviewed upon their repatriation from North Korea, gave reports of Resisters whom they were certain had been killed. Subsequent investigation disclosed that the reported "dead men" had merely been transferred to another camp, but from which the other prisoners concluded that they had been "eliminated". Their disappearance served as a constant threat—Communist fostered and half true, but still thoroughly believed by many of the prisoners.

*i. Self-Induced Fear.* There are instances on record where Americans have been so terrified by their own unrealistic imagining of what possibly

would happen to them when they were summoned for interrogation, that it was not even necessary for their captors to question them. These men had frightened themselves so badly that they poured out any information they had. Other prisoners, almost as frightened, held out until the Communists mentioned that "it would be better" for the POW if he talked. In the prisoner's frightened state, he thought this statement was a threat of all kinds of torture and unknown mysterious tragedies—so that it took only this remark to make him give in. In this way, by playing on fear and lack of knowledge, the Communists had their work done for them—the prisoners had defeated themselves.

*j. "Cover Stories".* In resisting enemy interrogation, the use of so-called "cover stories" is discouraged. A very small number of highly trained and skilled persons can deceive a trained interrogator, and then for only a short period of time. Any improvised story, clutched by a desperate, confused, frightened prisoner of war will probably be more of an aid to the enemy than a hindrance. The interrogator is always at an advantage, because the prisoner does not know exactly what information the interrogator has. His answers are carefully screened by the enemy intelligence experts, and false information is easily detected. After the prisoner's story is destroyed, he is then at the mercy of his captors. The best and the only guide in combating and resisting enemy interrogation is not to talk beyond name, rank, serial number, and date of birth.

*k. Value of Information.* Some soldiers are not quite certain of just what constitutes information of value to the enemy. To any enemy, particularly the Communists, *any* information, classified or not, beyond name, rank, serial number, date of birth, *is of value*. Anything further which the POW needs to tell the enemy, such as his needs for medical aid, clothing, food, and other items, should be passed through the normal chain of command to the senior United States representative in the particular group. The senior member of every group is responsible for representing the POWs to their captors. He is the *only* man authorized to communicate with the enemy. Any other person who communicates with his captors leaves himself open to suspicion from his fellow prisoners and vulnerable to attack by the enemy plus accounting for his actions upon his repatriation.

### 34. Summary

a. The means employed by the Communists in obtaining information from United Nations prisoners of war were not new, unique, mysterious, or irresistible. They were recognized and understandable methods of undermining an individual's physical and moral strength. By deception, and by other tricks, the Communists obtained such information from prisoners who did not realize

that *all* information is important. The success of the enemy's program of interrogation depended, to a large extent, on the prisoners' lack of knowledge of what was happening to them—a factor on which the Communists have always relied.

b. The experiences of American soldiers in Korea, under a vicious Communist enemy, can serve as a hard-learned lesson of what to expect from any Communist enemy of the future.

## CHAPTER 4

# CHARACTERISTICS OF INDOCTRINATION IN KOREA

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### Section I. NATURE OF INDOCTRINATION

#### 35. Objectives

*a.* The crux of the ideological campaign conducted by the Chinese Communists in the POW camps in North Korea was an organized system of instruction and teaching. The instructors were confirmed, dedicated, specially trained Communists. The "students" were the United Nations prisoners of war. In many respects the political indoctrination program, on the surface, resembled a typical school system complete with textbooks, examinations, and class recitations by the "students". However, the real objectives of the program were not to teach but rather to destroy. The Communists devoted more time and effort in trying to "unsell" democracy than in trying to "sell" communism.

*b.* Basically, the indoctrination program had two main objectives. One was to indoctrinate completely, a small, select group of prisoners in the actual theory and practice of communism as a world conspiracy. The "peaceful aims" and lofty ideals that the Communist propagandists disseminate for general public consumption was not part of the indoctrination of this group.

*c.* In attempting to achieve the first major objective, the Communists selected the prisoners on whom they felt they could depend and gave them special training, tutoring, and counselling and extended them special treatment. This was in keeping with the Communist concept, as advanced by Lenin, that a small, select, disciplined group should lead the masses. As an incentive for the "chosen few" to apply themselves to the task of betraying their country and their fellow-prisoners, the Communists told them that they were the "liberators" of the masses, and promised them positions of leadership in the United States—after a Communist-directed revolution had replaced our democratic system with a Communist form of government.

*d.* The second objective was not to make Communists out of all the prisoners, but to undermine their faith and trust in their country, their government, and its political leaders. They pursued the objective by promoting a violent anti-American program in which the United States was consistently attacked. Any imperfections of our political and economic institutions were distorted completely out of proportion. At no time was mention of the true democratic principles of the United States Government permitted in discussions. In addition to attacking American concepts of democracy, the Communists launched attack after attack against American statesmen by name, claiming that they were the chief perpetrators of war and evil.

*e.* As students of communism know, Communist plans for world domination are long-range, and so were the plans involving United Nations prisoners of war. The Communists felt that if they could succeed with the second objective—subverting the prisoners' loyalty—these Americans would be less opposed to communism after their repatriation to the United States. The Communists also reasoned that those same ex-prisoners would be more likely to be sympathetic to any Communist conspiracy against the United States. Part of their plans called for those thoroughly indoctrinated prisoners to return to the United States and assume leadership of the subverted elements of ex-prisoners and to urge them to support the communist conspiracy through the instrumentality of the Communist Party.

*f.* To the average American citizen, this may seem fantastic. However, repatriated American soldiers, some of whom were selected for the special indoctrination and who held positions of trust within the inner circle of Communist activities in North Korea, have testified to the foregoing and have provided ample evidence and proof to

military and other Government authorities of these basic Communist objectives.

### 36. Other Objectives

*a.* In support of these two main general objectives, there were also other specific ones which had more direct effects on the lives of the prisoners. To facilitate internal control of the prisoner population, the Chinese Communists attempted to organize a net of informers to relay to the camp authorities information concerning the activities of other prisoners. Through informers, the Chinese Communists were able to thwart many escape attempts. Informers also furnished the Chinese Communists information concerning prisoners who were actively resisting the indoctrination program. As a result, many prisoners of war were severely punished. As inconceivable as it may seem, the deaths of several Americans can be attributed, directly or indirectly, to other Americans who turned informers.

*b.* Another objective was to recruit collaborators to assist the Chinese Communists in implementing the indoctrination program. These collaborators would give propaganda lectures, would write articles, or would attempt to talk other prisoners into signing "peace petitions", surrender leaflets, and other types of propaganda. Imagine the effect on a young or naive soldier when an American NCO or officer urged him to cooperate with his captors! His sense of values was completely shattered.

*c.* Still another objective, which fortunately had no success, was to recruit potential espionage or subversive agents who were to be given a mission to perform for the Communists after repatriation. The few repatriates who had agreed to work for the Communists soon realized after their repatriation that they had been duped and notified the American authorities of this Communist plot.

## Section II. COMMAND STRUCTURE FOR INDOCTRINATION

### 37. Organization

*a.* As mentioned previously, interrogation and indoctrination were independent, yet were overlapping and related in application. Political indoctrination was the more important program.

*b.* The Staff Section responsible for the indoctrination was designated "Training and Education." This section compared most nearly with a G3 section in our command structure. This section, like the staff section responsible for the interrogation, was staffed with well-trained personnel, some of whom had been educated in the United States. This section exercised more freedom of action than the interrogation section, and was given more technical and staff support. Attached to this section were a number of Caucasians—reportedly Russian technicians, political propagandists, and Communist educators. One of these Caucasians was allegedly on loan to the Communists in North Korea, from the Ministry of Education in the Soviet Union. These technicians were attached to the section primarily to give the instructional material a "Western slant" for the Western prison population.

*c.* The staff in the office of the Director of Training and Education prepared material for the indoctrination program, planned the courses, and made up class schedules. It determined the scope

of training and was responsible for selecting the teaching staff. This section was also responsible for propaganda and controlled the command's radio communications, public address systems, and newspapers. It also prepared the E. E. I. (Essential Elements of Information) for the staff of interrogators. As a policy-making section, it was responsible for organizing units on every level for the purpose of implementing the indoctrination program.

### 38. Initial Steps

*a.* After the Chinese Communists entered the conflict, the indoctrination began, in many cases, at the time of capture. The hand shake in greeting the recently captured prisoners, the pat on the back, followed by the enemy "explanation" of the Korean campaign, were the first steps of indoctrination. The briefing by Communist officers at the collecting point, at which the captives were told that they were not prisoners but "students," were initial steps taken by the enemy to condition the prisoners for indoctrination. The early attacks against the United States, blaming this country for starting the war in Korea and telling the prisoners that they should have turned against their superiors in the field, were all part of the early phases of the indoctrination.

b. To a frightened, confused, and hungry prisoner, deprived of leadership and guidance, these initial steps by the Communist enemy were effective. Although most prisoners did not realize what was happening to them as the program progressed and while they were being subjected to interrogation, there were no secrets about what the enemy planned to do along the line of "re-educating" the prisoners. It was reiterated numerous times that they were "students" and, as "students", they were going to be reeducated along Communist lines. This fact was made clear at the very beginning. It was never altered.

### 39. Subordinate Organizations for Indoctrination

a. Every Communist activity in North Korea was geared for one general purpose—to support the overall mission of political indoctrination. In this regard, the subordinate organizations of the Training and Education Section, in some instances, served two purposes: To prepare or modify the material for the indoctrination program; and to prepare material for propaganda. Some of the subordinate organizations, and their functions were—

(1) *The Central Peace Committee.* This organization, composed of prisoners, was established by the Communists for the purpose of implementing their program of indoctrination, and related, and supporting activities. This organization was not located in the Communist Command's GHQ at Camp Number 5, but it was located near the city of Pyongyang, the political capital of North Korea. Besides maintaining close liaison with the Communist Prison Command at Camp Number 5, this organization also had close ties with the North Korean Communist Government. This Committee helped prepare material for the indoctrination courses, or revised existing material for American consumption. The indoctrination material, most of which came from the Soviet Union and Communist China, was forwarded to this committee to be appropriately modified for prisoner consumption and acceptance. This was accomplished by the committee, under the close supervision of the Communists. The committee not only revised and modified the mate-

rial, but also put into it various formats that closely resembled United States publications. The material was then transmitted to lower echelons by the committee, over the signatures of the committee chairmen, *both Americans*, with their United States Army rank plainly typed under the signatures. This procedure gave the impression to the prisoners that the program was conceived and prepared, not by the Communist enemy, but by their fellow prisoners. The Central Peace Committee, while in existence, was the top-level prisoner administrative unit of the Communist Prison Command. Its membership was made up of United Nations prisoners, most of whom were Americans. The two chairmen of the committee, one for indoctrination, and the other propaganda, were Americans. The members were elected by the other prisoners but their tenure of office depended upon their continued service to the enemy, and the enthusiasm with which they carried out their assigned duties.

(2) *The Camp Peace Committee.* This subordinate committee was fostered by the Central Committee, on orders from the Director of Training and Education. The fact that the prisoner members of the Central Committee approved the establishment of the Camp Committees through prisoner elections again gave the false impression to the prisoners that the prisoners themselves, and not the Communist enemy, were actually organizing the prisoners for indoctrination. This procedure is typically Communist. Here, the enemy used prisoners in propaganda attacks against the United States. The prisoners groups were playing the same role as that of the Communist Parties in various countries—performing the work for the Communist conspiracy directed from Moscow. The members of the Central Peace Committee visited the various camps to "talk-up" the organization of the Camp Committee. The very presence of these members, from the top-level Central Peace Committee, was viewed as official approval of the idea of organizing the subordinate

Camp Committee. The Camp Committee received indoctrination material from the Central Committee. It further modified this material to suit the particular racial, or nationality group in the camp. The material for the Negro prisoners, for example, was tailored to appeal to that group of prisoners by emphasizing such things as segregation. Material for other minorities were given the same type of treatment. Members of the Camp Committee, like the Central Committee, were United Nations prisoners. Most of the committee chairmen were Americans and gave the material the American approach, using commonly used American terms, phrases, and slang expressions.

- (3) *The Company Peace Committee.* This lower organization was established, not by the Communist officials in the camps, but by the prisoners under the directions of the Communists. Again, this practice gave the false impression that the prisoners themselves, and not the enemy, were taking the initiative in promoting

the indoctrination. The Company Committee had little work to do in modifying the indoctrination material, because the Communists applied strict segregation in all camps—prisoners of the same race were assembled in the same company. When the material reached the company level, it was already modified to appeal to that particular racial group.

- (4) *The Squad Peace Committee.* This committee was the lowest echelon in the Communist Prison Command. It was established in the same manner as the other committees—by the leaders of the higher committee. The membership of the squad committee, like that of the other committees, was made up of prisoners. The squad committee was closest to the prisoners and for this reason was considered important. The leader of this committee maintained personal and intimate contact with members of his squad and later was made study group leader and monitor, a function which will be explained later.





b. In addition to the operational committees for indoctrination, the Communists established a number of other committees whose functions were designed for the administration of the prisoners. These committees were: Sanitation Committee, Daily Life Committee, Athletic Committee, Mess Committee, and a Committee for Prisoner Morale. The membership of these committees, like the others, was made up of prisoners. On all levels of committee activities there were Communist political advisors who insured discipline, control, and nondeviation from the established routines of the program.

#### **40. Communist Fronts in Prison Camps**

a. The United States soldier has heard much about Communist-front organizations. A Communist Front is an organization conceived by Communists, inspired by Communists, controlled

by Communists, and directed by Communists but which has as a "front" some popular or pseudo-patriotic cause. The various committees in the prison camps in North Korea served as fronts for the Communist enemy. These prisoners served the Communist enemy in North Korea in the very same manner in which other naive individuals have served the Communist conspiracy outside of prison camps.

b. With this chain of committees, one supporting the other, all supporting the same objective, the Communists were able to keep their indoctrination program going day and night for a while. However, the "peace committee" system was not as effective as the Communists expected it to be and, in late 1951, the committees went out of existence. After the initiation of the "peace talks," attempts to revive the peace committees were unsuccessful.

### **Section III. PHASES OF ENEMY INDOCTRINATION AND PRINCIPAL TECHNIQUES**

#### **41. Preparation and Implementation**

The Communists administered their indoctrination program in two general phases. The first can be called the preparatory phase, the second the implementation phase.

a. *The Preparatory Phase.* This phase, a "softening-up" or "conditioning" process, was conducted through the medium of a series of lectures on the imperfections of the governments under which the prisoners lived before capture. The United States Government and its economic and political systems constituted the main target for all lectures. During this phase, the United States, not the United Nations, was accused of instigating the war in Korea. The Communists called the President of the United States a "warmonger", and pictured him as carrying a torch of peace in one hand and holding an atomic bomb in the other. The United States Secretary of State was pictured as a "gangster", holding a gun at the backs of foreign diplomats, urging them to join the United States in a war against Soviet Russian and Communist China. General Douglas MacArthur was portrayed as a military dictator, ordering Americans to murder the Korean people. The "hate America" theme was injected into all lectures during the preparatory phase, and was one of the subtle attempts to weaken the prisoners' faith in their government and country. This hate campaign was based on the theory that the United States stood for nothing that would benefit the common man.

(1) This phase of indoctrination included gross distortions of facts about our business and industrial leaders. The Communists referred to the Secretary of Defense as a "profiteer" of war. He was called a "capitalist" who used the resource of his corporation to foster war and profit. The enemy told the prisoners that General Motors Corporation in the United States was not manufacturing automobiles for civilian use, but was making tanks—tanks with which the American soldiers were killing the Korean people. It was alleged that General MacArthur "resigned" from the United States Army so that he could return to the United States and "cash in" on the war profits by assuming leadership of Remington-Rand, a company that was not manufacturing typewriters, but was making rifles and guns with which to kill Koreans. The Communists told the United Nations prisoners that the big aircraft corporations in the United States were not making aircraft for civilian use, but were manufacturing bombers and jet aircraft from which Americans were dropping germ bombs on the Korean people. The Communists repeated the term "Killing Koreans" over and over again during these lectures. In accusing the United States of mass murder, the

Communists claimed that all American leaders in government, business, and industry were accomplices in the "crime".

- (2) In pursuing their campaign of hate, the Communists selected their traditional issues and topics for comprehensive discussions. The Communists told the prisoners that Negroes, Japanese, Chinese, Mexicans, and all other racial minorities in the United States were "second class" citizens. To make this claim appear authentic, the Communists displayed so-called news releases from the various wire services of the United States in which antiracial stories, such as lynchings, were reported. One such release reported that some minorities in Kentucky had been driven from their home, and placed in a "concentration camp" in the mountains of Kentucky.
- (3) The Communist instructors told the prisoners that the United States was the one and only aggressive power in the world. To make this "big lie" stick, the enemy displayed huge maps of the world. On one map, the Communists pinpointed every military base the United States maintains in every part of the world. The enemy pointed out to the prisoners that those bases stretched from Europe to Asia, and that such bases spelled "military aggression". The Communists used another map and pointed out that Soviet Russia and Communist China had no bases outside their continental limits. To add further "authenticity" to this vicious lie, the Communists read a paper which an American prisoner had prepared on the History of the United States Army. In this paper, it was reported that the General Staff of the United States Army was planning for World War III. The Communists told the oriental prisoners that the United States used the atomic bomb on Japan, and not on a European Power, because the Japanese were not Caucasians. The instructors told the captives that the Soviet Union had opposed using the bomb on Japan, and had insisted on using it on the Germans.
- (4) Carrying this "hate campaign" further, the Communists told the prisoners that

the United States had the highest divorce rate in the world because the "American family" was dedicated to "materialism" and not to a set of "moral values." Another fabrication of the "hate campaign", was the story that the United States led the world in death rate and that most deaths were the result of murder and gangsterism. They were told that the United States had more rapes and suicides than any other country, because the "struggle" for existence was more than the average American could bear. This phase of the indoctrination was concluded by wild claims by the Communists that American civilization was suffering from decay.

*b. The Implementation Phase.* This phase of indoctrination was devoted to selling communism as a way of life over the democratic system. The Communists used an old technique during this phase—comparing one with the other, pointing up the favorable aspects of communism and emphasizing the so-called "defects" of democracy. The enemy pictured the Communist State as a state in which every man, woman, and child lived a life of ease, free of poverty and class discrimination. Here, the Communists preached Lenin's philosophy of a classless society. The democracies, or "capitalistic" nations, were pictured as nations in which there is a constant struggle for survival. They claimed that under the competitive systems, the common people were doomed to poverty, and the rich became richer. They claimed that the rich received protection, and that the poor were persecuted.

- (1) During this phase, the Communists compared North Korea with South Korea. They compared Communist China with China under the Nationalists. They compared the so-called "New Democracies" behind the Iron Curtain with the former governments of those countries under kings and monarchs. After "proving" that the Communists countries were "superior" to democracies, the Communists proceeded to explain the historical works of Engels, Marx, Stalin, Lenin, and other Communist leaders. In an effort to make the idea of communism appear acceptable to the Americans, the Communist enemy used numerous literary works by American authors—all of

whom were either Communists or pro-Communist.

(2) The Communist instructors referred to the Soviet Union as a state in which the "principles of communism" have been applied, but they taught that Russia was not a Communist country, but a "highly developed state of socialism." Communism is considered the very ultimate in socialism and the next phase of social development in Russia, it was stated, would carry her to that ultimate stage—communism. This "line" is widely used by Communists throughout the world. It is used because the idea of communism is not acceptable to people in general, whereas Socialism is considered an orderly and worthy concept. So, the Communist teacher avoids using the terms Communist or communism, except under rare circumstances. To the United Nations prisoners of war, the indoctrination was not in communism, but in socialism.

(3) The implementation phase of the indoctrination and the preparatory phase included 12 general subjects or courses, covering a period of approximately 12 months. Examination of the enemy's indoctrination program revealed that most prisoners did not possess enough factual information about their countries, their governments, and their political institutions to distinguish between the enemy's "big lie", and the true facts. It was also revealed that most United Nations prisoners did not know why they were fighting in Korea and, some hearing nothing to the contrary, began to believe that the United States did "instigate" the war in Korea.

## 42. Courses.

The following were the courses given by the Communists in North Korea from the spring of 1951 to the spring of 1952:

### a. *Cause of the Korean War.*

Invasion of North Korea by ROK and US.  
Violation of UN Charter by entry of the US.  
Entry of China, to protect her borders.  
The known US plan to invade China.

### b. *The Sixty Big Families in the United States.*

DuPont, Ford, Rockefeller, et al, and their crimes.

Accumulation of wealth by defrauding the government and exploitation of the working masses.

Creation of war for profit (GM tanks, DuPont explosives).

Destruction of this poisonous element at all costs.

### c. *The United Nations Charter and UN Organization.*

This as a point of departure for criticism of United States efforts to exclude the "New China" from the UN.

### d. *Admission of the "New China" to the UN.*

One hundred reasons why this should and must be done.

### e. *Profits by Wall Street.*

Statistics on the profits derived from the Korean War.

### f. *Illegality of Truman's Order Moving Troops into Korea.*

More on the UN Charter—moving troops into Korea was a violation of the charter.

Removal of Seventh Fleet from Formosa on the same basis.

### g. *Capitalism.*

Money the root of all evil.

Money unnecessary in the planned economy.

### h. *Capitalism at its Highest Stage.*

Development into Imperialism.

Aggression necessary to maintain empire.

### i. *Decline of Capitalism.*

### j. *Socialism.*

Collectivism—Communism under any other name.

Benefits and idealistic goals.

### k. *Construction of the "New China."*

Documented examples of progress, such as roads, dams, schools.

Elimination of the "People's" enemies.

### l. *Capitalists of World War II.*

Soviet military victories during World War II. This lecture gave the U. S. S. R. credit for winning every important military victory during World War II, including the ground and air "defeat" of Japan. Criticism of the United States effort, economic reasons for United States failure to open more war fronts in Europe. The desire of the United States that Germany and Russia destroy each other. Post-war Creation of New Democracies by the



Soviet Union. Natural division of the world into "free democracies" and the "decadent" capitalistic systems.

#### **43. Principal Techniques of Indoctrination**

In attempting to make indoctrination effective, the Communists employed a number of tactics and methods. However, a close study of the Communist indoctrination program in North Korea shows that three basic techniques were used.

#### **44. Repetition, Harassment, and Humiliation**

*a. Repetition.* This technique was used against all prisoners at one time or another during their captivity. The prisoners were required to memorize certain material and were questioned and examined on such subject matter for days, weeks, and months. They were asked to answer the same questions over and over again. They were required to read, and reread Communist propaganda over and over again. By repetition, the enemy caused some prisoners, with relatively poor

formal education, to memorize heavy works on communism and economics. Some of these prisoners memorized entire sections of books by Stalin and Lenin. As a result of this repetition technique, some prisoners, who had not advanced beyond the sixth grade, could recite long essays on communism and the economic and political theories of communism. These same prisoners could not recite a single line of the Bill of Rights, or the Constitution of the United States. The theory of repetition is related to the "big lie". The Communists believe that if a lie is told often enough and if the people under control are required to repeat it enough, they will ultimately believe it. An example of this technique in operation was the issue of who started the war in Korea. Month after month, the Communists repeated the false charge that the United States and South Korea started the war. During the indoctrination, most of the prisoners were required to repeat it. Official findings revealed that this technique proved effective and, in the absence of the true facts involved, many former prisoners returned to the United States with

doubts as to what nation really started the war in Korea.

*b. Harassment.* This technique, like repetition, was used against a great number of prisoners during their captivity. Only the trusted and proven collaborators escaped harassment. This technique was employed on a precise schedule that did not vary from day to day, week to week, or month to month. Its purpose was to create a state of anxiety in the prisoners—to keep them tense, and in a state of constant uncertainty. It also served to make the prisoners believe that, eventually, harassment would end and they could live as normally as possible in a prison. Harassment was usually based on trumped up charges against prisoners. These “charges” could be anything from a very minor infraction of the rules to a major offense such as striking an enemy officer. However, it worked best on, and was designed for, prisoners who “committed” minor offenses in connection with the indoctrination program.

- (1) If a prisoner happened to fall asleep during a class in indoctrination, he was aroused and ordered to report to camp headquarters where the interrogation staff operated around-the-clock. At the GHQ, the prisoner was given a long lecture on attention in class, and was urged to take part in the discussions. While at GHQ, he was subjected to a brief interrogation. The manner in which the interrogators approached him gave him the impression that he would not be recalled unless he committed another “offense.” But the prisoner did not know that this harassment would never end and that he would be ordered back to the GHQ again and again; that he would be summoned at all hours of the day and night or, perhaps, several days later when he had forgotten about the minor matter. The pattern was the same—he was given another lecture and asked a few more questions. Each time believing that this would be the last time, the prisoner usually gave the enemy a little more information, hoping that the enemy would consider him cooperative and refrain from ordering him back at a later date.
- (2) This technique of harassment deprived the prisoners of what the enemy knew the prisoners wanted more than any-

thing—“free” time to themselves. The Communists so arranged it so that no prisoner, except the favored few collaborators, would have any “off duty” time. There is no doubt that the harassment was carefully designed because the prisoners were called to GHQ at odd and annoying times; for example, when they entered the latrine; when they were preparing to eat, or after they had gone to sleep. To call a prisoner at 3 o'clock in the morning was not unusual. At such odd times, the prisoners usually listened and talked with the enemy freely, again hoping that they would be left alone after that one meeting with the enemy. What the prisoners did not know was that this technique was part of a carefully planned system. It turned out that many prisoners, subjected to this harassment, served as an endless source of bits of information which the enemy obtained everytime a prisoner was summoned for some “offense” he had committed.

- (3) This technique also served to obtain “confessions” from prisoners. Numerous prisoners were ordered to GHQ for some alleged “offense,” and before they left, they had signed a “confession” in which they criticized themselves for having committed the alleged acts against their captors. Other prisoners, whose resistance was worn thin by this technique, gave the enemy incriminating information about themselves or about others. The final results of this technique found the unwary prisoners in a web which had been methodically woven around them and from which escape was almost impossible. When the prisoners finally realized how they themselves had helped create the situation, despair usually followed, and they believed that whatever they told the enemy, or whatever they signed, whether about themselves, about their fellow-prisoners, or about the United States Government, was of no great importance, because it was all done in an effort to “defend” themselves against the enemy. The only effective defense against this technique is DON'T TALK.

*c. Humiliation.* This technique was designed to be used against prisoners who demonstrated a great deal of personal pride. Its objective was to break down a prisoner's personal pride by making him look ridiculous in the eyes of the other prisoners. To be effective, it was almost always used by the enemy in the presence of other prisoners. It was designed to provoke shame and embarrassment. During a class in indoctrination, the instructor would ask a prisoner who used germ warfare in Korea. Unless the prisoner replied that the United States used germ warfare, the instructor would stop the class and go into a long lecture on the "ignorance" displayed by the prisoner. He would call the prisoner stupid and ignorant. The prisoner would be told that he was trying to be smart and that he was trying to "cover up" for the capitalistic murders by the United States Army. The instructor would then say, "Now, tell your fellow-students who used germ warfare in Korea". If the prisoner hesitated, the Communist enemy instructor would say, "It was the United States, wasn't it?" Finally, the prisoner would say, yes. But this would not be the end of the incident. The prisoner would be ordered to GHQ and given the regular treatment, as were the prisoners under harassment. He would be told at GHQ that he was negligent and indifferent, and that he should be "grateful" for the "education" the Communists were trying to give him. He would be told that the United States started the war in Korea, and that the United States used germ bombs. He would be asked if he believed that, and, in most cases, the prisoner would say "yes" to escape further pressure. Again, the prisoner did not know that this was all part of the system. There was no relief. He was then told by the enemy to write a statement admitting that he was negligent, and that he knew that the correct answer was: "The United States started the war in Korea, and used germ warfare against the Korean people". He added in most such statements that he wanted the enemy to forgive him for such negligence. The following day, the prisoner would be asked to stand up in class and read the statement he had given to the enemy at GHQ. This public humiliation ultimately had its effect, and the Communists knew it.

(1) Humiliation served to dramatize certain aspects of the indoctrination. On one occasion, a prisoner picked up a cucumber in a Korean farmer's garden. A Chinese

guard observed him and, naturally, reported it to GHQ. The prisoner was called to GHQ and given a long lecture on stealing. The prisoner was asked why he picked up the cucumber, and the prisoner replied, "Because I was hungry." The Communist officer told him that he could not possibly be hungry because the Communists were providing the prisoners with plenty of good food. The enemy proceeded to tell the prisoner that he stole the cucumber, because "stealing" was part of the American way of life, and that the Fords, Rockefellers, and Morgans made their money by stealing from the people. The prisoner was requested to write a "confession" and did so. In his "confession" the Communists told him to criticize himself for stealing the cucumber and to say that it was a result of his "training" in the United States. He wrote that he was a thief and that the Communists would help eliminate that habit from his life. But this "confessing" in private was not the end. Several days later, he was called to face a formation and to read his "confession" to the assembled prisoners. After calling himself a thief, and criticizing the "environment" in which he lived in the United States, he asked the Communists to forgive him for having stolen the cucumber. For unknown reasons, the prisoner was not permitted to use terms other than, "steal" or "stole" in the confessions. The reaction to these displays of humiliation was one of disgust, and the prisoners usually looked upon the prisoner who made such open "confessions" with scorn and denounced him as a weakling. After this denunciation, the prisoner would then be told by the enemy that the Chinese and Koreans were the only friends he had, and, therefore, he should cooperate with them.

(2) Like the others, this technique was not stopped, unless it proved ineffective. Some of the enemy's informants were recruited as a result of humiliation. When the enemy wanted additional informants or needed an informant for a special target, he would approach a prisoner who had been subjected to

humiliation. The enemy would tell the prisoner that he wanted to know certain information about other prisoners and wanted him to find out all about them. If the prisoner hesitated or appeared reluctant to perform this unpleasant duty, he was told that his fellow-prisoners did not have respect for him, because he had already admitted that he was a "thief" and a "liar". During the conversation, the prisoner was told that the only friends he had in North Korea were the Chinese and Korean people, and that it was to his "advantage" to be cooperative. If the prisoner still refused, the

enemy would summon him to the interrogation room at GHQ and would display all the "confessions" he had signed, and play back the recordings which he did not know the enemy had made of all past conversations. Then the enemy would threaten to send all such material to the United States for possible use in some future action against the prisoner. Caught in this trap of his own making, the prisoner agreed to be an informer for the enemy—which, in the eyes of the other prisoners, was as low as a man could go.

## Section IV. USES MADE OF FOOD, MEDICINE, AND MAIL

### 45. General

Food, medicine, and mail were important items in the prisoner of war camps, more so than in normal life. In true Communist fashion, the enemy used these items for control and manipulated them to break down prisoner resistance. Each had a place in the enemy's program of indoctrination and each was used in a variety of ways by the enemy for a variety of reasons.

### 46. Food

*a.* Food was manipulated, not so much by the enemy, but by prisoners whom the enemy had selected to distribute it. As was the case in many other favorable positions, "progressives" or collaborators in several camps were given the responsibility of issuing food. "Progressives" manipulated the food as a "reward" for cooperating with the enemy. Although this practice was not the general rule, it nevertheless was used to "persuade" certain prisoners. There was no wholesale starvation simply because prisoners did not cooperate with the enemy. Those who opposed the enemy, generally fared as well as those who cooperated. The small amount of extra food received by the "progressives" did not, by any stretch of the imagination, constitute the difference between life and death from starvation. Most of the time, food was anything but plentiful, even for the enemy.

*b.* Hunger is a powerful and persuasive influence. But the enemy knows that no human being can survive for long without food. Mass starvation will cause unified resentment and desperate action by the prisoners—serious considerations for an

enemy who is trying to "sell" the advantages of communism.

### 47. Medicine and Medical Treatment

*a.* Medicine and medical treatment for a time were offered to prisoners as special rewards. The fact that the enemy did not grant American medical officers, who also were prisoners, freedom to attend the sick and wounded prisoners indicated clearly that medical treatment was considered a controlled function reserved for the enemy to use as he determined. Many American lives could have been saved if the enemy had acted humanely by dispensing available medicine, and by permitting American doctors to care for the sick and wounded prisoners.

*b.* Offer of treatment to sick men is a powerful incentive and few men can consistently refuse medical treatment, especially when they think that treatment will relieve their pain, or save their lives. But as was mentioned earlier, there is nothing too low, too vicious, and brutal for the Communists to do to advance their cause.

### 48. Mail

*a.* Mail to the soldier is, and has always been, a tremendous morale factor. The Army has always provided excellent facilities for "carrying the mail" to every far-flung area of the world where American soldiers are serving. Even in combat, the Army has never failed to deliver the mail. During the war in Korea, the American fighting men in prison camps were never forgotten in this respect. The mail for those soldiers was delivered in Korea to the Communist enemy.

Under the provisions of the Geneva Convention, and under the established policy of the International Red Cross, the enemy was obliged to deliver the mail to the prisoners after it was censored. Instead of following this established procedure, the Communist enemy used it as a weapon and released it piece-meal in many instances as a reward for "cooperation."

b. To break down the resistance of the prisoners, the Communists established a "system" of releasing mail. If they wanted to gain control of an individual prisoner, they would select and release only letters whose contents reflected worry and discontent, or conveyed bad news. Naturally, such a letter would have an adverse effect on the prisoner. Knowing what the normal reaction would be, the enemy approached the prisoner and, by hints and insinuations, further added to his worries and loneliness. They tried to convince the prisoner that they were the only friends the prisoner had. By withholding favorable letters from the prisoner, the spiritual bond with his family was weakened. In some cases, the enemy managed practically to divorce prisoners from their families and loved ones simply by

manipulating the mails. By so doing, the enemy tried to establish himself as the only prop on which the prisoners could lean for moral support.

c. The enemy informed the prisoners that letters from their families were delayed by the Army because the Army was not interested in delivering the mail, or that the mail was destroyed by United States Air Force bombings. While the enemy blamed the United States Government, the truth is that mail was deliberately withheld. Not until near the end of the Korean war did the enemy deliver mail regularly to the prisoners, and only then for the purpose of leaving a final favorable impression, before repatriation.

d. In the event American soldiers find themselves in a similar situation, they can be certain that the United States will make every possible effort to deliver their mail. But, whether or not the enemy will comply with the Geneva Conventions, is a matter of conjecture. However, a prisoner should not be fooled by the foregoing enemy tactics. Failure to receive mail from one's wife, family, and friends is not a pleasant experience. But the enemy, and not the Army, will be the one at fault.

## Section V. CLASSIFICATION AND SEGREGATION OF PRISONERS

### 49. Race, Rank, Nationality

a. Every technique employed by the Communists was aimed primarily at exercising prisoner control and supporting the indoctrination program. The classification and segregation of United Nations prisoners of war also served the same purposes.

b. This particular aspect of prisoner handling by the Communists is significant, because it points out the total fraud of communism. In every country where Communists operate, they make an issue of anything pertaining to minority groups and claim to be the "great protector" of rights and freedoms. The Communists specialize in inciting racial disturbances and try to indict the Western nations for imposing what they call "second class" citizenship on certain racial minorities. However, the Communists have never supported their racial propaganda with deeds. More than 70 percent of all racial minorities in the Soviet Union are inmates in concentration camps. In 1955, a group of United States journalists visited the Soviet Union and requested interviews with some of the racial minorities who reside there. The journalists

were not only refused permission to interview members of the minorities, they were not even permitted to see any of them.

c. In North Korea, the Chinese Communists followed the traditional Communist line. They loudly criticized the Western democracies concerning the treatment of racial minorities. They talked about segregation of racial groups, and second-class citizenship. Yet they established and enforced a rigid system of segregation in all prisoner of war camps in North Korea. They segregated the prisoners according to rank, race, nationality and, in some instances, according to age and education.

d. The initial step taken by the Communists to segregate the prisoners involved rank. This procedure has been followed by most detaining powers in the past and is not unusual. Segregation by rank minimizes the threat of organized resistance by isolating the military leaders. After segregating the prisoners according to rank, the Communists proceeded to segregate them according to race, and nationality.

e. In addition to being a prisoner-control measure, the segregation of prisoners also permitted the



Communists to organize their indoctrination material in a manner which would emphasize those points which were of particular interest to each racial or nationality group. Those separated by race were told that they were not "citizens" of the countries in which they lived. Those segregated by nationality were told that the United States was using their countries as military bases and their countrymen as potential "cannon fodder" for a war against the Soviet Union and Communist China.

f. Segregation also permitted the Communists to play one group against the other. In driving wedges between groups, the Communists tried to destroy any possible unified action by the prisoners behind a single leader, or a group of leaders. Although the Communists did not originate the idea of control by dividing, they employed it effectively and created a state of tension and distrust between groups and camps. They sponsored various "contests" in the prison camps and so manipulated the results that only members of the minority groups would win the prizes. By this, the Communists attempted to give the impression that they were the "friends" of the minorities. However, their real purpose was to widen the gap between the groups. The Communists made special appeals to the minorities and promised them that communism, and only communism, offered them complete "salvation". This trick was unsuccessful since the special appeals did not result in any wholesale support of communism by any of the minorities as groups. The prisoners who cooperated unnecessarily with the Communists came not from any particular group, but rather represented a cross-section of the entire prisoner population.

## 50. Political Classification

a. Classification of prisoners according to political thinking, followed segregation by race and nationality. In every Communist-controlled country, groups of people are classified according to the degree of their political thinking and actions. The idea that communism is based on a "classless society" is another Communist fraud which has never been supported in practice. It has been pointed out that communism in the Soviet Union operates on "layer" of society, with the select few at the top, living in the manner of potentates with wealth and luxury provided by the masses—the "workers" whose levels of society range all the

way from the Communist aristocracy to the slave labor element in the concentration camps.

b. Categorizing groups of people within a country by labeling them "progressives," "reactionaries," and "neutrals" is another typical Communist method of operation. In North Korea, the Chinese Communists classified groups of prisoners according to these categories. The norm used to determine into which group a prisoner was placed was the degree of cooperation he demonstrated.

- (1) The Progressive Group was composed of those who openly cooperated, and collaborated with the enemy by actively supporting the Communist programs. The manner in which they cooperated varied with the individual. However, it generally included such actions as signing peace petitions, making propaganda recordings, informing on fellow-prisoners, signing surrender leaflets, making pro-Communist speeches, writing anti-American articles for camp newspapers and other publications, and persuading other prisoners to cooperate with the enemy. On the surface, the relationship between the "progressives" and their captors appeared to be one of cordiality and friendship. The "progressives" volunteered to visit the enemy GHQ to confer with the enemy, or exchange "views" as to how more prisoners could be recruited for the "progressive" movement. They enjoyed the position of "privileged" characters. For their cooperation, they were rewarded by gifts of candy, cigarettes, and empty promises of leadership when the Communist conspiracy assumed control of the United States Government by revolution. The "progressives" received somewhat better medical attention, and better food when it was available. However, in the over-all analysis they did not live any better than other prisoners. The "rewards" they received in no way compensated for the shame they brought on their country and on themselves.
- (2) The Reactionary Group was made up of prisoners who refused to cooperate or collaborate with the Communists either secretly or openly. They vigorously opposed any attempt by the enemy to exploit them. Their opposition took

many forms. However, the "reactionaries" were so classified because of the things they did not do. They refused to sign peace petitions, to make propaganda recordings, and to inform on their fellow prisoners. A few attempted to escape, or tried to help others escape. Whenever possible, they openly criticized prisoners who served the Communist enemy in any manner. They attempted to organize resistance groups, and frequently defied the enemy even though they knew they would be punished.

- (a) Naturally, the relationship between the Communists and the "reactionaries" was one of contempt and hostility. The Communists regarded the "reactionary" group as a threat to their control over the other prisoners. Each reactionary represented a failure in their indoctrination program. If there were but a few "reactionaries," it is fairly certain that the Communists would have found some plausible excuse for eliminating them. Fortunately, the large number of "reactionaries" precluded any such action, because the Communists feared that any wholesale "purge" would only cause the other prisoners to unite against them and destroy any results they expected to gain from their "lenient policy" and their indoctrination program.
- (b) It is difficult to single out any aspect of Communist group handling and indoctrination in North Korea under the Chinese Communists, that has not been employed by the Communists in the past, or that is not part of the Communist general worldwide strategy. The Chinese Communists talked about their "lenient" policy and constantly reminded the United Nations prisoners that they were treated better under the Chinese than under the North Koreans. But the Chinese Communists dealt with the various groups of prisoners in the same general manner as Communists have dealt with groups before, and as they will continue to deal with groups of people whom they wish to control. The Chinese re-

warded their collaborators, and punished their opposition.

- (c) On at least three occasions, American soldiers who, openly and with no concern for themselves, opposed and defied the Communists, were taken and were never seen again. In addition, under the guise of justice, the Chinese established several "peoples' courts" in the prison camps, and packed them with "progressives" who sat in judgment on "reactionaries" who allegedly committed "crimes" against the people. These "courts" were similar to the "courts" in Communist countries, both in their membership, and in their mission. One American soldier was even sentenced to death by one of these so-called "courts."
- (d) The Chinese Communists also established an efficient spy system in all United Nations prisoner of war camps, and the members of the "progressive" movement served as spies for the enemy. This system compared closely with the spy rings, and secret police systems in every Communist country in the world. Although the "progressive" spies informed on all prisoners, even their alleged personal friends, their principal target was the so-called American "reactionary" prisoner. As a direct result of such "spying" by "progressives," many United Nations prisoners were placed in filthy makeshift jails for excessively long periods of time.
- (e) The Chinese Communists also had means of dealing with those "reactionaries" whom they considered hopeless. These prisoners interrupted indoctrination lectures, heckled the instructors, laughed at their vicious remarks about the United States Government and generally displayed "disrespect" for the enemy. For these prisoners, the Chinese administered a special kind of punishment. They were sent to hard labor camps where they were forced to work for long hours under much worse conditions than those in the prison camps. The

labor camps were the counterpart of the concentration camps in every Communist-dominated country in the world.

- (3) The Neutral Group was the largest of the three general groups. The prisoners who made up this group did not openly or secretly oppose the enemy, nor did they actively participate in the activities of the "progressives." In some cases by design and in other cases by circumstances, the prisoners of this group maintained an attitude of complete indifference to their captivity. During combat, many of these prisoners had been excellent soldiers and had often demonstrated superior leadership. Realizing that the enemy was looking for prisoners with leadership qualities to exploit, many in this group succeeded in not drawing the attention of their captors to themselves. Some of these prisoners never fully identified themselves to the enemy. Many just lost themselves "in the crowd" and were not subjected to unusual treatment. Others managed to convince the enemy interrogators that they had no information in which the Communists were interested. The prisoners in this group attended the com-

pulsory indoctrination lectures, complied with the camp regulations, and generally gave the enemy no reason to question their conduct. As a result, they escaped being harassed by the enemy and few, if any, were subjected to humiliation. Just as they tolerate neutrals in every country, including the Soviet Union and Red China, the Communists tolerated the "neutrals" in North Korea. However, they were not completely ignored by the enemy. They naturally constituted a possible source of recruits for membership in the "progressive" group. The "progressives" were directed to approach the "neutrals" for the purpose of getting new members. Any increases in the "progressive" movement came from the neutral group.

c. The classification of groups of people, and their relative positions in the Communist scheme of things, is a basic factor in the development of the International Communist conspiracy. The American soldier should be familiar with the significance of these classifications or categories, and should be able to recognize them as an important element of the Communist method of operation, especially in connection with the handling of prisoners of war.

## Section VI. RESULTS OF COMMUNIST INDOCTRINATION

### 51. General

The results of Communist indoctrination in North Korea by the Chinese must be appraised in the light of the enemy's objectives. As was mentioned earlier, the Communists in North Korea did not attempt to convert every United Nations prisoner. They wanted to indoctrinate a few selected prisoners whom they could trust to accept communism as a way of life and who could subsequently develop into Communist revolutionists. Primarily the Communists in North Korea desired to destroy, or at least reduce, the hostility felt by the prisoners toward the Communist cause. They attempted to plant seeds of doubt which would grow and produce an attitude which was less opposed to communism.

### 52. Degree of Success

a. In the light of those objectives, it is reasonable to assume that the Communist program of

indoctrination in North Korea was successful to some degree. Official findings revealed that a small, select group of United Nations prisoners of war in North Korea were indoctrinated in the theory and practice of communism by the enemy. These same sources revealed that an undetermined number of other United Nations prisoners of war did not accept communism as such, but adopted an attitude of "seeing both sides" of communism, observing some "good" points here and there. These sources revealed that the indoctrination weakened the old beliefs of some prisoners, confused others, and frustrated still others. With the exception of the alleged indoctrinated prisoners, the others who saw merit in some aspects of communism failed to visualize communism as a threat to their democratic governments or the political institutions in their countries.

b. The results of the Communist indoctrination program in Korea cannot be discussed without

taking into consideration the 21 Americans who refused repatriation. These Americans elected to remain in Communist China, allegedly to undergo additional training in communism. In rejecting repatriation, these individuals gave up home, family, religion, and the most democratic country in the world. They gave up, or cast aside, every freedom guaranteed by our democratic system of government. It is not known with any degree of certainty how many of the 21 refused repatriation because their ideological convictions had been altered by Communist indoctrination. However, it is known that fear of reprisal or punishment for their conduct while prisoners of war was the primary reason that motivated several of the voluntary nonrepatriates to renounce their country.

c. Although all United Nations prisoners were subjected to the indoctrination, the overwhelming majority of the prisoners did not accept the indoctrination to any degree. Nearly 3 years of imprisonment, of Communist control and discipline

and promises of a perfect way of life, did not erase the memory of the benefits and advantages of our democratic government and our economic system. To many Americans the indoctrination was an agonizing nightmare that challenged their mental and physical resources. With loyalty to country, devotion to the cause of right, and an abiding faith in our American system of government, these prisoners found strength with which to survive honorably. To all American prisoners, the enemy's indoctrination was an experience never to be forgotten—an experience from which future American soldiers can benefit and thereby be stronger in their will to resist all enemies of the United States and wiser in appraising the enemy for what he is, and not what propaganda claims him to be.

d. One lesson that was learned conclusively from the Communist attempt to indoctrinate prisoners of war in Korea is that communism is our enemy whether the war be "hot" or "cold."

## Section VII. POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS

### 53. Brainwashing

Reports of the treatment of American prisoners of war in Korea have given rise to several popular misconceptions, of which the most widely publicized is "brainwashing." The term itself has caught the public imagination and is used, very loosely, to describe any act committed against an individual by the Communists. Actual "brainwashing" is a prolonged psychological process, designed to erase an individual's past beliefs and concepts and to substitute new ones. It is a highly coercive practice which is irreconcilable with universally accepted medical ethics. In the process of "brainwashing", the efforts of many are directed against an individual. To be successful, it requires, among other things, that the individual be completely isolated from normal associations and environment. Several celebrated cases of authentic "brainwashing" have been reported during the last decade in Communist Europe and recently in China. However, it is obvious that such a time-consuming, conditioning process could not be employed against any sizable group, such as a prisoner of war group, because of the excessive time and personnel required. In Korea, American prisoners of war were subjected to group indoctrination, not "brainwashing". Many POWs were

put in solitary confinement for various reasons, such as punishment for infractions of camp rules. However, this type of isolation was not used in conjunction with any "brainwashing" process. The exhaustive efforts of several Government agencies failed to reveal even one conclusively documented case of the actual "brainwashing" of an American prisoner of war in Korea.

### 54. Torture

Another misconception concerns "torture". Atrocities, brutal treatment and inhuman indignities by the Communists against United Nations prisoners are a matter of official record. As a matter of fact, such purposeless, uncivilized treatment by the North Koreans characterized the initial phase of the Korean campaign and was the subject of several official protests to the United Nations. However, extensive research has disclosed that systematic, physical torture was not employed in connection with interrogation or indoctrination. For the most part, physical punishment resulted from offenses such as attempts to escape, stealing, and infractions of camp regulations. It is easily understood how, without all the facts, a relationship between torture and interrogation could be assumed, thereby creating such a misconception.

## Section VIII. SUMMARY

### 55. General

The political indoctrination of United Nations prisoners of war in North Korea from 1951 to 1953 was an organized system of instruction by dedicated, trained, Communist instructors. The unwilling "students" were the prisoners.

### 56. Phases of Indoctrination Program

The indoctrination program was conducted in two general phases. The preparatory phase was a bitter "Hate America" campaign characterized by attacks on the United States Government and our military and political leaders. The implementation phase was a series of one-sided lectures extolling communism and criticizing the decadent democracies.

### 57. Major Objectives

The political indoctrination program had two major objectives:

a. The first was to indoctrinate a small select group of prisoners in the theory and practice of communism, not as it appears through Com-

munist propaganda, but as it actually exists as an international conspiracy.

b. The second objective was to weaken the loyalty of the prisoners in their country by undermining their political, religious, and moral convictions and, thereby, confusing them to the extent that when they returned to their native countries, they would be less opposed to communism.

### 58. Principal Techniques

Repetition, harassment, and humiliation were the principal coercive techniques the Communist enemy employed to support indoctrination.

### 59. Results

The overwhelming majority of United Nations prisoners of war rejected communism as a system of government and as a way of life. The United States soldiers who experienced life under communism returned to their country wiser in the ways of communism, and stronger in their faith in the United States of America.

## CHAPTER 5

# COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA IN NORTH KOREA

### Section I. COMMAND STRUCTURE FOR PROPAGANDA

#### 60. Organization

*a.* Propaganda is the very life blood of communism. It keeps the Communist world conspiracy alive. Without propaganda, communism could never have grown and spread as it has. Through the medium of propaganda, the Communist leaders sound the key-note of the current "Party Line" to be followed and parroted by their underlings. The terms "Wall Street War-mongers," "Yankee Imperialism," and "Decadent Democracies" are but a few that were conceived by Communist propagandists. The "Big-lie" technique, employed in the germ warfare accusations leveled against the United States, exemplifies typical Communist propaganda in action.

*b.* In the prisoner of war camps in North Korea, propaganda was the backbone of the enemy's indoctrination program. The importance of this integral element in the Communist plans for political indoctrination of United Nations prisoners was indicated by the fact that the Chief of the Propaganda Branch, under the Director of Training and Education reported directly to the commanding general of the prison command and was responsible to him for all Communist propaganda functions in North Korea. Of the various aspects and techniques of communism, propaganda is one vital element that the American soldier should know, understand, and be able to evaluate in the light of Communist objectives. The mere recognition of Communist propaganda is a defense against Communist indoctrination, because indoctrination is nothing more than an organized distortion of facts and fabrication of falsehoods disseminated through the medium of propaganda.

*c.* As was indicated previously, Communist indoctrination in North Korea was under the staff section that compared most closely with the S3 section of our military organizations. The major difference between a United States Army S3, and his Communist counterpart, the Director

of Training and Education, was that the American staff officer's duties were military in nature, whereas the duties of the Communist were political. Within the Training and Education Section, there was a branch responsible for Communist propaganda. Although the functions of the branch were intimately related to indoctrination, propaganda was, nevertheless, considered and treated as a separate command responsibility with extensive authority. Propaganda was technically under the Communist Director of Training and Education, but functioned actually as a special staff agency of the commanding general.

*d.* Like those for interrogation and indoctrination, the staff supervising propaganda was particularly skilled in this field. Several Soviet propaganda experts were attached to the Chinese Communist prison organization and actively supported the Chinese in all phases of prisoner-of-war administration. The presence of these experts from the Soviet Union was one of the reasons that group handling in North Korea by the Chinese was so similar to Communist group handling in Germany, Poland, and the Soviet Union. One such expert was from the Moscow Academy of Propaganda, where career Communist propagandists are specially trained in the propaganda themes best suited for each of the geographical areas of the world or for each of the various racial groups.

*e.* The propaganda branch was located in the Communist GHQ and directed the enemy's propaganda efforts from that level. Its foremost responsibility was to make absolutely certain that the Communist propaganda in North Korea covered every aspect of the Korean conflict and that it followed the "line" as dictated by the Kremlin. The propaganda branch determined what distortions would be applied from time to time, and what portions of the permanent Communist line would be used during various courses

in the indoctrination program. The propaganda branch received most of its basic material from Moscow and a somewhat smaller amount from Communist China. The propaganda staff, like that of the indoctrination staff, prepared the basic material for prisoner consumption and determined what targets would be attacked from time to time. The most frequent target for all Communist propaganda in North Korea was the United States.

*f.* Directly under the supervision of the propaganda branch was a liaison subsection which maintained contact with the indoctrination staff and the staff for interrogation. Through this liaison, propaganda was coordinated with indoctrination. Requests were transmitted to the interrogation section to get specific information from the prisoners for use by the propaganda staff. Some of the most effective Communist propaganda was derived from what the United Nations prisoners had revealed to interrogators. It was not uncommon for a prisoner to reveal "routine" information—according to his interrogator—only to read or hear his very statements later printed in a Communist newspaper or broadcast over the enemy radio network. No information was "routine" with the Communists. All information requested was for a very definite and specific purpose and, nearly always, was converted into propaganda. The propaganda branch controlled the radio network, public address systems, camp libraries, the recording equipment, all photographers, and all camp newspapers. Of the latter, "Toward Truth and Peace" was the most infamous. Although staffed by prisoners of war, it was published under policies set down by the propaganda branch.

*g.* In addition to the Soviets serving on the propaganda staff, an Australian newspaperman and long-time Communist, and a British Communist correspondent served as advisors to the Communist propaganda chief. These two Western newspapermen were responsible for giving the propaganda a "Western slant" and presenting it in a familiar Western format.

### **61. Subordinate Organizations for Propaganda**

It has been pointed out that every Communist activity in North Korea was geared to support the enemy's program of indoctrination. So far as

the Communists were concerned, there were no other reasons or justifications for the existence of Communist Prison Command. In accomplishing this mission, all subordinate organizations in the command functioned in dual, and frequently, in triple roles. Like indoctrination, the propaganda section was supported by several subordinate units, some of which are discussed in paragraphs 62, 63, and 64.

### **62. The Central Committee for World Peace**

*a.* This organization was established by the Communists for the purpose of implementing indoctrination and producing propaganda. This committee was located in Pyongyang, North Korea, and maintained close liaison with the North Korean Communist government in that city. As the top-level prisoner organization in North Korea, this unit was the enemy's number one front through which the Communists reached the United Nations prisoner populations in North Korea. This Communist front reflected the traditional Communist organizational structure. A central committee is found in every Communist organization. It is the controlling operational agency of all Communist activities on a certain level, and in a certain area. A central committee rules the Communist Party in the Soviet Union. It rules the Communist Party in Italy, in Japan, and in the United States. The Central Committee for World Peace in North Korea operated under the general policy guidance of the Director of Education and Training. This relationship was not apparent to the POW population who were in no position to discern the "behind the scenes" influence of the Director of Education and Training. Therefore, the Central Committee, in actuality, was only a "front."

*b.* The committee's membership was made up of United Nations prisoners, headed by two ranking American officers. One of the officers was chairman in charge of indoctrination, while the other served as chairman in charge of propaganda. These two officers, and their staffs, received their instructions directly from the office of the Director of Education and Training, through a representative from the Training and Education staff. In the case of propaganda, the committee received instructions from the commanding general, through the same representative who served as an advisor to the committee. The committee was a command responsibility and functioned as such.

### 63. The Propaganda Workshop

a. Directly under the committee was an elaborate Communist propaganda workshop which supported the various propaganda efforts. This workshop was something of a research and development project, specializing in propaganda. It was staffed by approximately 30 United Nations prisoners who were attached to the committee as writers and cartoonists. The special detachment of prisoner personnel was quartered near the city of Pyongyang, at Camp 12, which became known

as the Communist propaganda center for the prison command. This small installation was equipped with a swimming pool, tennis courts, a basketball court, and a modern recreation club house. These facilities, however, were not provided for the comfort and pleasure of the other prisoners of Camp 12, but they were part of the propaganda equipment and were used as background and props for propaganda photographs which the Communists produced by the hundreds for dissemination to the outside world.



b. The Communists in North Korea, through their well-planned propaganda, attempted to propagandize the civilized and free world into believing that they were providing the United Nations prisoners with facilities comparable to that which they had enjoyed before their capture. The Communists believe that nothing produces better "proof" than a picture. So, in pursuit of their objective, they made numerous photographs of the detachment prisoners playing

basketball, playing tennis, swimming, and playing checkers in the modern recreation club house. These photographs were disseminated to the world under glowing captions, indicating that the prisoners in North Korea were well treated by the Communists.

c. For months, prisoners did not receive any mail whatsoever because the Communists were withholding it. At the same time, the Communists did not permit the prisoners to write letters



to the United States. However, at the propaganda center, the enemy made numerous "prop" photographs of the detachment prisoners sitting at tables in the club house writing letters and reading alleged mail from their families in the United States. These "props", like the others, were given wide dissemination in the Free World to give the false impression that the Communist enemy in North Korea was permitting a free exchange of communications between the prisoners and their families. Some such "prop" photographs even had captions which "urged" the prisoners to write to their families.

d. Actually, the Communists did not equip any prison camp in North Korea with recreational facilities and, what is more, they did not permit the prisoners that kind of relaxation. The facilities provided were only slightly better than those provided for animals. Not even the large number of deaths from starvation and various diseases moved the Communists to provide decent living conditions for the prisoners.

e. As to the mail, the Communists told the prisoners that the United States Army was slow in processing mail for the prisoners and that the United States Air Force bombings in North Korea destroyed the mail before it reached enemy hands. Both explanations were wholly untrue. The fact was, the Communists withheld letters from the families and friends as a means of "pressuring" prisoners.

f. Many peace petitions were prepared by the propaganda workshop, and detachment prisoners were used as props. The Communists made numerous pictures, showing the prisoners standing in line, waiting to sign their names to these petitions. These photographs, too, were widely disseminated through Communist publications. The captions of these photographs gave the impression that the United Nations prisoners were supporting the Communists in their "peace crusade" and were "opposed" to the Korean War. The use of these photographs bolstered the Communists' "big lie" technique. Through the propa-





ganda picture, the enemy attempted to hide the true facts about the administration and handling of the United Nations prisoners of war.

g. Propaganda recordings also were made at the workshop and were later broadcast in all prison camps and to every Communist country in the world. The voice recordings of the United Nations prisoners, praising the Communists, and criticizing the United States, served to stimulate the Communists all over the world in their fanatical beliefs that communism, as a way of life, was superior to all other political and economic systems. The recordings were integrated into the worldwide Communist propaganda movement and materially assisted the Communist cause. As an example, the propaganda center made recordings in which the prisoners allegedly expressed their sympathy to the Russian people over the death of Stalin.

#### 64. "Toward Truth and Peace."

This publication was the official organ of the Communist prison command and was under the supervision of the propaganda section. Like

most of the Communist front activities in North Korea, this publication was established at the instigation of the Chief of Propaganda. The letter directing its creation was signed by an American officer who shared the chairmanship of the Central Committee. Although this publication was staffed by United Nations prisoners, a representative of the Chief of Propaganda served as advisor and insured that the newspaper would not deviate from the "accepted" policies. The paper appeared to have been a purely prisoner activity, with prisoners contributing to it as editorial writers or as reporters of camp news. However, most of the articles were Communist-inspired, supporting the enemy and severely attacking the United States and the United Nations. The prisoners submitted an average of 600 articles for each issue, of which approximately one dozen were published. The ones that were not published in the paper were published in what was called a "wall newspaper", a sheet that was placed on all company and unit bulletin boards at all camps. "Toward Truth and Peace" was published at United States-British Prisoner

of War Camp Number 5, and was circulated to all other camps. Unlike the "Peace Committees," this publication continued in existence until the time of prisoners repatriation in 1953.

### 65. Special Events for Propaganda

Within the propaganda section, a special events subsection was organized. Although this subsection served for both indoctrination and propaganda, the latter occupied most of the efforts of the staff personnel. Its function was to sponsor special Communist activities among and for the prisoners. The objectives of this subsection were many, but the primary one was to dramatize the "glories" of communism and, conversely, to vilify the United States. This activity also reflected traditional Communist characteristics. The Communist Party in the Soviet Union has a number of special events sections, each of which sponsors various Communist activities for the state. These sections also give prizes to those people whose participation in such activities contributed to the enemy's programs in support of

Communist causes. A few of the activities which were sponsored by the special events section are indicated in *a* through *d* below.

*a. The Stalin Dramatic Society* was organized at United States-British Prisoner of War Camp 5. United Nations prisoners in this group were selected for their political leaning, rather than for their dramatic ability and talents. Scripts for the roles the prisoners would portray were prepared under the guidance of political instructors, who assumed the responsibility for training the group. This group was another propaganda "front" and performed at every camp under the Communist Prison Command. In addition to staging shows for the prisoners, the Communists carried the group to several civilian communities where they gave performances. When appearing before civilian audiences, the players used cartoons to portray the glories of communism and the evils of the United States. All plots for the plays were built around the "blessings" of communism in the Soviet Union, Communist China, and in North Korea. The United States was always portrayed



as the one power in the world that wanted war. After each performance, the Communists presented gifts to the players to "encourage them to continue their dramatic efforts" and because they were making worthy contributions to the people's "democracy" of North Korea. Members of the group were extended special treatment and a few extra privileges. They were all members of the "progressive" element in the prison camps. Although the Communists claimed otherwise, the group was organized for the sole purpose of spreading Communist propaganda, and for no other purpose.

b. *The Lenin Debating Society* was also organized at the United States-British Prisoner of War Camp 5, by the propaganda section of the Central Committee. The members in this group, like the members in the dramatic society, were selected by the Communists, for their political thinking and "cooperation," rather than for their speaking ability. Subjects which were to be debated were selected by the propaganda section and the prisoners who were to be participants were required to memorize their parts. The debating teams performed before the prisoners and, like the dramatic society, made several tours to civilian areas.

(1) The debating groups worked in this manner: One team of two prisoners would defend the enemy's point of view on an issue, such as "Who started the war in Korea?" Another team of debaters, who also were collaborators posing as "independent" prisoners, upheld the point of view of the United States. The team that upheld the position of the United States spoke first and based their argument on the necessity for taking part in the Korean war to help colonize certain backward areas. Their theme was colonialism. The team defending the Communist point of view spoke last and blamed the United States for "instigating" the war in Korea for colonialism and capitalistic profits. By distortion, the enemy team gave "statistics" to show that so many thousands of Koreans had been killed by Americans, so many Korean women had been raped by Americans—irrelevant arguments, generally condemning and castigating the United States.

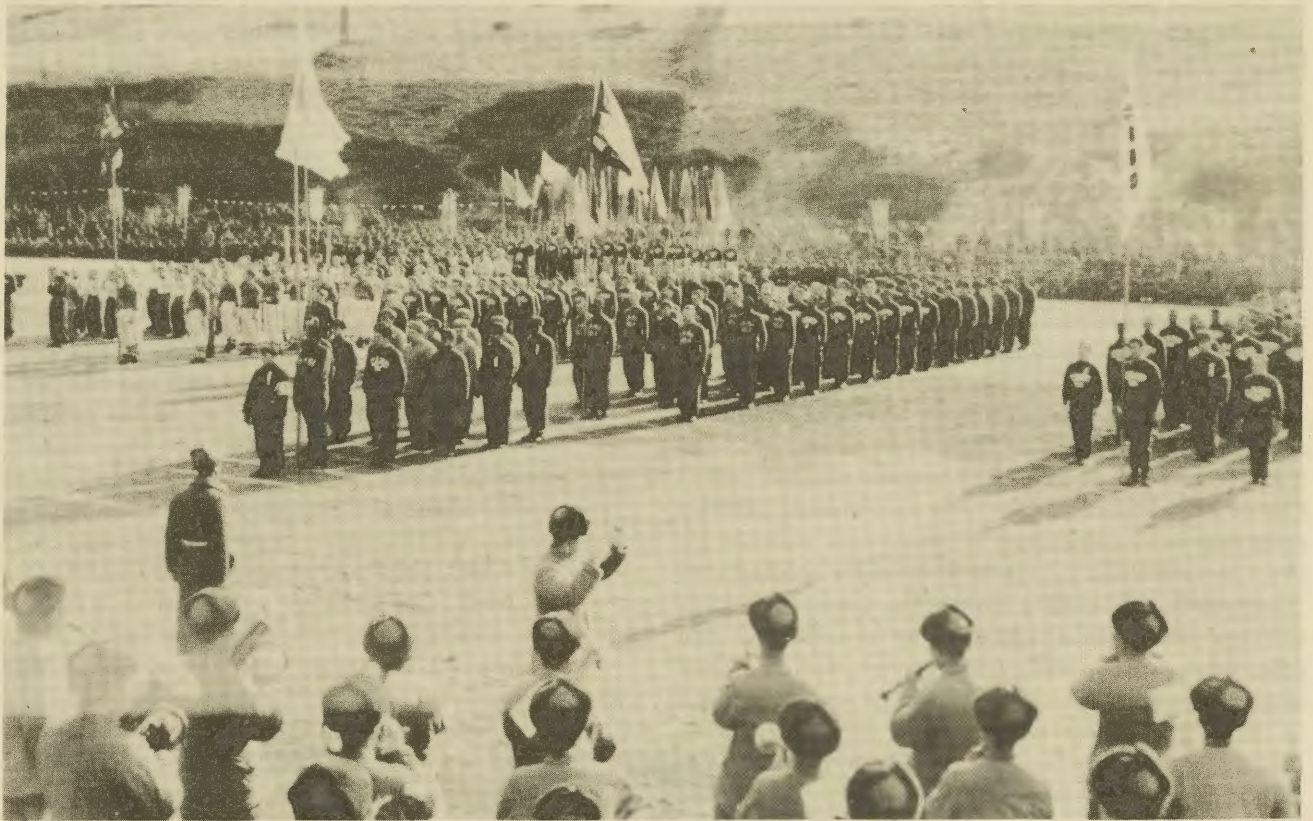
(2) After both teams had spoken, the team

upholding the United States would ask to be heard. It would then admit that the United States was to blame for the war in Korea and ask forgiveness for having been misled by capitalistic information. The admissions by the team upholding the United States were translated into Korean for the civilian audiences.

(3) The debating society also debated on such questions as "The Evils of Capitalism," "The Move Toward Communism," "The Issues in the Korean Truce Talks," and "Communism and the Common Man."

(4) All debates were judged by members of the Central Committee propaganda staff, representatives from the Communist GHQ, and an occasional representative from the prisoner population. In announcing the winning team, which was always the team defending the enemy side, the speaker would praise the prisoners for their understanding of the issues and would tell them always to use that argument when discussing the cause of the war in Korea. These "rigged" debates formalized the presentation of Communist propaganda under the guise of academic procedure.

c. *The Oratorical Contest* was another activity organized for the same basic purpose, but it was restricted to the prisoners and was not conducted outside of the camp. A notable exception in this activity was that the United States was never mentioned. These contests were devoted to a formal exaltation of communism in the form of recitations by the prisoners. The subject matter of the recitations was speeches by Stalin, Lenin, and Marx, memorized and recited by the prisoners. These contests obviously could not be judged by content, since the content was basic Communist doctrine. They were judged on manner of delivery. The winner of an oratorical contest was the prisoner who could speak with the most eloquence, emotion, and enthusiasm or the one who could speak the loudest. The contests were sponsored monthly and consumed a full day in actual speaking time. At no time did the prisoners have such a heavy diet of Communist propaganda as when they were required to sit and listen to as many as 20 prisoners recite numerous basic works on communism during an oratorical contest. Many of



the United Nations prisoners, at the time these activities were being conducted, believed that this was an activity for the prisoners and by the prisoners. Such was not the case. The oratorical contests were conceived, inspired, and planned by the Communists for the sole purpose of propagandizing the prisoners into supporting the enemy against their native countries. In addition, these activities worked as pegs on which the enemy was able to hang Communist propaganda and disseminate it to the outside world. The Communist account of these activities, and their rigged results, were publicized both to the Communist and the Free World, to create the impression that the United Nations prisoners of war had changed their political beliefs while in prison—had seen the light and were on the side of communism.

d. "World Olympics of 1952" was a very special propaganda project conducted during the summer of 1952. The "Olympics" were held in the city of Pyongyang, North Korea, and involved more than seven hundred prisoners, many of whom were selected by the Communists from the ranks of "progressives." The objectives behind this effort were the same as those behind all other Communist propaganda projects—the glorification

of communism. However, there were other, more subtle, reasons for staging the big athletic meet.

- (1) As was mentioned earlier, the Communists started their indoctrination program in the spring of 1951. It ended in the spring of 1952 as a required Communist activity. The program continued, however, on a voluntary basis. As a climax for the program, and as a means of paying tribute to the prisoners who had supported the enemy, this big athletic meet was designed and staged. It was staged many miles from all prison camps, which meant that the prisoners who participated in the meet and those who attended it as spectators would have a trip and an outing away from the environment of the camps. The Communists considered this gesture a reward and tribute to the the "progressives."
- (2) Propaganda, of course, was definitely involved. Numerous pamphlets, booklets, and programs were prepared for the meet. All were filled with the bright red trimmings of communism. To stress their theme of peace, the flying white

dove of peace was prominent on all propaganda material connected with the project. These documents carried numerous photographs of prisoners, individually and in groups, playing games, and fraternizing—symbolizing a state of happiness and contentment with their Communist captors. In typical fashion the documents gave the impression that the meet was organized and sponsored by and for the prisoners, which was not true. The publications were given to all prisoners with instructions to mail them to their families in their native countries. They were also carefully disseminated to more than 500 newspapers and radio stations throughout the world. In giving this meet such wide publicity, the Communists believed that the coverage would help cover up the many unfavor-

able aspects of their administration and treatment of the prisoners.

- (3) In addition to the athletic competition, hand-picked prisoners were paraded to the reviewing stands, where they delivered speeches in which the United States was severely attacked and, as usual, communism was praised. Movie and still cameras recorded the activities for future propaganda purposes.
- (4) The awarding of prizes to the winners of the various competitions was, within itself, a major propaganda project. The speeches made in connection with the awards again praised communism, and criticized the United States and exhorted the winners to cherish the prizes as a symbol of the great "struggle" of the common man over American capitalism.

## Section II. ENEMY PROPAGANDA AND WORLD COMMUNISM

### 66. General

It should be reiterated that the American soldier should view Communist propaganda in the light of Communist objectives, local, national, and worldwide. Communist propaganda never changes its basic line of exalting communism, and criticizing capitalism and, more specifically, the United States. All local Communist propaganda has either a direct or indirect relationship with worldwide Communist propaganda.

### 67. The "Peace" Theme

*a.* The basic theme of Communist propaganda in North Korea was peace, and that general theme never changed, because the "peace offensive" by Communists throughout the world has never changed. The Communists were talking peace back in 1928 and said then that they would lull the Free World into a state of peace and then strike with a clenched fist. In more recent times, the Communists have been actively trying to achieve that objective. In 1947, the Communists held a series of conferences in Moscow and made plans for an international peace offensive. A similar conference was held in 1949. As a result of these peace conferences, the Stockholm Peace Convention, the Chicago Peace Crusade, and the Helsinki Peace Conference followed. The latter conferences were held to impress the world that Com-

munist was a peaceful movement and that the Communists were the real champions of peace. At the same time, the Communists were accusing the Western Powers of preparing for World War III. This strategy followed the plans made by the Communists at their various conferences for peace.

*b.* In 1950, the Communists accelerated the peace offensive as a result of the war in Korea. They flooded every country in the world with peace petitions. Communists, pro-Communists, Communist sympathizers, and members of Communist front organizations went from door to door in every major United States city, asking the people to sign petitions for peace and for the abolition of the atomic bomb. These exponents of Communism sponsored mass meetings for purposes not related to peace and had people signing documents which they subsequently attached to peace petitions. This well-organized campaign reached such proportions that the Secretary of State found it necessary publicly to announce that the movement was Communist-conceived and inspired, and warned the American people not to be duped into signing a document which the Communists could use for propaganda purposes.

*c.* The Communist organization in the United States that directed this campaign among Americans was *The National Peace Center* in New York.

Under this organization were 48 State Committees for Peace. In 1951, this organization was listed as subversive by the Attorney General, and the leaders of the organization were indicted by a Federal grand jury for advocating the overthrow of the United States Government.

*d.* Propaganda generated in North Korea by the Chinese Communists implemented and had a direct relationship to worldwide Communist propaganda. The propaganda was designed for the prisoners, for the Communist and non-Communist worlds, and for the high command of the world Communist conspiracy. The manner in which a typical "peace petition" was used by the Communists in North Korea serves a good example of this relationship.

*e.* The propaganda section of the Central Committee helped to prepare some of the basic material for peace petitions. They were then forwarded to the prison camps for signatures. After each petition had been signed by several hundred prisoners, it was returned to the Central Committee, which then processed the document by preparing a cover letter in which it was explained how, when, and where the petition was obtained. The Central Committee then forwarded the signed petition to the Chief of Propaganda, whose office checked it and made whatever additions would more specifically support the overall Communist objectives. The peace petition was then sent to certain strategic countries, such as the United States, England, India, Japan, and all Communist countries. In those countries, certain Communist agencies received them for further dissemination. For example, in the United States, the Daily Worker, the Communist Party, and the National Peace Center received the petitions and further distributed them to the "front organizations." In addition to the Com-

munist agencies, one other organization received at least five copies of almost every petition signed in North Korea by United Nations prisoners. That agency was the United Nations. The reason for this is obvious. On certain special occasions such as the Fourth of July petition in 1951, the document was forwarded to the leaders of certain countries, including the President of the United States.

*f.* Few, if any, United Nations prisoners who signed peace petitions thought that those very same documents would find their way into every Communist channel in the world, and eventually reach the United Nations as an "indictment" of the United States. In any future situation of this kind, the soldier should remember Point V of the Code of Conduct, which prohibits the writing or signing of documents for the enemy. What the soldier thought was a harmless and routine nuisance was actually a major weapon of the enemy—of communism. As prisoners of war, few can determine with any degree of certainty what is important to the enemy and what is unimportant. Experience has clearly shown that the Communists can make propaganda out of anything a POW may say or do. Absolute adherence to the Code of Conduct is the only safe course of action for the prisoner of war.

*g.* The objectives of this Communist propaganda was to portray Communists as lovers of peace and to demonstrate to the world that communism had won over to its cause for peace hundreds of United Nations prisoners. This was as big a fraud as all the other aspects of the Communist conspiracy. The world knows that there would have been no war in Korea if the North Korean Communists, urged by Communist China and the Soviet Union, had not invaded the Republic of South Korea.

### Section III. SPECIAL PROPAGANDA TARGETS

#### 68. General

Certain special propaganda targets were designated by the Communists. These targets were, as a rule, certain aspects of American life which the Communists believed they could attack on the basis of imperfection. The Communists attacked these targets by using false "confessions" made by prisoners, in which they leveled charges against the United States and against the American way of life. For example, some prisoners volunteered

to write long papers on American banking, relating it to war and profits. Others wrote papers on such subjects as the United States Army General Staff, relating its activities with plans for World War III. Still other prisoners wrote on racial discrimination and religious intolerance, making it appear that these practices were usual in the United States, and not exceptional. The Special Events staff would take this material, distort it, and fashion it into propaganda against the United States.

## 69. Germ-Warfare Confessions

*a.* The most ambitious and far reaching propaganda effort along this line was the utterly false germ-warfare charges, which were coordinated with the "peace offensive." The Communists obtained from some United Nations prisoners "confessions" in which the prisoners allegedly admitted that they personally used germ warfare on the Korean civilian population. Such "confessions" were not, in themselves, enough to support the Communist charges. They also used "confessions" from other prisoners who said they *believed* that America used germ-warfare weapons against the Korean people. The prisoners' voices were recorded, and the comments of those who heard and saw them were recorded. The signed "confessions" and the recordings were delivered to the propaganda section which fabricated the "Big Lie" which the Communists were determined

to hang around the neck of the United States.

*b.* By actual count, the Communists broadcast the germ-warfare charges against the United States throughout Asia at least 415 times during one period of 17 days. The Communists prepared and distributed the "confessions" in book form, complete with photographs of the "bombs" and the United Nations prisoners who admitted using the "bombs." So determined were the Communists to discredit the United States, the charges were officially presented to the United Nations General Assembly by delegates from the Soviet Union. These charges were so serious that the United States Government found it necessary to issue an official denial of the charges. If the United Nations prisoners learned anything from their bitter and unpleasant experiences under communism, they learned that silence is more than golden—it is security for themselves and for their countries.

## Section IV. SUMMARY

### 70. Communist Propaganda

*a. General.* Communist propaganda in North Korea was a vital part of the enemy's indoctrination program. It is, and has always been, an essential element of communism without which the Communist conspiracy could not survive. Communist propaganda, regardless of where it is conducted, has either a direct or an indirect relationship with Communist global aims and objectives. Communist propaganda generated in North Korea was used to further international communism and played an important part in supporting the "peace" theme through use of the "petition" technique.

*b. Organizational Structure.* As an implement of communism in North Korea, the propaganda program was conducted within the general Communist organizational structure which embraced all other Communist activities. The Central Committee for World Peace, the Propaganda Workshop, the Special Events subsection, the Camp, Company, and Squad Committees, all supported the propaganda effort. The organizations through which the Communists produced their propaganda were staffed by United Nations prisoners, thereby giving the impression that the activity was a prisoner activity. Actually, the organizations were set up in the same manner in which Communist fronts are established wherever communism is permitted to operate.

### 71. Sources of Material for Propaganda

*a.* Although most of the general material for Communist propaganda came from the Soviet Union, the most effective material came from United Nations prisoners themselves. What the prisoners thought was routine and inconsequential information was very important to the enemy. Information which the prisoners thought would be filed away found its way into the Communist propaganda machinery and, ultimately, to the United Nations as a source of embarrassment to the United States Government and humiliation to the prisoners themselves.

*b.* In addition to the organizations through which the enemy worked in producing propaganda, a number of special activities served to propagandize the cause of communism. Some of such activities were the newspaper, "Toward Truth and Peace"; the Dramatic Society; the Debating Society; the Oratorical Contest; and the Olympics of 1952.

### 72. Propaganda Objective

The objective of all Communist propaganda in North Korea was the glorification of communism and the degradation of the United States. It was the common element of communism which was present in all Communist activities of the prison command.



## CHAPTER 6

### RESISTANCE

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#### Section I. RESISTANCE IS POSSIBLE AND PROFITABLE

##### 73. Examples of Resistance in Korea

*a.* The ability to resist interrogation and indoctrination depended on the physical, mental, and moral makeup of the individual prisoners of war. As a result, there was a wide variation in resistance displayed by the United Nations prisoners in North Korean prison camps. Some prisoners capitulated almost immediately and began cooperating with the enemy. Others persisted in defying the enemy's strongest efforts and probably would have given their lives for their convictions. It is a fact that the overwhelming majority of American prisoners did not collaborate with the enemy in any serious manner. As a matter of record, for their exemplary conduct while prisoners of war, 56 American soldiers were decorated. Of these, 48 were enlisted men. The decorations awarded included 2 Legion of Merits, 20 Bronze Star Medals, and 34 Army Commendation Ribbons.

*b.* It would require volumes to record all of the individual acts of courage and fortitude that occurred in the POW camps. On several occasions, unified action by groups of prisoners were successful in nullifying the Communists efforts. A few examples of individual and group resistance will best illustrate what has just been said.

- (1) A sergeant, of average background and experience, was subjected to an exhaustive interrogation. There was no apparent reason why the Communists should have singled him out except, perhaps, because he appeared to be a potential leader and had served on a unit intelligence section. He was summoned for interrogation for days on end at every hour of the day and night. It was not long before he became thoroughly exhausted. He was accused of being a spy

and was asked to sign a confession. He was threatened first with nonrepatriation and then with death. He was informed that if he told the "truth" and admitted being a spy, he would be forgiven and let alone. All he divulged to the infuriated interrogators was his name, rank, serial number, and date of birth. Finally, his captors realized that they were wasting their time and could better devote their efforts to other more cooperative prisoners. After many weeks of harassment, he was not summoned again for interrogation for the remainder of his captivity.

- (2) Another case concerns a young private who, in 1954 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, was decorated for his persistent resistance to the enemy. As he came from a minority group, the interrogators told him that he was considered a "second class citizen" in the United States and that the members of his race were merely "tools" and "suckers" for Wall Street Capitalism. He was asked to sign a paper, which the enemy had prepared, on the injustices suffered by his race in the United States. He firmly refused to sign any paper prepared by someone else. He was then told to write a paper of his own. Finally he accepted the offered paper and pencil and sat down to write. The enemy interrogators figured that he had surrendered to their demands. His finished paper threw the interrogator into a speechless rage. The young soldier had written his name, rank, and serial number more than 150 times. He was then called dumb, stupid, and a naive reactionary and was told that, unless he wrote a

paper on racial injustice, he would never see his family again. In reply he accused the Communists of killing people all over the world and stated that his life was of no great importance and if they were going to kill him, to hurry up and get it over with. He was subjected to more abuse and threats but was eventually left alone to return to his home with his conscience clear and personal honor intact.

- (3) A second lieutenant, who had comparatively little military experience before his capture, spent the greater part of 2 months in the interrogation room or in solitary confinement. The enemy wanted him to prepare a paper criticizing the political and military leadership of the United States and to express his belief that the United States had used germ-warfare against the Korean people. In no uncertain terms, this officer told his tormentors that the United States was the greatest democracy on earth, that its leaders were above reproach, and that nothing the Communists could do or say would cause him to change his mind. He bluntly told his captors that he was not afraid of them and would never write or say anything against his country. After his repatriation, this officer furnished valuable information concerning the various Communist interrogation techniques—he had been subjected to almost all of them.
- (4) Another well-known case concerns a sergeant. He had enlisted as a young man during World War II and had been in combat in Europe. The Communists realized that getting this experienced noncom to “cooperate” would have a profound effect on the other less experienced prisoners. The interrogators soon realized that the routine methods would not work on the sergeant and resorted to physical pressure, a rare practice in connection with interrogation or indoctrination. Under guard, the sergeant was forced to sit motionless in the hot sun on a narrow stick. After the sun went down he was made to stand at rigid attention or on one foot for long periods of time. He was permitted to go to the latrine only

once a day. The only request he made of his captors was that they shoot him. As a result of this treatment, his health declined and he became too weak even to walk or stand. The Communists told him that they would give him the medicine to cure him—if he cooperated. He refused again, and for days he lay unattended in an isolated section of the compound. For a while, no other prisoner was permitted to come near him to give him any aid. He survived this brutal treatment and, by his example, gave courage and strength to many other prisoners who witnessed or heard of his unshakable courage and determination.

- (5) Another incident involved group resistance. An American soldier had been put in a filthy abandoned latrine as punishment for some alleged infraction of the camp regulations. He was gravely ill and on the verge of dying. He was brought back in this condition to the shack in which his squad was housed. The other prisoners did all they could to clean him and make him comfortable. Later, the same evening, two guards came to take him away again, either back to the “hole” or to the interrogation room at headquarters. Incensed at what had been done to their fellow prisoner, the other members of the squad forcibly kept the guards away from the man. Since a unified show of resistance and defiance of orders by prisoners was unusual, the guards left and came back with an officer. His hysterical orders also went unheeded. Drawing his pistol, he fired several shots into the ground at the feet of the group blocking the doorway. One guard, using the bayonet of his rifle, forced his way into the shack. But once inside, the prisoners disarmed him and threw both the guard and his rifle outside. After much more shouting and threats, the officer and the guards left and did not return.
- (6) In several of the permanent camps, groups of “reactionaries” united to form anti-Communist organizations. Generally, the purpose of these “Clubs” was to disrupt the prison camp routine, to block the indoctrination program, and to dis-

courage and prevent wavering prisoners from becoming outright collaborators. In several instances, the discouragement took the form of direct—and painful—action which produced some effective results. Not too many of the subjects of this action became aggressive “reactionaries,” but several were snatched from the “Progressive” group and were content to remain “neutrals.” In typical American fashion, the members of these organizations coined descriptive names for their clubs, such as: “Faithful Hearts of America,” “Non-Benedict Arnold Club,” and the “Un-American Activities Committee.”

c. Many, many more incidents of bravery and courage could be related, but the foregoing are cited to illustrate concretely that a determined resistance is possible and practical. Under no circumstances is the life of a prisoner of war pleasant. Yet, through individual and unified group resistance, a situation can be brought about that will eventually benefit all.

#### **74. Extension of the Battlefield**

a. In previous wars and campaigns, only a small percentage of the troops committed were captured. Of those captured, most were from front-line infantry regiments and supporting units. However, the modern concept of global atomic warfare, with nuclear weapons and guided missiles, has necessarily changed some of our former strategy and tactics. The advent of greatly accelerated airborne and amphibious operations, deep penetrations by fast mechanized forces, widespread guerrilla warfare and defensive dispersion of troops, requires that units be capable

of operating independently. In such a situation, it is imperative that every soldier realize that, while the possibility of capture has been increased, under no circumstances should capture be considered as inevitable. Our advances in the fields of communications and air-transported supply, have more than kept pace with these new concepts of strategy and tactics.

b. Despite these other changes, one concept still stands—ultimately, it is the man with the rifle who takes and holds the ground—ground that means the success or failure of a battle of a war. The enemy will make every attempt to deny this ground to our forces—by trying to kill or capture them. The battle is over for the man who dies, but for the man who survives and is captured, despite all his efforts to resist, the fight continues right into the POW inclosure—our extension of the battlefield.

c. A few other basic considerations are well worth remembering. The American fighting man is trained to resist capture with all available means, either as an individual or as a member of an isolated unit. If, despite his best efforts, he cannot evade capture, he should constantly seek to escape and assist others to escape. The best chances for escape exist during the first few hours of capture in the confusion of battle when friendly forces are still close by. Opportunities to escape diminish rapidly as the prisoner is evacuated away from the battle area. During evacuation, the prisoner should keep constantly on the alert to exploit any opportunity for escape that may unexpectedly present itself. Escape should be the foremost thought in a prisoner's mind, regardless of the length of time he is held captive. By tenaciously maintaining the hope of escape, the prisoner's will to resist is thereby strengthened.

## **Section II. INDIVIDUAL RESISTANCE**

#### **75. Individual Character Traits**

a. The ability to continue to resist generally depended on the individual prisoner's physical, mental, and moral makeup. In other words, resistance is a personal thing. In the event that another war may be thrust upon us, whether it be a localized campaign or a major conflagration, the soldier must be prepared, psychologically as well as physically, to face an ordeal similar to that which was experienced by the United Nations prisoners of war in Korea.

b. Since communism, regardless of what country carries its banner, is the outstanding potential enemy to the free world, it is logical to assume that the same or similar methods will be employed against any future prisoners of war.

c. Under normal conditions and situations, the average American soldier possesses all the traits of character to enable him to overcome successfully any efforts designed to change his basic beliefs. Like many other trying situations, the environment of a POW inclosure brings out the

best—and worst—in a man. Certain of his traits of character which are rarely tested or evaluated in the course of normal life are subjected to severe stress and strain. These particular traits must be developed and strengthened in every combat soldier. The Army's Character Guidance Program is designed to assist in meeting this requirement.

## 76. Discipline

a. Many causes have been cited for the situation that prevailed within the prisoner of war camps in North Korea. Lack of discipline has often been cited as one of these causes. Effective group action is impossible without discipline. This axiom is particularly applicable to a military group, from a squad to a field army. Discipline may be defined as the willing, spontaneous obedience to the will of a leader. In general terms, discipline means respect for authority. The need for discipline in a combat situation requires no explanation or amplification. In a prisoner of war compound, discipline assumes added importance. There is no place for the self-seeking, self-centered individual. Any prisoner who tries to make his own rules and "to go it alone" is looking for trouble of the worst type. The individual who cuts himself off from the mutual protection of the group becomes easy prey for the enemy.

b. It has been pointed out that one of the first techniques used by the Chinese Communists in Korea was to attempt to break down discipline. They accomplished this by segregation according to rank; by disrupting any existing chain of command, and by designating leaders of their own selection. For example, in one POW squad, the Chinese designated a corporal as leader, even though the other members of the squad included officers and sergeants. It was natural for friction and animosity to develop with a resultant breakdown in discipline. A POW organization is a military organization and must be regarded as such by all the members. The senior officer or duly elected representative will assume the responsibilities and authority of leadership. The other members will comply with his orders and instructions. An unyielding display of discipline, individually and collectively, by the soldier-prisoners eventually will nullify many of the enemy's designs and will benefit the group as a whole.

## 77. Mental Attitude

To the prisoner as an individual, a healthy mental attitude is a very important thing. After the initial shock of capture has worn off, a state of depression usually follows. The sooner a prisoner can rid himself of this feeling, the better off he will be. In such a state, he is not prepared to recognize an opportunity for escape which should be foremost in his mind when capture is an actual fact. Many prisoners of war died in Korea as a direct result of their own inadequate mental attitude. A confident and hopeful attitude will pay rich rewards in the long run. A prisoner should never forget that our forces will ultimately achieve victory. Unshaken confidence in his ability to survive the ordeal, the knowledge of the eventual success of our country's cause, combined with hope of escape or rescue, will do much to support a prisoner's will to resist exploitation by the enemy.

### "NO PRISONER OF WAR WILL BE FORGOTTEN BY THE UNITED STATES"

The support and care of dependents of prisoners of war is prescribed by law. Every practical means will be employed to establish contact with, to support, and to gain the release of all prisoners of war."

(From Report by Secretary of Defense's Advisory Committee on Prisoners of War.)

## 78. Faith

a. Faith is another personal quality which is most important. As was demonstrated innumerable times in North Korea, the Communists systematically attempted to break down a prisoner's faith in himself, in his fellow prisoners, in his superiors, in his country, and in his God. Undermining and destroying an individual's faith is required before indoctrination can succeed.

b. By design, the Communists deliberately placed many prisoners under a cloud of suspicion by requiring them to go for walks or by frequently calling them to headquarters for interrogation in order to create the impression that they were "cooperating." Actually this practice had a two-fold purpose. It made it difficult to detect an actual informer by hiding him within a selected group and, also, cast suspicion on every other individual in the group. Suspicion and distrust soon destroyed group spirit, and morale quickly disappeared. The Communists had ac-

completed their all-important first step toward successful indoctrination. Mutual faith and trust among prisoners of war groups can effectively block any such future attempts by an enemy.

## 79. Religion

*a.* In discussing the personal qualities and characteristics which are of importance to a prisoner as an individual, religion cannot be over-emphasized. The prisoner of war population in Korea represented a fairly complete cross section of the various religions practiced throughout the world. Since religion, regardless of denomination, has no place in the Communist scheme, it too was the subject of attack. At times, religious services were absolutely forbidden in the POW camps and often resulted in severe punishment for those who conducted or attended such services. At other times, religious services were tolerated—but discouraged—by the prison authorities. Apparently the Communists realized that by absolutely prohibiting the practice of religion they would create a mutual bond of resentment against their régime. The Communists studiously avoided any situation which would provide a basis for the prisoners to unite against them. Freedom of religion is one basic

principle for which every American will fight, regardless of the degree of his own religious convictions. Dissention, distrust, and disorganization were more conducive to the success of the Communist plan, which envisages a godless society, completely reliant on the Communist State, for both the material and the spiritual things of life. Therefore, anything besides communism that provides any type of support to an individual must eventually be removed. However, such things as the practice of religion will be tolerated for a time, if it tends to assure the success of the first steps to convert an individual or group to the Communist cause.

*b.* There have been numerous accounts of the heroic activities of chaplains in the POW camps who, despite strong opposition by their captors, diligently and fearlessly ministered to the spiritual needs of the prisoners of war. Significantly, there are other reports of individuals, not clergymen, who also conducted services and attempted to keep religion alive in an environment where spiritual values were unknown.

*c.* The moral and spiritual consolation and solace that can be derived from religion makes it a most important support to a soldier held captive, especially by a Communist enemy.

## Section III. GROUP RESISTANCE

### 80. Authority to Organize

*a.* It goes without saying that, if a group is composed of strong individuals, the group is strong. If able leadership is added to such a group, the result is an effective organization.

*b.* The authority to establish organizations in prisoner-of-war camps has been provided by the Geneva Conventions of 1949. In North Korea, the Communists permitted POW organizations, but only those over which they could exercise control, or from which they could derive some benefit. These organizations were made up of United Nations prisoners of war and, on the surface, it appeared that they served to represent the prisoners. However, as was pointed out earlier, it was the Communists who directed the activities of these organizations.

*c.* During the course of his service, every soldier receives specific instructions in the provisions of the Geneva Conventions. Certain articles of the Conventions are particularly pertinent to the principle of organizing prisoner

groups to thwart Communist indoctrination or exploitation.

*d.* Under the heading of "Relations Between Prisoners of War and the Authorities," Articles 78 to 81 concern the election of representatives and their functions. Article 78 provides that prisoners of war have the right to make known to their captors their requests or complaints regarding the conditions of their captivity through their prisoner representative.

*e.* Article 79 provides for the election, by secret ballot, of prisoner representative in camps where there are no officers. In mixed camps, the senior line officer becomes the representative, and his assistants are chosen from and elected by the others. In officer camps, the senior line officer becomes the representative, and any advisors are chosen by the other officers.

*f.* Under the Code of Conduct, in camps where there are no officers, the senior line noncommissioned officer will take command. Unless some very strong reason exists, such as physical or men-

tal incapacity, the assumption of command by the senior line officer or noncommissioned officer is mandatory. If there are no line officers or non-commissioned officers present, representatives will be elected as provided by the Convention. In this instance, great care should be exercised to elect an experienced mature soldier as representative. Under no circumstances would it be wise to accept, without question, any leader or representative who was appointed by the enemy.

*g.* Article 80 provides that the representative shall further the physical, spiritual, and intellectual well-being of the prisoners they represent. In particular, where prisoners decide to organize a system of mutual assistance among themselves, this organization will be within the province of the prisoners' representatives.

*h.* Article 81 provides that the representative will have sufficient freedom to carry out his responsibilities and to communicate with the detaining military authorities, the International Red Cross, and other recognized organizations which render assistance to prisoners of war.

*i.* Article 93, another significant article, concerns escape. It provides that escape or attempt to escape shall not be deemed an aggravating circumstance if the prisoner is subjected to trial for offenses committed during his escape or attempt to escape. It further provides that offenses committed by prisoners of war with the sole intention of facilitating their escape and which do not entail any violence against life or limb such as offenses against public property, theft without intention of self-enrichment, the drawing up or use of false papers and the wearing of civilian clothing, shall occasion disciplinary punishment only. These provisions also apply to any prisoner who aids or abets others to escape.

## 81. Group Action

*a.* Based on the experiences of the American prisoners of war in Korea, a Communist enemy, in all probability, will not fully comply with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and will attempt to organize prisoners of war in accordance with a Communist objective. A unified, determined insistence by the prisoners for their rights under the Conventions can produce the desired results. However, it can be logically anticipated that the enemy will be equally determined to establish an organization which will facilitate interrogation, indoctrination, and exploitation of the prisoners. In this event, it will be necessary

for the prisoners to organize covertly within the framework of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and the principles enunciated in the Code of Conduct.

*b.* Group solidarity and unified action are essential to the overall welfare of the prisoner of war population. Camp sanitation, personal hygiene, care of the sick and wounded, and morale are some of the basic essential considerations that require group cooperation to be effective. Continued successful resistance to enemy attempts at indoctrination and exploitation is absolutely dependent on group solidarity.

*c.* To illustrate specifically a few of the general concepts previously mentioned, assume a possible future situation in which American personnel are held captive in a Communist prisoner-of-war camp. Immediately after arrival in the camp, seniority is determined and the senior line officer or noncommissioned officer assumes command of the group. Several assistants are designated to supervise housing, care of the sick and wounded, procurement of food, and other administrative details. The senior man then advises the enemy authorities that he is the representative of the American prisoners in the camp, pursuant to the provisions of the Geneva Convention, and will receive and transmit any orders or instructions concerning the administration of the prisoner population.

*d.* After the immediate necessities have been provided for, the prisoners will be screened to determine their various skills which can be utilized. As a result of the screening, several committees are designated which, although not specifically authorized by the Geneva Conventions, will contribute to the overall welfare of the prisoner population. Any prisoners who have food-processing skill, such as mess sergeants, cooks, bakers, etc., are appointed to the Mess Committee. The head of this committee will insure, so far as possible, the efficient, sanitary preparation and equal distribution of available food. Initiative and ingenuity on the part of the members of the Mess Committee can benefit the entire group from the viewpoint of health and morale. The food provided by the enemy may be strange and unpalatable to most of the prisoners. Every effort should be expended to improve the taste and supplement the nutritional value.

*e.* Prisoners who have farming or gardening experience are assigned to another committee, which is responsible for gathering local edible

plants and greens to supplement the food furnished by the enemy. This committee will also plant and cultivate crops, such as potatoes, onions, and local vegetables. Since the length of captivity is unknown, the benefits that can be derived are well worth any effort expended. In addition, it provides a healthy diversion for those engaged in this activity.

*f.* Medical personnel will be formed into a committee to treat and care for the sick and wounded, and to supervise camp sanitation. Personal hygiene and the ordinary cleaning of quarters and clothing may be ignored unless definite efforts are taken to enforce sanitary measures. Because of the overcrowded conditions and utter lack of sanitary facilities, the danger of disease will be prevalent. However, a sound health and sanitation program, utilizing all possible measures, rudimentary though they may be, will be of inestimable value. Unless circumstances make it absolutely impossible, American prisoners of war will seek medical treatment only from their own or allied medical personnel.

*g.* Usually it will not be difficult to find men within the group who have had experience in construction work. Such men will be assigned to a Construction Committee to plan and build or repair existing facilities, such as living quarters, kitchens, latrines, and athletic areas. Because of the probable scarcity of materials, each project will have to be well planned and assigned a priority to assure the greatest benefit to the largest number of prisoners.

*h.* The group representative will probably not have enough time to carry out the normal command duties and, therefore, he must delegate some duties to his subordinates or assistants.

*i.* A Morale Committee will be of great assistance. This Committee will supervise such things as equitable assignment to work details, sports and recreation programs, and news dissemination. If a Chaplain is present, he, as a logical member of this Committee, can provide for religious services and spiritual counselling. An important function of this Committee will be to foster a spirit of group cohesiveness by devising activities in which the whole group can participate. A feeling of "belonging" must be instilled in each individual prisoner, and he must be convinced that he, *personally*, is making a worthwhile contribution to the group effort. If he feels it, then it is true. The basic objective is to establish the fact that all members of the group have a common enemy—

the Communist captor—who must be resisted and defeated.

*j.* Naturally, all the possible conditions and situations that could arise cannot be anticipated and provided for. However, the rights of prisoners of war, under the Geneva Conventions, to organize among themselves for mutual assistance, provide a basis for the representative to establish organizations to meet any threats or danger to the welfare and well-being of the group, or any individual members thereof.

*k.* Experience gained in Korea indicates that a Communist enemy will probably attempt to prevent the formation of some or all of the aforementioned committees since the success of the Communists' subversion program depends on disunity, distrust, and confusion. In this event, with the backing and complete cooperation of the whole group, these organizations will have to function covertly. This may be difficult and even dangerous, yet, if it has the determined, unified support of the whole group, it will disrupt and nullify the enemy's efforts.

## 82. Interrogation

*a.* With respect to interrogation, the individual is on his own. He may be subjected to various forms of pressure or duress. Determination and courage are his basic weapons of defense. To all questions by an interrogator, he can give no other information than his name, rank, service number, and date of birth, as provided by the Geneva Convention and the Code of Conduct.

*b.* Any threats, direct or implied, should be carefully weighed in the light of what is known about the enemy and his objectives. A dead soldier has no value whatsoever to the enemy. A live one is a potential source of information and a potential collaborator. The Communists have long since discarded mass execution as a method of accomplishing their aims.

*c.* If physical or mental torture or other form of coercion is employed, every possible endeavor will be made not to disclose any information which will do harm to the United States, its allies, or other prisoners of war. To the limit of his physical and mental endurance, a soldier will not do, say, write, or sign anything that will aid the enemy in any way.

*d.* It is usually during interrogation that the first irreparable mistake is made. The volunteering of information by a prisoner beyond name, rank, service number, and date of birth can have

only disastrous results, to himself, to his fellow prisoners, to his comrades still fighting, and to his country.

### 83. Indoctrination

Attendance at indoctrination or propaganda lectures and classes may be compulsory. The nefarious purposes of these lectures has been explained. Participation in any such classes, in any way, can benefit only the enemy. *Anything* said by a prisoner, even in denial of the subject being presented, can be twisted to the enemy's advantage. Silent, passive, but determined resistance is the best course of action.

### 84. Propaganda

a. In every propaganda theme, there is usually some vein of truth. Various types of "proof" will be offered. The Communist conspiracy thrives on propaganda. It is designed to sound convincing. It must be remembered that the Communists rely

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By Order of *Wilber M. Brucker*, Secretary of the Army:

Official:

**JOHN A. KLEIN,**

*Major General, United States Army,  
The Adjutant General.*

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For explanation of abbreviations used, see SR 320-50-1.

heavily on propaganda to weaken and disillusion those over whom they wish to gain control. Unshakable loyalty and trust in our democratic institutions and principles is the best antidote for Communist propaganda.

b. Communism has brought nothing but misery and slavery to those whom it has entrapped. It has grown by deceit and treachery. It denies God and the human dignity of man. World domination is its goal and, to the Communist, no means are deemed too low to attain this end. American principles of democracy and justice permit no compromise with international communism. As Americans, we are dedicated to defend freedom and to halt armed aggression wherever it may occur.

"I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."

**MAXWELL D. TAYLOR,**  
*General, United States Army,  
Chief of Staff.*



DA PAM 30-101—COMMUNIST INTERROGATION, INDOCTRINATION, AND EXPLOITATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR—1956