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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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were operating 11 shifts a week. At this nearly maximum rate the source stated, the industry will run out of cotton three months before the local cotton harvest in the fall of 1951. Cotton dealers in Shanghai estimate that China's 1950 harvest - in terms of ginned cotton - was about 2,400,000 bales, of which 1,700,000 bales will be available for mill consumption, the remaining 700,000 bales being locally spun or used as cotton padding. (C [redacted] 8 Mar 51). COMMENT: US Consulate Hong Kong offers a similar estimate of cotton output, although the Communists have claimed that 3,128,000 bales were harvested in 1950. Continued Communist insistence at full-scale operation of mills, in the face of a probable large deficit later in 1951, may indicate the urgency of current military orders for textile products.

"A" KOREA. Urgent Need for Medical Personnel in North. Radio Pyongyang on 10 March carried the announcement that the training of nurses was being undertaken by the Ministry of Health and the North Korean Red Cross. The Health Ministry is training "senior workers for health administration". On 1 February, a two-months' training course for 400 trainees was begun; a three-week schedule for 900 is expected to start on 1 April, and a further six-months' program - envisaging the training of 600 individuals - will start on 1 July. The Red Cross is running "many training schools for Red Cross nurses". (R FBIS, 12 Mar 51). COMMENT: The brevity of the periods of instruction indicated in this announcement appears to confirm North Korea's desperate need for medical personnel. The timing of the periods is also of possible interest since it coincides with the timing of the "4th phase" offensive.

"C" ROK Technicians Abroad Balk at Return to Homeland. Ambassador Muccio in Korea reports that the refusal of US- and Japanese-trained Koreans to return to Korea unless offered "appropriate" positions is simply an attempt to avoid leaving a pleasant life abroad. Muccio opines that only US refusal to further extend immigration permits will pry these trainees loose. (R Pusan 794, 10 Mar 51). COMMENT: Although Ambassador Muccio is undoubtedly correct in his assessment of the motive underlying the reluctance of ROK technical trainees at present, it should be noted that ROK technicians who returned from abroad in the pre-hostilities period were frequently kept from suitable employment by the ROK government, which favored local political appointees.

"A" JAPAN. Attorney-General Outlines JCP Plans for Arms Purchase. Attorney General OHASHI Takeo declared before the Cabinet on 9 March that the Japan Communist Party is working out a fund-raising campaign to purchase weapons. He also stated that the Party is using ciphers in their communications. (R FBIS, 12 Mar 51). COMMENT: While the JCP may well be working out such a campaign and also using ciphers, OHASHI has made similar pronouncements in the past without convincing evidence. Satisfactory confirmation regarding JCP collection of arms has been lacking to date.

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