

ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : The AmConsulate General, HONG KONG

INFO : TOKYO, KARACHI, DJAKARTA, RANGOON

This document consists of
1 page(s). Number 1
of 4 copies. Series A.

FROM : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DATE:

FEB 3 11 13 AM '64

SUBJECT : Health and Behavior of Mao Tse-tung

REF :

The health and behavior of key Chinese Communist leaders have been the subject of numerous and comprehensive reports from the Consulate General. While realizing this the Department has, however, been asked to forward to the appropriate posts specific questions pertaining to the health and conduct of Chairman Mao.

In the debriefing of visitors to Communist China, efforts should be made to obtain the following information from sources:

1. Over what period and during what time of the day did the the source have contact with Mao? Compare, if possible, with past personal impressions.

2. Cite any peculiar physical characteristics:

a. Did Mao appear alert? Did he appear overweight or was he thin? Did he sit or stand? Did he walk vigorously or was he assisted?

b. Did Mao breathe heavily? Did he smoke--how much? Cite any evidence of paralysis or the aftermath of a stroke--eyelid droop, sagging shoulders, arm or leg drag.

c.. Did Mao speak--did he converse or did he read a prepared statement? For how long did he speak? Note, if possible, the degree of speech intelligibility.

RUSK

GROUP I
Excluded from automatic downgrading
and declassification

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In Out

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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