

PERSONAL DATA

Age: 51

Sex: Male

Education: 2 years primary school, some cadre school

Total Years Relevant Experience: 5

Last Year of Relevant Experience: 1962

Year Left China: 1962

Initial Immigration Status: Illegal

Native Place/Overseas Connections: Guangdong native/OS ties unknown

Class Background/Political Designation: Poor/Lower-Middle Peasant, 1957  
rightist

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OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY SUMMARY

Positions Held: 1) County-level Administrative Cadre, Bao-an, Guangdong,  
1951-57

2) Labor Reform Camp, Bolo County, Guangdong, 1957-58

3) Canton Machine Tools Factory, 1958-62

a) Worker-prisoner, Production group leader, 1958-60

b) Skilled worker, Metalworking shop, 1960-62

Administrative Level of Work Unit/(No. of employees):

3) unknown/(@1000)

Occupational History (8/8/80, 3 hrs.)

The informant is a native of Bao-an county, on the border with Hong Kong. At the time of liberation he was a poor and lower middle peasant who participated in land reform actively, and was selected in 1951 by the Party because of his good class background to work in the financial department of the new county government. The finance department did all kinds of economic work, including commercial work, marketing and assurance of supplies of production materials. He was a leading cadre at the department (ke) level, and worked at both the county and the district (qu) level in this area of Guangdong. The Party also sent him to study political economy in the Canton cadre school. Every county selected two people for this course in economics and finance work, and he was one of two from Bao-an. He had only finished 2½ years of primary school himself. After two years he was sent back to Bao-an county. When he came back to Bao-an he worked at planning statistics, teaching classes to others on economic work, and also leading the management of joint state-private companies. In this last capacity he was the head of the planning department of the county government.

In the 1957 anti-rightist campaign he was labelled a rightist, because he said something about grain not being plentiful enough. Then he was sent to a labor reform camp elsewhere in Guangdong, where he and the ordinary criminals, along with several thousand rightists, did farming. During the Great Leap Forward in 1958 the intellectuals there built a small steel furnace, while the criminals foraged in the hills for food. This was in Bo-lo county, Guangdong. After half a year the quality of the steel was poor, and they disbanded operations. Later in 1958 they picked 1000 of the best workers from among the rightists and transferred them to work in factories in the Canton area.

He was sent to a new factory, being built near Canton, the Guangdong #1 Machine Tools Plant. This was right in the middle of the Great Leap. He worked in a metallurgy shop at steel refining. He had worker status and wages. He was a group leader in the shop. He worked here for 3 years, from 1958 to the end of 1960. During this period, since his work was good, they removed his rightist label and taught him a skill, and sent him to the metalworking shop. He didn't want to do this. But the party secretary told him he would send him to Heilongjiang if he refused the assignment. So he accepted for a while. In 1962, because of the 3 years of economic hardship, he came illegally across the Hong Kong border along with a lot of other people who were coming across at that time. He has owned a small restaurant in Hong Kong, worked in textile shops, worked in a Chinese restaurant for two years in England since then, and now works in a restaurant in the New Territories.

Wages

The criminals from the labor camp were not given a worker grade, just 12¥ a month from the factory as living expenses, while the rightists were in the same situation, but got 28¥. When the labels were taken away they were given a regular worker grade. But he left shortly after his label was taken off, so he was never fixed at a scale. They had no bonus system, just spiritual incentives. The criminals could have their sentences reduced for good work and behavior. Rightists could have their label taken away. Workers could be chosen as labor models. They had an 8 grade wage system in the factory then, but the highest worker was only grade 7.

There were no piece rates, and there were no quotas for individual workers. But there were targets for the whole plant. How did they know whether a worker is doing a good job? They had a small group meeting every wednesday where they had criticism and self-criticism, and this included an evaluation of one another's work performance.

Guangdong #1 Machine Tools Factory, 1958-60

The plant as a whole had about 1200 employees, and was under provincial leadership. It had carpentry, casting, metalworking, mold-making shops. They worked on a 3 shift system.

The informant was a group leader in his production group in the metalworking shop (jingong). The group leader has to keep a close watch on the thought of the people in the group, as well as the production situation. He was appointed by the plant leader to be the group leader because he had been a group leader in the Bolo county labor camp. There were about 18 people in the group, but it fluctuated because workers were being transferred in and out according to the demands of production. There was no vice group leader or any other people helping him in the group. They only had shop directors and vice shop directors, but no one in the small group was assistant group leader. The production group leader gave out work assignments for the day. After the work day was over, he was responsible for leading political study. He did not have forms and reports to fill out.

The amount of political study meetings depended on the political campaign of the time. But usually they studied two hours after work each day. Most of this was reading the newspapers, and they read about the current campaigns--3 red flags, great leap forward, small steel furnaces. They had meetings devoted to criticism and self-criticism two times a month. When they have a campaign, each person had to express their opinions about the campaign. The group leader had to write a summary report on the meetings conclusions for the party branch secretary. If the upper level leaders did not like the conclusions reached, they would talk to the group leader about how to do ideological work and teach the workers. If there was a worker who had expressed an adverse opinion, he may be singled out by leaders in an all-shop criticism meeting. If there was a production problem of any sort, they would set aside time after work to talk about it and solve it. But there were no fixed times for this. Also they might organize workers to study the advanced experiences of other factories.

For quality inspection, they selected a grade 7 worker to do the inspection for the metalworking shop. He was under the leadership of the shop director, just a worker. The grinding shop inspected all the pieces brought into their shop once again, according to the blueprints. There was no great influence of the Great Leap Forward in the plant, since the plant was still being built during this time. So there was nothing special going on.

Almost all of the people in his group were rightists or criminals. One guy was a lecturer from a Yunnan University who had tried to escape to Indonesia, and there were several other intellectuals.

His anti-rightist problem in fact was not a real problem of rightism. He made the mistake of agreeing with the viewpoint of articles in People's Daily articles written by people like Luo Rongzhang and Zhang Baijun, people who later were declared rightists. Also, the other cadres he worked with were jealous of him because he was so young and had moved up to equal position as those who had worked in the party for years before liberation. The thing they grabbed onto was the fact that he repeated a story he heard from a friend that the Russians had removed all the equipment from factories in Manchuria after the war. This was called anti-Soviet and therefore rightist.