

MORANDUM

3077-PR

2H 1962

SOME REMARKS ON  
SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT  
IN COMMUNIST CHINA

G. B. W. Young

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PREFACE

This Memorandum reviews the scientific and technological directions taken by Communist China in the past decade. It was prepared specifically for presentation at the Science Sessions of the Association for Asian Studies to be held April 2-4, 1962, in Boston, Massachusetts.

SUMMARY

China hopes to approach, in many important fields of science and technology, the most advanced levels attained in the world by 1967. This Memorandum reviews the scientific progress in contemporary China, by focusing attention on the science budget and the command decision of 1958.

Assuming the 1967 goal is to be pursued by the mature graduates of the new universities of science and technology and is to be backed or supported by a technically reconstructed industry, the review suggests that China will only have firmly established a base for such an attainment, but it can be quite an impressive base. However, by maximum concentration of effort, China can perform a limited number of scientific feats in 1967, especially those which can be performed merely with the support of a high-level state of the art in the unsophisticated technologies, and with the technical personnel trained since 1958 in the institutes of the China Academy of Science.

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