"Everydays" (A Progression Inspired by Jerome Kern)

Schoenhals, Michael

2013

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

Total number of authors: 1

General rights
Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.
• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
“Everydays”
(A Progression Inspired by Jerome Kern)

MICHAEL SCHÖNHALS
Lund University

Shortly before Christmas 2012, in a Beijing flea market and at a price, I was offered a cache of more than two thousand moth-eaten surveillance (“stake-out”) logs from the early 1950s emanating with the 1st Section of the municipal Bureau of Public Security in Harbin, Manchuria. Unable to figure out what to do with them, I turned the offer down. Only later did it dawn on the historian in me that the logs just might have been perfect as points of departure for a paper tracing the timelines and chronologies – and hopefully a fair deal more – of what everyday life had been like for two distinct urban categories of people in the early People’s Republic of China: the first, obviously, the targets of the surveillance themselves, but also the field officers tracing and recording their every movement. Bitterly regretting not having shelled out the money that my Manchurian Moose the Mooche had wanted and fearing that the cache, meanwhile, had been picked up by a more quick-witted garbologist, I hurriedly set out trying to re-establish contact. In the end, I was able to ascertain that nobody else had taken an interest in the logs during the holidays: in fact, the asking price for them had even gone down by a third! I closed the deal.

An impressive dusty pile of brittle yellow 7 by 5 inch slips of paper ended up on my desk and I eventually began the tactile/palaeographic process of distilling from it an academic paper. One of the primary surveillance targets, it turned out, was a Catholic priest of Korean descent by the name of Kim Shin Yeong in whose movements Harbin’s Public Security operational departments were particularly interested. His comings and goings and the activities of his circle of friends were monitored every day (except when it rained and at night) by a sizeable contingent of officers for well over two and a half years, beginning in June 1949. As of August 1950, the 1st Section also had an inoffizieller Mitarbeiter (a penetration agent, as he is referred to in the stake-out logs) positioned right next to Kim, a fellow Korean who is likely to have reported regularly on everything he saw and heard to his handlers, although his reports are not among the records available to me. The official Harbin History Chronicles (1999) state that Kim was in the end arrested on suspicion of having run a ring of stay-behind spies for the US imperialists, but my stake-out logs by themselves provide absolutely no evidence of hostile acts of any sort. Instead, they document no end of mundane and ordinary activities: the target goes to the local
market, prays regularly, chats with his members of his congregation, goes fishing, joins friends for dinner, returns home by tricycle, turns out the lights... Meanwhile, it is the field officers observing him who are leading travesties of normal lives: visibly bored and frustrated almost every day, tied down “observing” from dusk till dawn.

This is to become in due course a conventional paper, meant to show that perusing sixty year old stake-out logs may well serve as an alternative to anthropological time travel. At this point in time, however, it is still little more than a mind full of empathy and a chronological arrangement of some ridiculously raw records in translation. I am still exploring, including between the lines, the Alltag of my surveillance target(s), field officers, and the latter’s operational superiors. At our Fest in Seoul, I will improvise for thirty minutes on the basis these notes: I believe I am “on to” something, but have yet to decide how best to explain what that something is...

The target

As recorded on an undated Harbin municipal Bureau of Public Security “Criminal’s Registration Form.”

The Field Officers
“Given the surroundings and the large number of people in the house where the target [Kim Shin Yeong] lives who keep waiting around the entrance or milling about in the street in front, I am of the opinion that even though this may be a short-term operation, one should all the same seek to create some form of professional cover, such as managing a cigarette stall, and furthermore allow the field officer to move some distance away from the target so as not to risk exposure. I am voicing this opinion for the superior officers to consider.”


“In my opinion, the [operational] leadership should come up with a way of getting a look at the target themselves to make sure that he is indeed the person we are to keep under surveillance, so that we don’t waste our time.”

Field officer No. 31’s note at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated July 1, 1949.

“In my opinion, conditions permitting, this surveillance operation calls for an additional, second field officer. His involvement would make it easier to trail suspicious characters who visit the target’s residence, that we are to keep under surveillance, including those
two men who visited today and the woman in her twenties who visited yesterday. I am voicing this opinion for the superior officers to consider.”


“Today, after a traffic policeman had spotted us, and we feared we were about to be questioned, we had no option but to withdraw.”

Note by field officers Nos. 31 and 24 at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated July 24, 1949.

“Opinion: Tomorrow, we should [be permitted to] get a bicycle so that we can follow the [target’s] car. Getting on a bus will not do. We’ve already lost the target more than once that way.”

Note by field officers Nos. 43 and 47 at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated May 24, 1950.

“Note: The person from 12 River Police Road dressed in grey is seventeen years old, her name is Xu Zongshan, and from what I understand she’s learning to play the violin.”

Field officer No. 56’s note at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated October 18, 1950.

“The clandestine premises are located too far away, making surveillance difficult at times, which in turn impacts negatively on our work.”


“When Kim [Shin Yeong] leaves 160 [Nanxun Street] he sometimes does so through one of the other gates and then we miss him.”


“Note: We have not seen Zheng’s wife for two days (December 20th and 21st), so given the circumstances we believe she may have left the city. Today, Zheng did not appear until ten or eleven o’clock. On the morning of the 20th, dressed differently, Zheng came back around ten o’clock and may well have seen his wife off at the station.”

Note by field officers Nos. 55 and 56 at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated December 21, 1950.

“Kim [Shin Yeong] has not come out once since the 10th and neither has [illegible]. Could it be that they have fallen ill?”


“The observation post and the clandestine premises are too far apart: might it not be better to locate the premises closer to the observation post?”

“The clandestine premises and the observation post are too far apart, which is having an adverse effect on our work. In the future, would it be possible to choose the timber factory across the street, opposite the little chapel, as the location of clandestine premises for the use of the field officers?”

Field officer No. 67’s note at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated March 5, 1951.

“Today the target [Kim Shin Yeong] appeared dejected and in very low spirits, looking very depressed indeed, and nothing like the way he normally does. This deserves to be investigated.”


“Please bring a photograph of the Catholic father from Xiangfang city district so the field officers have something to go by and know what he looks like.”


“The old Chinese man in the Shanmei Hospital, perhaps he should be investigated once more to see if he has stayed there in the past?”

Field officer No. 14’s note at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated April 1, 1951.

“When Lü and Zhao Tie show up, we need somebody to follow [Zhao] to see what it is that they have bought him.”


“1. In my opinion, these clandestine premises should be abandoned. 2. We should alter the way in which we are going about this.”

Field officer No. 52’s note at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated July 15, 1951.

“In my opinion, the tricycle driver absolutely has to be in place by 9.30 or 9.40 P.M. at the latest, since otherwise his tricycle will not serve our intended [surveillance] purpose and we will simply be wasting manpower in addition to wearing out a cycle.”

Field officer No. 52’s note at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated July 24, 1951.

“The clandestine premises and our observation point are located too far apart. If and when the target appears and proceeds in an easterly direction, we all too easily lose contact.”
Note by field officers Nos. 54 and 14 at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated July 31, 1951.

“The signal light needs to be repaired urgently.”


“So-and-so’s uncle Zhao Bochuan, who lives at 108 South 6th Street, Daowai district, complains about the government and entertains anti-Soviet anti-Communist ideas. This should be investigated by the officers in the clandestine premises.”


“Note: When the target [Kim Shin Yeong] appeared today he carried in his hand an empty black cotton bag. Later, when he exited the offices of the Daoli district government we saw that the bag contained a large white paper package.”

Note by field officers Nos. 16 and 55 at the bottom of a Harbin Bureau of Public Security “Surveillance Report Form” dated September 21, 1951.

The Surveillance

Note: Each item below corresponds to a complete field officer’s daily log, translated in full. No redactions have been made.

“Today at 10 a.m., father [Kim Shin Yeong] exited his home and went by bus from 5th Street in the Jingyu city subdistrict to the Daoli district where he got off in front of the municipal government building. He visited the government offices for about half an hour, then went off to 9 China Street where he spent twenty minutes in the old hall, then continued from Shanggu Street by tricycle to somewhere around 175 Jingwei Street. We were unable to determine exactly where, and after that did not see him again, so we withdrew at 4 p.m.”

Tuesday, December 6, 1949. Catholic church on South 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officers Nos. 60 and 61 in position at 9 a.m., withdrew at 4 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“Today at 8:30 a.m., the target [Kim Shin Yeong] exited 160 Nanxun Street carrying a basket, proceeded to North 4th Street in the Jingyu city subdistrict where he waited for four minutes outside the Northeast Bank, until they opened. He then took a car from Jingyu in the direction of the Daoli district. As I was not able to get a car myself, I could not follow him. Later at 11:40 a.m., he returned home and after another twenty minutes went over to the Shanmei Hospital. At 1:15 p.m. he came out of the hospital in the company of the elderly father and went home. I did not see him again after that.”

Monday, December 12, 1949. Catholic church on South 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 61 in position at 7 a.m., withdrew at 5 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“Today at 8:50 a.m., father [Kim Shin Yeong] came out of the chapel at 160 Nanxun Street. From here he returned home, then came out again at 10:30 a.m., proceeded to South 5th Street where he called on a carpenter. After returning home, he then at 11:30 a.m. came out in the company of a stubby worker and went to the Shanmei Hospital
where he stayed until 1:15 p.m. when he returned home accompanied by the elderly father and the stubby worker. I did not see him again after that.”

**Tuesday, December 13, 1949.** Catholic church on South 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 61 in position at 7 a.m., withdrew at 5 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“Today at 8:50 a.m., father [Kim Shin Yeong] returned home from the chapel at 160 Nanxun Street. After that, I did not see him leave, but at 1:30 p.m. saw him returning home from the east end of Nanxun Street carrying a basket and a package wrapped in white paper. I did not see him again after that.”

**Thursday, December 22, 1949.** Catholic church on South 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 61 in position at 8 a.m., withdrew at 4:50 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“Today’s operational plan was to have us trail the elderly father, but he failed to appear. The target [Kim Shin Yeong] came out at 8:45 a.m. and went to 160 Nanxun Street from where, fifteen minutes later, he appeared and proceeded east along Nanxun Street. We did not follow him.”

**Wednesday, December 28, 1949.** Catholic church on South 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officers Nos. 61, 58, 60, and 54 in position at 7:20 a.m., withdrew at 5 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“After having exited the church at 160 Nanxun Street and crossed over to 100 6th Street (the church offices) at 6:30 a.m., Kim shortly after 8 a.m. returned to church, carrying a teapot in his hand, to have breakfast. About half an hour later, he came out and walked over to the hospital from where, ten minutes later, he went to No. 100 (and 6th Street). Then, shortly after 10 a.m., carrying a cloth bag, he proceeded east along Nanxun Street. We lost him. He returned from the same direction around 6 p.m., taking the cloth bag he was carrying with him into the church. (Why we lost him: firstly, he has contacts that live around 7th and 8th Street and he used to go there a lot in the past, except we don’t know to see whom; secondly, because our observation post is too far away, we don’t know where the target is headed when goes to visit his contacts. Tomorrow on 6th Street, as soon as the target appears, an officer should be waiting outside our clandestine premises and be ready to trail him.)”

**Thursday, May 25, 1950.** 160 Nanxun Street. Officers Nos. 43 and 47 in position at 5:30 a.m., withdrew at 6 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“Did not spot the big fat woman today.”

**Saturday, June 10, 1950.** Riverside city district. Officer No. 49 in position at 7:00 a.m., withdrew at 7:00 p.m. Mobile surveillance.
"Did not spot the big fat woman today."

_Sunday, June 11, 1950._ Riverside city district. Officer No. 49 in position at 7:00 a.m., withdrew at 6:40 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

"Kim appeared at 6:30 a.m. and together with the Russian man set off for the north shore. Around 7 o’clock (Comrade Zheng) spotted both of them on the north shore. Around 11 o’clock, together with the fat one and Lin [Defeng], the four of them with fishing rods in hand got into a little boat and went to beneath the River Bridge (off toward the west). Here they spent the day fishing until 6 p.m. when Lin and the fat one took the boat back while [Kim and the Russian man] sorted out their fishing rods, before also, at 7 p.m., proceeding to the fat one's place. After that, they remained out of sight until 8 p.m. when we returned to the Daowai city district. (It was already dark. They would definitely also have returned to Daowai.)"

_Monday, June 12, 1950._ 160 Nanxun Street. Officers Nos. 43 and 47 in position at 5:30 a.m., withdrew at 8:00 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

"Target [Lin Defeng] did not cross the river. At 10 o’clock, he left his home in the company of a fat Korean woman, an elderly Soviet man, and the Daowai father [Kim Shin Yeong]. The four of them took a little boat to a spot beneath the River Bridge where they spent the afternoon fishing. At 7 p.m. they returned home by boat."

_Monday, June 12, 1950._ Riverside city district. Officers Nos. 48 and 57 in position at 5:20 a.m., withdrew at 7:30 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

"Today the big fat woman went fishing down by the River Bridge with some people. She did not cross the river. She came out at 10 a.m. and returned at 7 p.m."

_Monday, June 12, 1950._ Riverside city district. Officer No. 49 in position at 5:20 a.m., withdrew at 7:00 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

"Did not spot the big fat woman today."

_Tuesday, June 13, 1950._ Riverside city district. Officer No. 49 in position at 5:30 a.m., withdrew at 6:50 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

"Did not spot the big fat woman today."

_Wednesday, June 14, 1950._ Riverside city district. Officers Nos. 48 and 57 in position at 5:30 a.m., withdrew at 7:00 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

"Did not see the target [Lin Defeng] crossing the river today."

_Thursday, June 15, 1950._ Riverside city district. Officer No. 49 in position at 7:00 a.m., withdrew at 6:40 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

"Did not spot the big fat woman today."

_Thursday, June 15, 1950._ Riverside city district. Officer No. 49 in position at 5:25 a.m., withdrew at 7:00 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

"From dawn until noon, no sign of Kim. I went to the north shore (where I talked to Comrade Zheng Jinshan) in search of him. After arriving yesterday, July 2, at the house of
the fat one on the north shore, [Kim Shin Yeong] did not return for the night to Daowai. This morning, July 3, he went fishing together with Lin [Defeng] in the middle of the river at 5 a.m. and again, this time together with the fat one, at 7 a.m. They went on fishing until 2 p.m. when [Kim Shin Yeong] returned to the home of the fat one. By 7 p.m., he had yet to cross the river again.”

Monday, July 3, 1950. 160 Nanxun Street. Officer No. 43 in position at 5 a.m., withdrew at 7:30 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“Kim did not return home last night, he’s still on the north shore. In the afternoon, he came out twice to fetch water. He has yet to return home.”

Tuesday, July 4, 1950. 160 Nanxun Street. Officer No. 43 in position at 5 a.m., withdrew at 6 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“Kim [Shin Yeong]. Shortly after 9 o’clock this morning, he went off together with the Korean woman from 173 Jingwei Street, Daoli district (I did not follow them), presumably to her home. At 1:20 p.m., he went to the fat one’s place on the north shore to pick some aubergines and then left around 1:50 (I was not following him at the time: Comrade Ren saw him). I saw him come home at five o’clock.”

Friday, July 28, 1950. 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officers Nos. 65 and 67 in position at 6:00 a.m., withdrew at 6:30 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“A Korean man wearing a blue worker’s cap arrived from Jingyu city subdistrict at the church (No. 160 Nanxun Street) at 7:13 a.m. Then, at 8:40, he walked over from No. 160 to No. 100, from where he has yet to emerge. Also, the Chinese man from 18th [sic] Street in Jingyu emerged from No. 160 at 8:40 a.m. and walked off in a northerly direction. In addition, there was a tall Korean man – maybe around 32 or 33 years of age with an eight-corner greenish cap on his head, wearing a greenish Sun Yat-sen jacket, white trousers and greenish vulcanized rubber shoes – who also emerged from No. 160 at 8:40 a.m., went to No. 100 for twenty minutes, and then returned to No. 160. I did not see him come out again after lunch.”

Sunday, August 13, 1950. 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 67 in position at 5:02 a.m., withdrew at 6:10 p.m. Static surveillance.

“The Korean man wearing the blue worker’s cap arrived at 6:30 a.m., then left at 7:40, walking off in a northerly direction. The Korean woman from [illegible] street arrived entering 100 [6th Street] at 10 a.m. and has not been seen again. Some Europeans from the Catholic church in Xiangfang city district arrived later at 2:40 p.m. and were not seen leaving, possibly because at 100 [6th Street] our primary target’s residence has too many gates.”

Friday, August 25, 1950. 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 67 in position at 5:30 a.m., withdrew at 8 p.m. Static surveillance.

“At 11:35 p.m. on January 25, our penetration agent boarded the train for Changchun. He arrived at 5:37 a.m. the following morning, January 26. He and Kim [Shin Yeong] went together by horse drawn cart to east 4th Street in Changchun municipality where they got off outside the Catholic church. Once they had entered the church, we [in turn] went to call on the municipal Bureau of Public Security’s 1st Section and asked them to take over mobile surveillance [in Changchun]. Later, at 9:30 a.m., our penetration agent came out and went to the Ningbo Street area where surveillance lost track of him. At 2:30 p.m. he returned to the Catholic church, came out again at four o’clock and in the crowds on
North Road, surveillance again lost track of him. (We have been unable to determine where he spent the night.)

At 2 p.m. the next day, January 27, our penetration agent exited the Catholic church (he had not been spotted entering it) and went to the Sanshang Club on Pearl River Road where he watched a movie. He came out when the movie was over and went to 48 Amoy Street for twenty minutes (we don’t know exactly who he called on), then onward to the Korean Cooperative on the same street for another twenty minutes, and finally to a three-storey building located behind the cooperative for about five minutes. Next he went to the Chinese-American Laundry at 2 Wusong Street for about fifteen minutes, and here he retrieved the leather briefcase he had carried with him [from Harbin] from a member of staff. We suspect he may have spent the previous night with that person. He then went back to Amoy Street and checked in at the Peace Hotel (which is run by Koreans) and was not seen again later that evening.

At noon, our penetration agent came out together with Kim [Shin Yeong] and a third person and went to visit the family of Wang Kai, the proprietor of apartment 31 in the building at 17 Rear Catholic Church Alley. Here they stayed for about five minutes, then they walked over to an apartment at 15 Rear Catholic Church Alley from where, after about four minutes, they left for 44 New Spring Street. Here our penetration agent stayed for about twenty minutes, at 2-31-3-3 Dongwan Alley, then walked over to East 3rd Street and the Pine and Bamboo Forest Hotel where he got into a car that took him back to the Catholic church. After that he was not seen again, neither that same night nor on any of the following two days, 29 and 30 January.

On 31 January, at 10 a.m., our penetration agent was seen returning to the Catholic church for about ten minutes. He then went to the Motherland Movie Theatre on 7th Street to see a movie. When the movie finished, he went to the Juyou Cooperative Dairy Outlet: exactly when he left there is not known. Subsequent inquiries suggest he may have left by the rear entrance at around 3 p.m. (according to a female employee). He returned to Harbin that same night together with Kim [Shin Yeong].”

_Thursday, January 25, until Wednesday, January 31, 1951. Report on visit to Changchun, drafted by field officer Shan Zhenyuan. Mobile surveillance._

“At 11:40 a.m., Kim [Shin Yeong], the worker wearing a white cap, and our penetration agent came out together. At 11:45 a.m., the three of them proceeded together to the Binheyuan Restaurant at 101 South 6th Street (arriving later were Lü, Li, and young Kim). At 1:20 p.m., Kim [Shin Yeong], the white worker’s cap, our penetration agent, and Lü went to the Shangzhi Movie Theatre where they saw a movie. At 3:45 p.m., Kim [Shin Yeong], our penetration agent, and the white worker’s cap reappeared. When they got to the Jingyu Street intersection, the penetration agent said goodbye to Kim and the white worker’s cap. At 3:50 p.m., Kim and the white worker’s cap were back at 100 6th Street.
At 6:10 p.m., they came out and went to 132 South 7th Road, from where they returned at 7:45 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 18, 1951.** 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 33 in position at 5:40 a.m., withdrew at 10:00 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“I did not see the target come out at all today. At 3:30 p.m., our penetration agent arrived and entered the target’s home. He left 100 [6th Street] at 4:30 and went over to 160 [Nanxun Street] from where I did not see him leave.”

**Friday, July 13, 1951.** 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 54 in position at 7:30 a.m., withdrew at 7:20 p.m. Static surveillance.

“Today our penetration agent arrived at 1:30 p.m. At 3 p.m., the target [Kim Shin Yeong] and the penetration agent came out of 160 [Nanxun Street] and walked over to 100 [6th Street] together. I did not see them again after that.”

**Saturday, July 14, 1951.** 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 54 in position at 7:00 a.m., withdrew at 7:00 p.m. Static surveillance.

“I did not see the target all day. At 3:30 p.m., our penetration agent appeared and entered 100 [6th Street].”

**Sunday, July 15, 1951.** 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 54 in position at 11:20 a.m., withdrew at 6:10 p.m. Static surveillance.

“I did not see [the target] come out today.”

**Sunday, July 15, 1951.** 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 52 in position at 4:00 a.m., withdrew at 9:15 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“I did not see [the target] come out today.”

**Monday, July 16, 1951.** 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Unidentified officer in position at 8:00 a.m., withdrew at 9:20 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“Today at 3:40 p.m. [Kim Shin Yeong] left his home and went to South 7th Street. I was unable to see which address he entered. He arrived back home again at 4:50 p.m.”

**Tuesday, July 17, 1951.** 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Officer No. 52 in position at 8:00 a.m., withdrew at 9:40 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

“[Kim Shin Yeong] left his home at 8:15 and went shopping (for groceries) by the Songjiang Theatre. He was back home again by 8:40.”

**Wednesday, July 18, 1951.** 100 6th Street, Daowai city district. Unidentified officer in position at 8:00 a.m., withdrew at 9:00 p.m. Mobile surveillance.

**The Desk Officers**

“Surveillance of Kim [Shin Yeong] is to be temporarily suspended. August 2 [1950].”

Senior officer’s comment on a “Surveillance Report Form” dated August 1, 1950, submitted by field officers Nos. 63 and 84.

“The man wearing the blue worker’s cap is our penetration agent.”
Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 67’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated August 17, 1950.

“The man wearing the blue worker’s cap is our penetration agent. The reason our primary target Kim [Shin Yeong] did not appear all day is because he was at home having a door fixed.”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 67’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated August 25, 1950.

“Tomorrow you shall be needing one more field officer, since by then the white worker’s cap will have arrived.”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated April 12, 1951.

“The man in the white worker’s cap is [father] Zhao Tie from Yanji municipality. Have somebody follow him.”

Senior officer Sun’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated April 13, 1951.

“You need to investigate the tall man called Zhang at 113 South 7th Street in Daowai city district again.”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated April 28, 1951.

“You need to investigate that post office employee and 55 Minyi Street [in Nangang city district] again.”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated May 12, 1951.

“You should let the field officers have a look at the photographs of the fathers in Kim’s church.”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated May 16, 1951.

“You need to investigate whether [father] Ren Fuwan really is staying with Kim.”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated May 17, 1951.

“We really need to find out exactly where Kim and Gao go every time they visit 160 Nanxun Street in Daowai.”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated May 19, 1951.

“The man from the Tianjin Post Office went to 55 Minyi Street [in the Nangang city district].”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 52’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated May 23, 1951.

“In the evening it is too dark, which makes static surveillance difficult. The best thing would be if it were possible, given past experience, to make use of [illegible].”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated May 25, 1951.

“When the comrades who should be doing mobile surveillance spend all day in the clandestine premises reading the newspaper, it impacts adversely on work.”

Senior officer’s comment on field officer No. 14’s “Surveillance Report Form” dated May 31, 1951.