



# HAMILTON WRIGHT ORGANIZATION, INC.

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## NEWSREEL CONTINUITY AND COMMENTARY

GOVERNMENT OF CHINA  
OFFICIAL NEWSREEL #11

HAMILTON WRIGHT  
NEWSREEL RELEASE #1042

EDITOR: Hongkong's untold and unnumbered hundreds of thousands of refugees from Red China are a living testimonial to the nature of life behind the Bamboo Curtain. Most gave up everything they owned just to escape. They left behind their families, household goods, friends, neighbors, and a way of life doomed to be uprooted by Communism. How they are living in Hongkong, Britain's last possession on the continent of Asia, is the substance of this film. It is a chronicle of misery tinged with hope, a tribute to the durability of the Chinese people under unimaginable deprivation and strain. This film was made by the Hamilton Wright Organization in cooperation with the Government of Nationalist China and is sent you GRATIS.

Filmed by MILTON MEADE	560 Feet - 35mm Fine Grain - Silent	Still pix by FRED MAUELER
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: For Release :  
: Thursday :  
: Jan. 22, 1959 :  
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HONGKONG'S REFUGEES MAKE BRITISH COLONY SEETHE

WITH BITTER MEMORIES, PRESENT FEARS:

MANY HAVE MADE GOOD, MANY MORE LIVE HAND-TO-MOUTH.

HONGKONG ... The population of this British colony set in the belly of Red China is in itself the barometer of China's state of mind, and today the needle points, unsurprisingly enough, to discontent. Of her present population of 2,700,000, perhaps

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a million are refugees from Communism. Thousands of families of ten or more, married couples with or without children, and single individuals have given up varying statuses in mainland China to settle in Hongkong with little, much, or nothing of their previous belongings.

A devastating fire in a densely-packed squatter area wiped out the makeshift homes of 53,000 people on Christmas night, 1953, finally forcing the Hongkong government to set about definite plans for housing the apparently unending stream of newcomers from across the frontier of Red China. Because the United Nations does not consider the immigrants from Red China bonafide refugees, no international funds have been provided for their support. Result: Hongkong carries the entire burdem herself.

The squatter areas lack any semblance of streets or walkways, livestock cohabit the miserable rooms with their human owners, and the process of birth and death proceeds mid the constant mealtime cooking of whatever rice and vegetables the families may have gotten by peddling or manual labor. There are few jobs the breadwinner may seek, and there are too many seeking them. Despair wears an untroubled look on the patient Chinese countenance, but both the British and the Chinese officials bearing the brunt of the refugee problem attest that most of these people have no higher hope than day-to-day survival. Public funds are limited and private philanthropies, except for various Christian church missions, are almost non-existent.

Where they once dallied with privately constructed 'cottages' for the refugees, the hard-pressed British administrators can now look back on five years of grandiose and eye-filling construction: gigantic H-shaped settlement 'blocks,' seven storeys high, with shops on the ground floors and schools on the roofs. Fireproof, rigidly supervised (each room has a picture of the occupants, their names, and a posted rent receipt), the great terraced buildings are a striking, unforgettable part of the new Hongkong landscape. They teem with the tireless throngs that spell the name of China to anyone who has been there, the multifarious and unending movements of the people at work and at play, the bubbling of teapots and the mysteries of food cooking according to the varying traditions of Canton, Soochow, Shanghai, Szechwan, and the rest of China's universe.

The settlers are those who squatted on the site before it was cleared of the packing boxes, flattened kerosene cans, and corrugated iron sheets that comprised the squatter 'city'. Many of them live on the earnings of regular jobs in Hongkong's new factories, but all too many live precariously by hawking foods and gimcracks in the swarming streets of the colony.

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Rooms in the 'resettlement estates' are of varying sizes: for \$1.60 per month a family of three to four adults will share a 7x12 room, for \$2.35 monthly 4½ to 5½ adults share a 10x12 room (a child under ten years old is considered half an adult). For as much as \$4.70 per month ten adults, sometimes of two different families, share a 12x20 room. These rentals will not only pay current expenses of operating the 'estates,' but they will also in time repay the entire cost of the land and the buildings. The rooms are admittedly inadequate, but are considered a kind of permanent emergency quarters. With most of the inhabitants working irregularly, fortunate to earn \$20 or more per month, the rents are low but not nominal.

Nearly 250,000 people, or 9% of the population, now live in these enormous 'resettlement estates,' but another 360,000, or 13% of Hongkong's people, are still squatters: living and breeding in the hill-grappling huts overlooking one of the world's most beautiful harbors.

Another 5%, or 135,000 people, are 'boat-dwellers', who live their entire lives afloat. A small percentage of these are relatively prosperous, owning motor-driven junks that bring in enough fish to sustain entire families from their revenues, but most of these people live as marginally as their compatriots in the squatter shacks. An undetermined, uncounted number of them are refugee fisher-folk from Red China, who fled to Hongkong rather than join the oppressive fishermen's communes, which require the individualistic 'boat-people' to hand over their hard-won catches to the government. Speaking what amounts to their own dialect, marrying only within their own kind, China's 'boat-people' are illiterate and unpolitical; their dislike for Communism, however, is based on the same grounds of personal harrassment asserted by the other refugees.

But rich, poor, or middle-class, the refugee from mainland China is consumed by the daily fear of what may happen to his relatives still behind the Bamboo Curtain, what may indeed happen to him if he is too outspoken. The flags of Nationalist China fly defiantly from the shacks, the apartment houses, and the sampans, but the Communist agents are ever present. Contacts between the Chinese in Hongkong and any westerners, the British included, are few and generally official in nature.

FOLLOWING IS THE CORRECT NEWSREEL ASSEMBLY:

- ✓ 1. LS PAN - Harbor of Hongkong showing Kowloon in background
2. LS - Downtown Hongkong - harbor in background -- tall building to right center is Communist Bank of China.
- ✓ 3. STREET RUNNING SHOTS - Downtown Hongkong

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- ✓ 4. OVERHEAD LS and MS - Open market area at Chuk Yuen resettlement area
- ✓ 5. RUNNING SHOT - Past open-air sidewalk markets as refugee Chinese display a variety of food
6. MS - Looking up arched street from old Kowloon area
7. MLS - One of the many narrow streets in old Kowloon sector
- ✓ 8. MLS - Chinese junk entering typhoon shelter of Wau Ma Ti
9. LSPAN - Some 5,000 junks and sampans harbored at Wau Ma Ti where some 40,000 persons live aboard the boats
- ✓ 10. MS - Two Chinese refugees rowing their boat
- ✓ 11. MCU - Chinese mother rowing her sampan
- ✓ 12. MS - Young son stands by as mother rows boat
- ✓ 13. MS - Young girls ferrying refugees back and forth to their junks
14. LS - Lashed side to side - some Chinese junks proudly display the Nationalist Chinese flag
15. OVERHEAD MS - Chinese woman aboard her sampan painting some boards
16. MS - Woman with crude hatchet trying to cut a piece of wood
17. MS PAN - Life aboard the sampans - washing and sleeping all on the same deck
18. MLS - Youngsters arrive with their boats to fill the water pails
19. MS - Children waiting at the faucet until rationed water is turned on again
20. LS - Newly completed Tai Lam Chung reservoir holding 4½ billion gallons of water - still not enough for the rapidly growing population of refugees
21. CU - Dam marker
22. LS PAN - From dam top to reservoir
23. MLS PAN - Two farmers near the Communist border at Lok Ma Chau turn their backs to keep their picture from being made - PAN to closed area sign
24. MCU PAN - Young Chinese children - hakas - wearing typical native hats

25. LS PAN - Red China - Sham Chun River separating the New Territories of Hongkong from the mainland
26. TELEPHOTO SHOT - Showing Communist town of Kak Tim in background
- ✓ 27. LS PAN - Chuk Yuen resettlement area - new apartments for refugees from the mainland
- ✓ 28. MLS - Same
- ✓ 29. MLS - Apartment balcony showing wash hanging out - apartments have central water and toilets for the dwellers
- ✓ 30. LS - Apartment buildings in Hongkong showing squatters on rooftops
- ✓ 31. MS and TELEPHOTO SHOT - Same
- ✓ 32. LS - New modern apartments and hillside squatters living in shanties in background
- ✓ 33. PAN - From modern apartments to squatters in background
34. MS - Shanties
35. LS - Refugee children attending school at the Bishop Ford Memorial School
36. PAN SHOT - Children exercising
37. PAN SHOT - Classroom
38. HEAD CU - Girl student
39. MCU - Chinese instructors - the school handles 2,500 students in three sessions which include adult courses in the evening
- ✓ 40. LS PAN - Some of the 25,000 families registered at the Bishop Ford Food Center to receive flour noodles
41. MS - Father Howard D. Truve, M.M. from New York City, passing out flour noodles
42. MS PAN - Mothers and children waiting in line to receive their quota of nodles. The Bishop Ford Food Center, operated by Catholic Relief Services under the direction of the Maryknoll Fathers, distributes 10,000 five-pound bags of flour noodles per month.
43. CU - Sign "FOOD PRODUCTS DONATED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S.A. THROUGH THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES. NOT TO BE SOLD OR EXCHANGED."

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44. CU - Bag of noodles PAN TO HEAD CU - Father Truve. The Center fixes the flour into noodles in order that the Chinese refugees can prepare them. Present day noodle production can only supply each family with noodles every 2½ months.
- ✓ 45. MS - Aged women waiting in line
46. MS - Father Truve passing out flour noodles to young mother with baby on back
47. MS - Aged woman receiving noodles - two takes
- ✓ 48. HEAD CU - Grandmother with grandchild on back
49. EX-CU HEAD - Child
50. HEAD CU - Little girl with little brother on her back waiting for noodles
51. HEAD CU - Young Chinese refugee baby

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