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Submitted by:

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Regulation Governing Film Censorship Promulgated 4190
By The "Reformed Government of China"

According to an article appearing on February 23, 1940, in the Sin Shun Pao, a Japanese-owned Chinese language newspaper published in Shanghai, the Ministry of the Interior of the so-called Reformed Government in Nanking recently established a Film Censorship Office. A set of provisional regulations governing the censorship of films (both domestic and imported) was drawn up and submitted to the Executive Yuan of the regime for approval. According to the press account, the regulations have now been approved for enforcement. A *translation of the text of these regulations reads as follows:

Article 1. - The censorship of films shall be carried out in accordance with these Regulations.

Article 2. - Films, no matter whether they are manufactured at home or abroad, shall not be screened unless they are examined and approved.

Article 3. - Approval of films for public exhibition shall not be given if they:-

- (a) Contain parts that are detrimental to the prestige of China.
- (b) Contain parts that are objectionable to the peace of East Asia.
- (c) Impair good custom or public safety.
- (d) Promote superstition or false beliefs.

Article 4. - The Provisional Regulations Governing the Film Censorship Office will be drawn up separately.

Article 5. - Owners of Chinese or foreign made pictures shall, prior to the public exhibition of the films, submit two copies each of the applications and of the scenarios together with the films in question to the Film Censorship Office for examination.

*No responsibility is assumed for the accuracy of this translation.

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Article 6. - The application shall mention the following matters:

- (a) Name of film and its intended place of showing. In the case of a foreign made film, the original name and the translation should both be mentioned.
- (b) Length of the film.
- (c) Value of the film.
- (d) Date and place of manufacture.
- (e) Names, addresses and brief histories of manufacturers and principal performers.
- (f) Name, address and brief history of the applicant.

Article 7. - Whenever a film, on examination, is regarded as not contravening the stipulations defined in Article 3 of these Regulations, the Film Censorship Office shall issue a permit for public exhibition.

Article 8. - The film permit will be effective for a period of three years. An application for re-examination shall be made at the expiry of the period. No new permit will be issued if a film during re-examination, is found to have deteriorated.

In the case of a permit, during its effective period, having been damaged or lost, application may be made for the issue of a new one.

Article 9. - Before the screening of a film, whose public exhibition has been approved, the manager of the theatre shall submit the permit to the competent educational organization in the district for inspection free of charge.

Article 10. - Whenever it is desired to change the name of place of showing of a film possessing a permit for public exhibition, application for re-examination shall be made according to these Regulations.

Article 11. - The Film Censorship Office may, for inspection purpose, detail deputies, bringing censorship certificates with them, to the place where the film is up for public exhibition.

These deputies may ask the manager of the theatre for permission to inspect the copyright of the film and its permit.

Article 12. - A fine of not more than *yuan 300 may be imposed on applicants or theatre managers who violate these Regulations.

Article 13. - In the censorship of films, the Film Censorship Office will collect a censorship fee of yuan 20 for every 500 meters. Films that are less than 500 meters in length will be regarded as being of that length.

In the case of applications for re-examination as mentioned in the first paragraph of Article 8 and in the case of applications for re-examination as mentioned in Article 10 after the films have been changed, double censorship fee shall be paid. No censorship fee, however, will be collected in the case of a Chinese film, but if necessary, a fee of not more than yuan 15 may be collected for every film.

Article 14. - The rules governing the enforcement of these Regulations will be defined separately.

Article 15. - These Regulations will be put into force from the date of their promulgation by the Ministry of Interior.

These regulations are basically the same as those enforced by the National Government's film censorship board at Nanking prior to its withdrawal from the former national capital. However, the manner in which Article 3 of the so-called Reformed Government's regulations is worded is such that it may conveniently be interpreted to be applicable to any situation deemed detrimental to the best interests of East Asia. Article 11 is somewhat of a departure from the National Government's regulations although during the period its censor officials continued to function in Shanghai approximately the same procedure as outlined in Article 11 was observed due to the distributors' inability to ship films to Nanking as a result of the hostilities. Under normal circumstances, however, it was

*At today's exchange rate, 1 yuan or Standard Chinese Dollar is equivalent to approximately US\$0.06-13/16.

not the usual procedure as all films were required to be submitted to the Film Censorship Board at Nanking.

The Film Board of Trade (China), an organization which represents the 8 major American film companies, reported that up to the present time only a few American films have been exhibited in Japanese controlled territory such as Nanking and Hangchow. In these instances censorship by Japanese officials took place in the theater in which the pictures were to be exhibited. No censor fee was charged. In addition, American films are occasionally shown in the Hongkew section of Shanghai. So far no fees have been charged and censorship is also conducted at the place of exhibition. Generally speaking, American motion pictures have not been exhibited in Japanese controlled territory in Central China, and it is doubtful if the Film Board of Trade (China) will recognize or concede the legitimacy of these recently promulgated regulations should the so-called Reformed Government actually attempt to enforce them.

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