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## FAR EAST

3. Epidemics among Communist troops reported in northwestern Korea:

[redacted] the North Korean VIII Corps, after reorganizing in the Sinuiju-Uiju area, moved during early March to an area east of Pyongyang. The general morale of the understrength corps is low and about 30 percent of the troops "are bedridden with typhoid fever or typhus." A high mortality rate exists among these diseased patients.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Comment: Some substance is lent to this report by a fragmentary 6 March message on the Russian GCI net in northwestern Korea reporting an outbreak of typhus in this general area.

While the existence of epidemics in North Korea cannot be determined, a lack of sanitary conditions and preventive measures and a shortage of medical personnel have probably made conditions ripe for an epidemic.

The present whereabouts of the North Korean VIII Corps are unknown, although recent reports have indicated that it was in the process of reorganization in northwestern Korea.

4. High-level inspection to be carried out in North Korean Army soon: In a 14 March message, an unidentified North Korean regiment informed a subordinate unit that the "division" would carry out a preliminary inspection on 1 April "in order to satisfactorily meet the Supreme Headquarters inspection."

In this same regard, a 16 March message, probably from the North Korean VII Corps in the Wonsan-Hamhung area, reported that "National inspection will be opened from the 17th day. Prepare for it sufficiently." (SUEDE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea ALT-845, 15 Mar; 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, SK-H-747, 17 Mar 52)

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Comment: This impending high level inspection may indicate the culmination of the extensive training and reorganization program which has been going on in the North Korean Army in past months.

5. Communists continue organizing to meet threat of BW: A Chinese Communist message on 15 March reported that "a certain unit has discovered a large concentration of plague germs. Many people have been afflicted with this undiagnosed disease and already several persons have succumbed with the illness." Another Chinese Communist unit on 14 March listed four preventive measures for carrying out the "anti-small-pox campaign" and the "anti-plague program."

Meanwhile, a 17 March North Korean message detailed preventive steps to be taken by subordinate units "to prevent various diseases which may intrude into here by the new weapons used by the enemy." These measures included establishment of infectious disease hospitals, cooperation with local governments in the anti-epidemic campaign, stricter hygienic discipline, isolation of infected units, high priority reporting of the outbreak of disease, and strict observation of "enemy aircraft . . . of bacterial bombs." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-1499, 17 Mar; K-1500, 17 Mar; SK-H-768, 18 Mar 52)

6. North Korean food economy measures not as harsh as previously reported: A more accurate translation of a 15 March North Korean message (see Special Intelligence Supplement, 18 March, Item 4) concerning economy in food consumption has been received. The message urges conservation of provisions in the military establishment and decrees that "50 grams of meat and 800 grams of rice" will be "deducted" from each man's monthly ration. The previous translation indicated that each man's monthly ration would be "limited" to "509 grams of meat and 800 grams of rice." (SUEDE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-897, 17 Mar 52)

Comment: While this new translation still indicates a shortage of food in North Korea, the deduction of roughly one day's ration per month is not nearly as severe as the measures suggested by the previous interception.

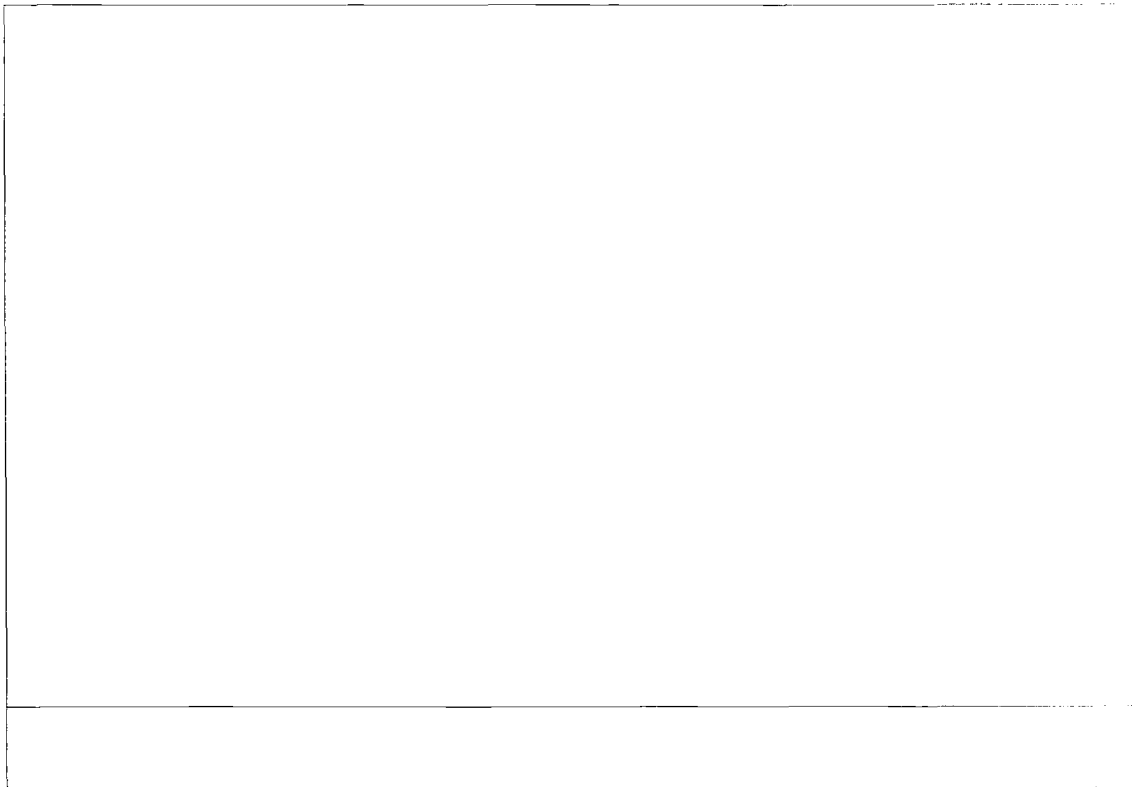
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7. Chinese MIG-15's move to Korean border: Twenty-seven MIG-15's, probably of the Chinese Communist 17th Air Division, were scheduled to fly from Tangshan in North China to Tatungkou near Antung on 17 March. Thirteen MIG's of this division left Tangshan for Manchuria on 9 March. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 55, 2100Z, 18 Mar 52)

Comment: Since the 17th Division is equipped with about 50 MIG-15's, its transfer will raise the total enemy jet strength at Antung and Tatungkou to nearly 250, a record number. The 17th may, however, replace a combat-depleted unit in the area; rotation of this nature has occurred before.

Aircraft of the 17th Division were noted in an advanced stage of training in February. On 26 February they practiced releasing auxiliary fuel tanks, the first intercepted reference to auxiliary tanks on MIG-15's.



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