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FAR EAST

5. Communist units in Korea report various diseases: During the period 12 through 20 March, Communist units in North Korea reported a variety of diseases, ranging from smallpox to night blindness.

Although on 12 March the supply organization of the Chinese Communist 7th Artillery Division reported that only four men had smallpox out of a total of 519, a garbled 15 March message from this same unit reported that deaths occurred from the outbreak and that the unit was powerless to combat the disease.

Similarly, a 20 March North Korean message mentioned a civilian death from "pest" in Hamhung and the occurrence of "pest" and cholera in another northeastern Korean area. A North Korean battalion in the Hamhung area on 19 March reported only six soldiers as patients, four of them for surgery.

An unidentified Chinese Communist regiment on 17 March reported that 122 persons were afflicted with night blindness, due primarily to a vitamin deficiency, and requested that "some night blindness medicine" be issued. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, SK-H-866, 20 Mar; SK-H-945, 22 Mar; K-1570, 21 Mar; K-1602, 22 Mar; K-1578, 21 Mar 52)

6. Organization and location of North Korean jet division revealed: AFSA analysis of Chinese Communist flight reports has revealed the organization and locations of the North Korean 1st (jet-equipped) Air Division.

One regiment of 26 MIG-15's, commanded by Kang Taeyon and located at Antung airfield, is flying combat training flights in North Korea. The other regiment of 24 MIG-15's, commanded by Yang Tuhi and located at Anshan, was last observed in training. (SUEDE KC/CAP-15, 22 Mar 52)

7. Entire North Korean corps alerted to capture defector from Political Ministry: On 20 March the "Chief of Security Section," probably of the North Korean IV Corps, informed the "Security Section chief, each division and brigade" of the desertion "to the 38th parallel" of Li Un Un (?), who had

25 Mar 52

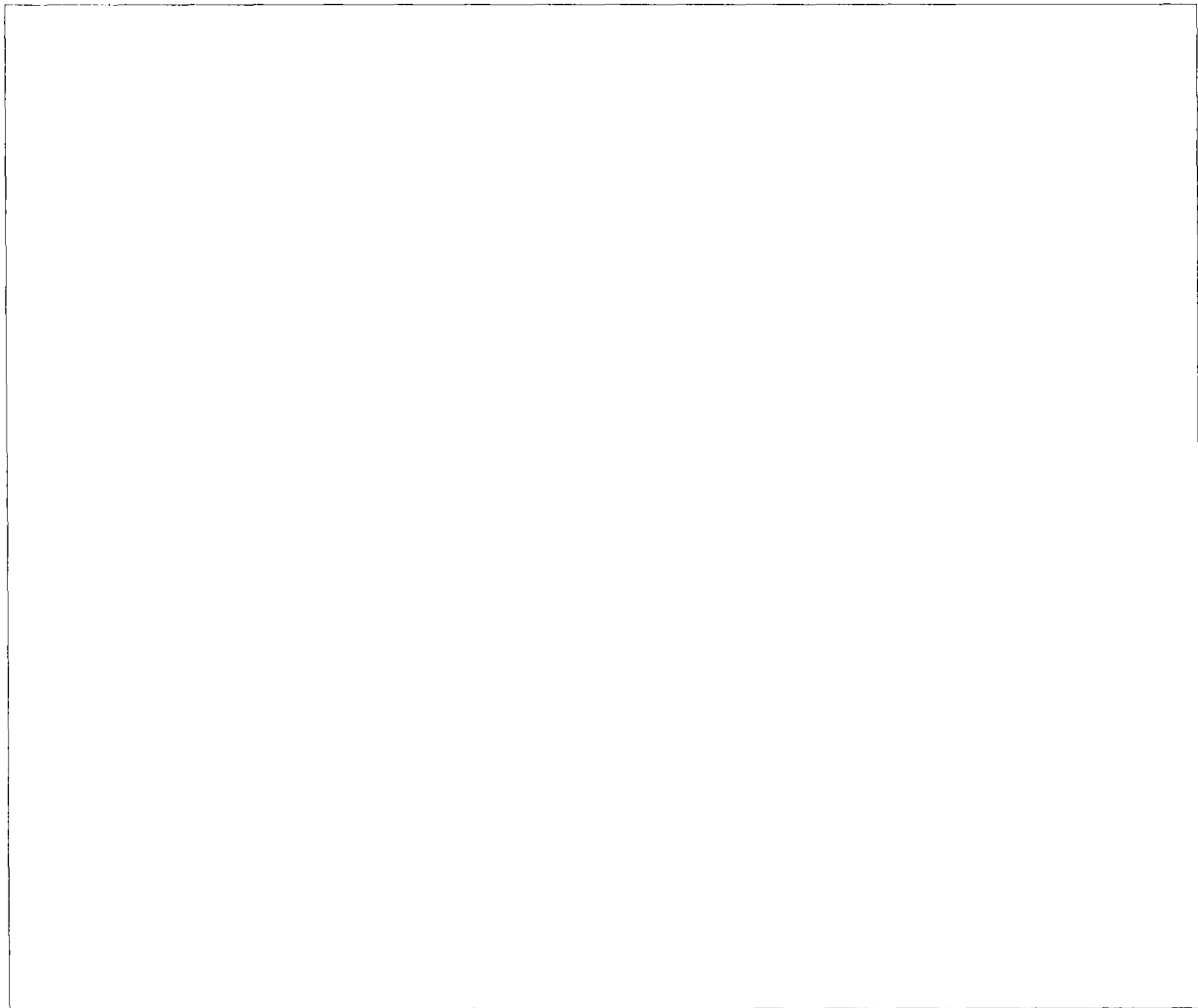
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served with the "Political Ministry." All efforts were to be made to capture him. (SUEDE [redacted]-2972, 22 Mar 52)

Comment: The apparent alerting of an entire North Korean corps, the first time such a procedure has been noted, illustrates the importance attached to preventing the defection of this individual, probably a member of the Ministry of Social Security. The North Korean Air Force has demonstrated a similar high level of security discipline in its efforts to prevent the desertion of personnel in sensitive positions.



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