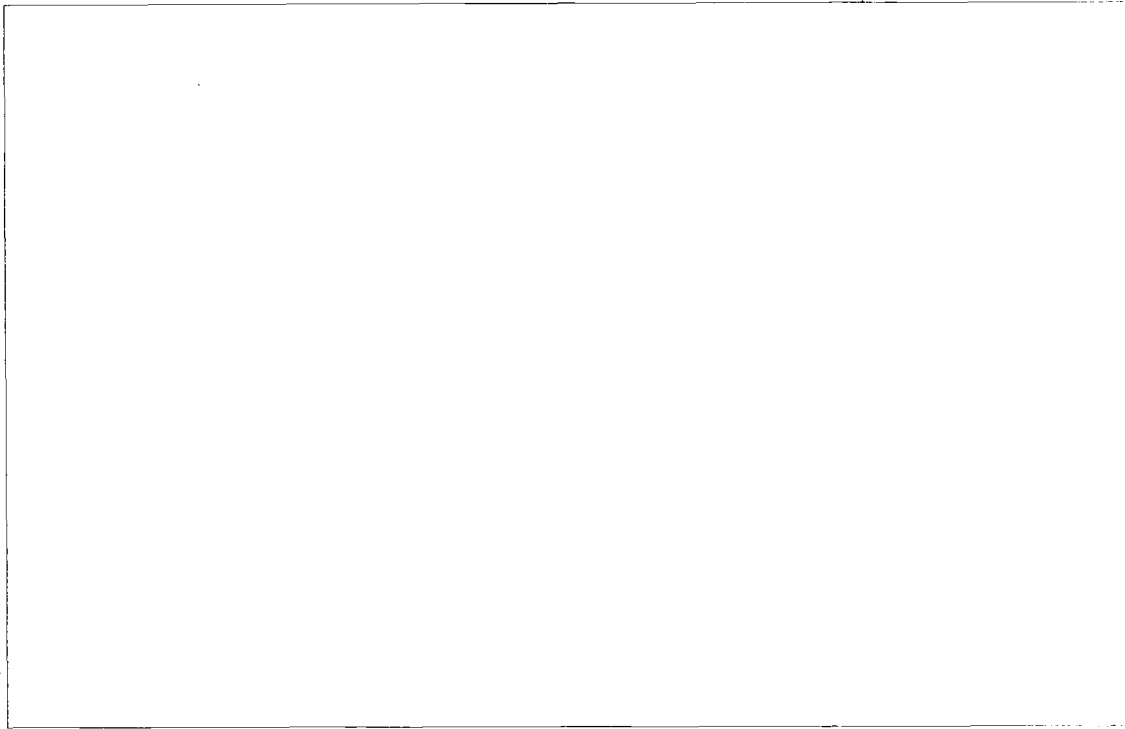


~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

29 Mar 52  
CIB

NR



FAR EAST

2. Chinese Communist division in Korea receives gas masks:

Chinese Communist  
Military  
22 Mar 52  
SUEDE

A Chinese Communist 7th Artillery Division message on 22 March gives instructions on the issue of gas masks. The message refers to the receipt of 500 "American-type" gas masks and 500 tubes of anti-gas ointment.

*501 Comm. Recon  
Korea*

*K-1716*

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: 24-Mar-2010

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**Comment:** This is the first observed reference in Communist communications in Korea to chemical warfare defense equipment. It is possible that the arrival of this equipment is linked with the recent expansion of Communist charges of American use of biological warfare in Korea to include use of chemical warfare.

Gas masks are not believed to be standard equipment in either the Chinese Communist or North Korean army. The small size of this issue in relation to the 7,000 to 8,000 men in the 7th Artillery Division may indicate an initial delivery.

3. North Korean Air Force increases activity at Sariwon:

US Air Force  
25 Mar 52  
SECRET

AX - 3618

United Nations aerial reconnaissance on 24 March disclosed that two airfields in the Sariwon area, 35 miles south of Pyongyang, had been repaired and that their runways were operational.

**Comment:** An 11 January North Korean Air Force message from Sariwon reported that three "practice airfields" were suitable for training; it also indicated that aircraft were to be ferried into and disassembled in the Sariwon area.

Although a 6 March North Korean Air Force message from Sariwon indicated that unsatisfactory conditions necessitated permission "to transfer. . . the training planes," a 10 March message from Pyongyang reported that "we dismantled the (main parts?) and transferred them to number two."

The enemy's unwillingness, thus far, to provide adequate jet fighter coverage this far south would seem to rule out Sariwon's utility as an operational Communist airfield. It is possible, however, that the Communists are seeking to establish operational air installations within North Korea either in anticipation of a cease-fire or in preparation for a renewed offensive.

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~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~