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FAR EAST

12. USSR reportedly will reassert right to a naval base in Korea: [redacted]

[redacted] the USSR plans to build a strong base at Wonsan immediately following the completion of Korean truce talks.

This strong base allegedly will be needed to protect petroleum shipments from Sakhalin through the Sea of Japan from the "potential threat of a Japanese Navy." [redacted] 18 July 52)

Comment: Prior to the outbreak of the Korean war there were [redacted] reports indicating that the USSR had signed a long-term lease with North Korea for the use of various ports as naval bases. During the brief occupation of North Korea by UN troops in late 1950, documents were found which indicated that North Korea had leased the ports of Najin, Unggi, and Chongjin to the Soviet Union for purely commercial purposes. There is no indication that organized Soviet naval units ever garrisoned any of these ports.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 23-Feb-2010