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FAR EAST

10. Soviet marines reportedly cross border to protect two North Korean ports: Two battalions of Soviet marines with coastal and antiaircraft artillery pieces moved into the Najin-Unggi port region in the Soviet-Korean border area between 1 and 9 July, [redacted] (22 July 52)

Comment: While this information cannot be confirmed, it is possible that defensive Soviet units have moved across the border into this area. [redacted] indicated a northward movement of North Korean Army elements from the Wonsan-Hamhung area to the Songjin-Chongjin area, possibly as a coastal defense measure.

The Namin-Unggi area has been used by the Soviets in the past for commercial reasons and frequent reports during the last two years have alleged that small Soviet military service units garrison these ports.

11. Chinese Army Day slogans continue to minimize ties with USSR: The 24 official slogans for the 25th anniversary of the Chinese People's Liberation Army praise the army and the Chinese Communist Party and their leaders; decry the American "invasion" of Formosa, "stalling" in the Korean truce talks, rearmament of Japan and preparations for war; and call for improving the armed forces in various ways, among them further study of Marxism-Leninism and "internationalism." [redacted]

Comment: These slogans do not depart significantly from those of last year; they continue the trend, first noted in July 1951, of minimizing the regime's bonds with the USSR. In contrast to 1950, neither the Soviet Union nor Stalin is mentioned in the 1951 and 1952 slogans, although the current ones reflect Peiping's subscription to orthodox ideology.

There has been and is no reliable evidence of a decline in the strength and warmth of the Sino-Soviet alliance. Among the possible explanations of the past year's propaganda trend are Communist consciousness of the strength of Chinese nationalism, a Sino-Soviet interest in building up the prestige of Communist China as Asian leader as a counter to Japan, or a shift in Asian Communist tactics.

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