

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~

FAR EAST

3. Preparations for 15 August celebration under way in North Korea: A 9 August message on the 24th North Korean antiaircraft artillery net queried "shall I mobilize one vehicle to receive the ammunition for the 15 August ceremony? I will dispatch the musicians. . . . at this time." Another recent message detailed the provisions to be made available for the celebration. (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALA-625, 10 Aug 52)

Comment: The 15th of August is the anniversary of Korea's liberation from the Japanese and is celebrated in both the North and South. No significant enemy activity is anticipated on 15 August, although one recent POW stated that Chinese units were alerted for a "push against the UN lines" and that they expected to "have Seoul by 15 August."

4. Joint North Korean-Chinese unit mentioned in message: On 8 August the 2nd Battalion of the North Korean 21st Brigade ordered a subordinate unit on the Ongjin Peninsula to "report about the spy who came from Mu-do. . . whom the 81st Unit captured." (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, 15RSM/1735, 8 Aug 52)

Comment: The 81st Unit is allegedly a joint North Korean-Chinese organization of army group size (100,000 men) which was formed in Manchuria in the past few years. It has been reliably reported that the divisional-strength "9th Branch Unit," subordinate to the 81st Unit, is garrisoning portions of western Korea.

5. High-level inspection in west Korea may forecast more amphibious operations: The commander of the 2nd Battalion of the North Korean 21st Brigade was ordered on 8 August to come to headquarters for "inspection at the General Bureau of the Corps." The battalion commander was instructed to bring with him the "wooden boat situation." (CANOE 15RSM/1714 Korea, 10 Aug 52)

Comment: The presence in the 21st Brigade sector of high ranking officers from the North Korean IV Corps has been previously reported. The reference to the "wooden boat situation" may indicate that further amphibious operations are being planned.

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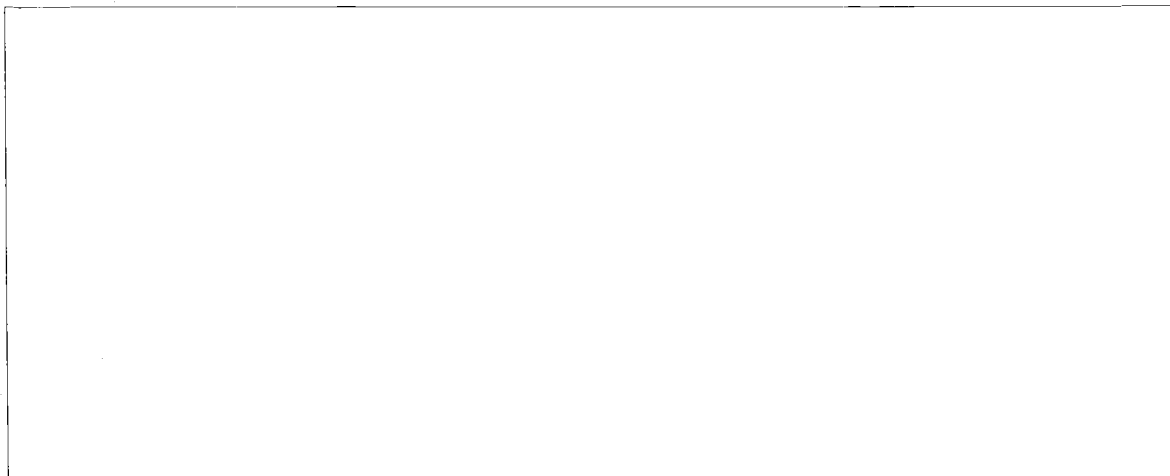
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6. North Korean foraging processes noted: An unidentified supply officer on 10 August informed a unit of the North Korean 23rd Brigade that if the latter had "trouble" obtaining meat and poultry from civilian officials in the Ongjin area, the unit was authorized to procure food in the Sinchon area. The intercept also stated that the addressee would, receive 600 kilograms of meat and poultry from a "peoples (poultry farm?)" by 12 August. (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-632, 11 Aug 52)

Comment: This message points out the local foraging practices of North Korean army units, which probably contribute to the already great distress of the civilian population.

7. Iron ore mine in North Korea operating in limited capacity: A battalion commander of the 21st Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment on 7 August informed a subordinate unit that "when the one mobilized vehicle comes to Tanchon, load it with ore from the mines." (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-571, 8 Aug 52)

Comment: There are many magnetite-bearing deposits in the vicinity of Tanchon, but most of them are small. Before the war these mines produced only about 5,000 to 6,000 metric tons of iron ore. According to a report, the little ore that is currently being mined is exported to the Soviet Union.



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