

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~

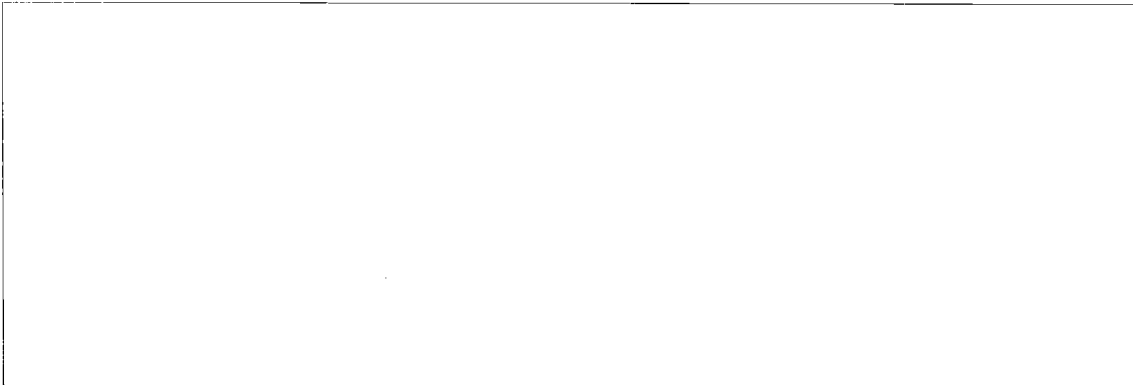
FAR EAST

7. Chinese Communist unit in Korea to begin chemical warfare training: A Chinese Communist message of 20 September passed between two units, possibly subordinate to the 7th Artillery Division, stated that "our regiment's chemical (warfare?) students. . .will begin training tomorrow." Each battalion commander is ordered to inform the trainees that they should bring their gas masks with them to the training area where special clothing would be issued. (CANOE L []/T-683, 22 Sept 52)

Comment: Previous references to the issuance of gas masks have appeared in Chinese Communist messages, and it is believed that this defensive training is carried on principally for propaganda value.

8. Chinese Communist units in Korea apparently conducting major ordnance check: The Chinese Communist 21st Artillery Regiment, 7th Artillery Division, was ordered on 18 September to report by that afternoon on the number and condition of its rifles, revolvers and submachine guns. (CANOE L []/T-639, 21 Sept 52)

Comment: A spate of similar messages has been noted recently which indicate that the Communists are conducting a major ordnance maintenance check in Korea. This survey, to be completed by the third week in September by most units, may in part be motivated by a desire to assess the effects of the rainy season on small arms.



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24 Sept 52

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