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23. Peiping to observe anniversary of intervention in Korean conflict: The Peiping radio designated 26 October as the anniversary of the participation of Chinese "volunteers" in the Korean conflict, and directed Chinese groups to hold rallies to promote the "plane and gun drive for Korea." Peiping specified that propaganda on the occasion should stress opposition to US policy toward Japan, US "obstruction" of the Kaesong talks, and US "occupation" of Formosa. ([redacted] 13 Oct 51)

Comment: Current Chinese Communist propaganda does not commit the Peiping regime to the expulsion of UN forces from Korea or even to a renewed offensive, although it continues to warn the Chinese people that further Chinese operations in Korea may prove necessary.

24. KOREA. Captured North Korean officer reports seeing MIG aircraft parts in cave north of Pyongyang: A captured North Korean lieutenant colonel stated that on 17 August he took refuge from UN bombing attacks in a cave about 20 miles north of Pyongyang. While in the cave, which was guarded by a Chinese Communist soldier, he observed approximately 15 large crates. One open crate was observed to contain "a wing, or wings" of an aircraft. A North Korean interpreter informed the colonel in "utmost secrecy" that there were some "200 caves, containing MIG aircraft." The area was guarded by two battalions of Chinese Communist troops. [redacted]

[redacted] while reports have been received indicating an accumulation of aircraft supplies and preparation of airfields for a movement of aircraft into Korea, it does not seem "plausible" that the enemy is in a secure enough position to have placed such a large supply of aircraft parts in Korea. ([redacted] 12 Oct 51)

Comment: In mid-June a Chinese Communist lieutenant colonel, who defected recently to the UN, observed five jet aircraft operating from a well-camouflaged airfield about ten miles north of this reported aircraft parts stockpile. [redacted] The existence of this airfield, however, has never been confirmed.

25. Communists mount antiaircraft on trains: On 9 October a UN naval plane operating against enemy lines of communications south of Wonsan on the east coast received intense, accurate fire from anti-aircraft weapons mounted on a train. The Far East Air Force comments that such defensive measures were used extensively by combatants in World War II and are considered to be an extremely effective method of defending trains against air attacks." ([redacted] 12 Oct 51)

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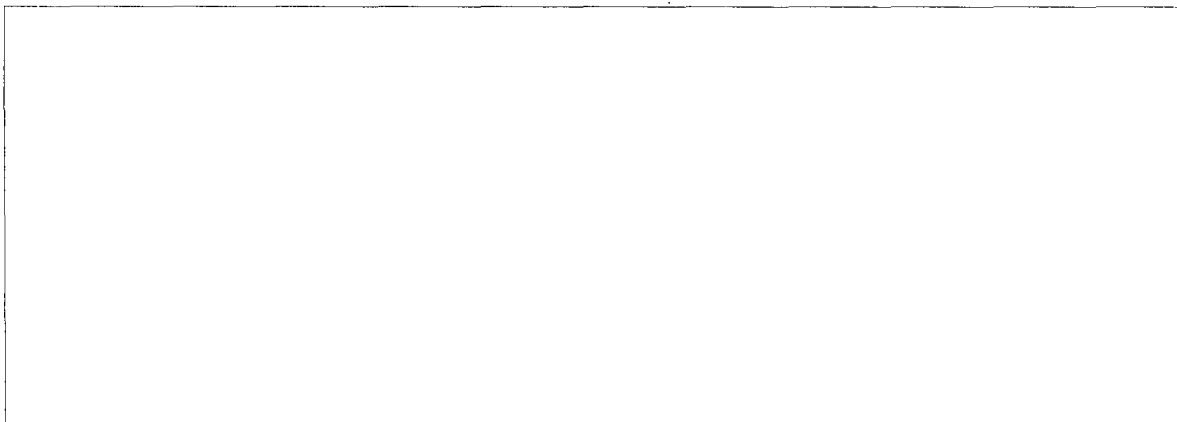
Comment: This measure, new in Korea, indicates the determination of the Communists to maintain their forward movement of supplies.

26. North Korean prisoner claims to belong to new armored unit: A North Korean prisoner, who deserted northeast of Kessong on 14 October, stated that he belonged to the North Korean 131st Mechanized Division. [redacted]
[redacted] 15 Oct 51)

Comment: This is the first identification of a 131st North Korean armored unit. No such numbered unit is organic to either the 105th Tank Division in the Sariwon area or the 17th Mechanized (?) Division carried in this sector. Although probably a misidentification, this prisoner's statement may indicate that a new North Korean armored unit has been formed.

27. New ROK cease-fire delegate shows moderation in public statement: Ambassador Muccio observed that South Korean General Lee Hyunggun "seems to have handled the press skillfully upon his arrival at Munsan" (the UN cease-fire camp). Muccio notes that in contrast to "past provocative statements by high ROK officials" on the subject of the cease-fire, General Lee concluded by stating that "our nation need not be pessimistic of the outcome of the talks." Lee did say, however, that "our people want peace... (but not) at the sacrifice of our unification" [redacted]
15 Oct 51)

Comment: General Lee replaces ROK General Paik Yun Sup, an excellent field commander, as the ROK cease-fire delegate. While General Lee's moderate statement does not necessarily indicate any basic change in the ROK attitude towards the cease-fire, it will make for improved ROK public relations.



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