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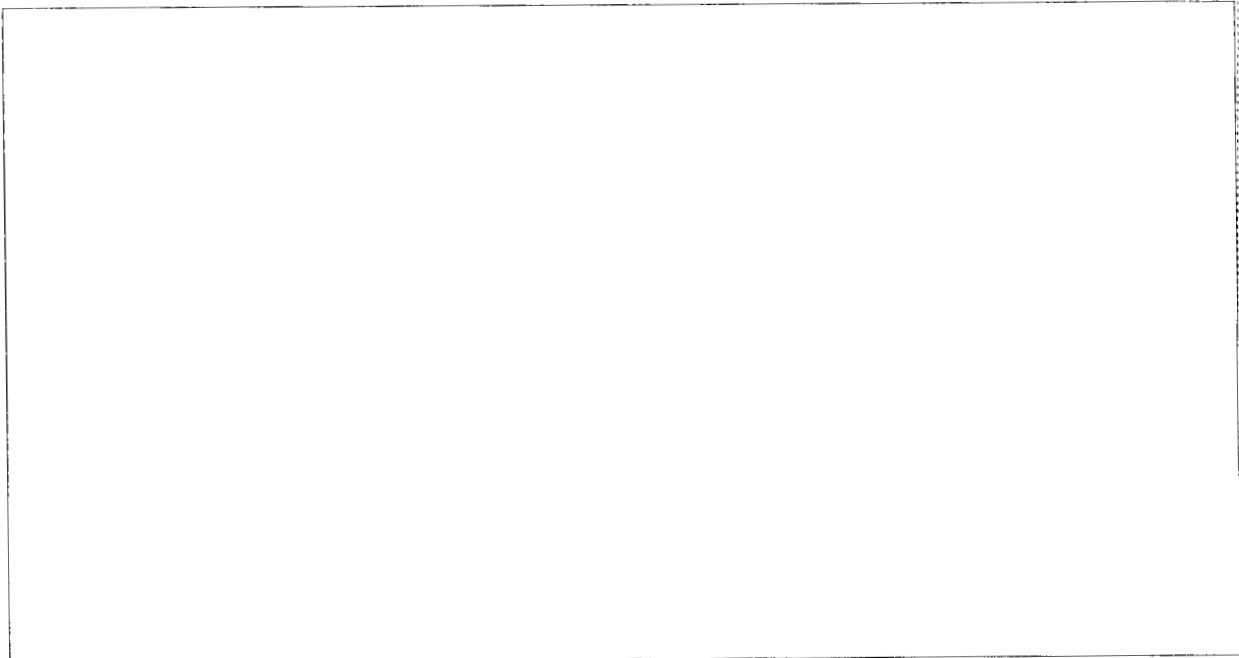


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"B" KOREA. Traffic decline noted on North Korean networks. Since the beginning of the Kaesong negotiations there has been a gradual decrease in traffic volume on all North Korean communications networks. While the networks are active, the average number of messages passed daily has dropped approximately 30 per cent. (SUEDE KC/TIB-8, 28 Jul 51)

Comment: This gradual decline may be explained by the decrease in combat operations during the corresponding period. During this period of decreased traffic there has been no relaxation of transmission security which might have originated normally in a belief that the end of the conflict was in sight. On the contrary, a high degree of security effectiveness has been maintained. In addition to these security precautions, cryptographic systems have been changed on all networks except the police during this period.

The above factors, while inconclusive, indicate from a communications standpoint that (a) the Communists are in a state of readiness for any emergency and (b) this readiness may point to a Communist belief that the conflict will not terminate with the truce talks.



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31 July 1951

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