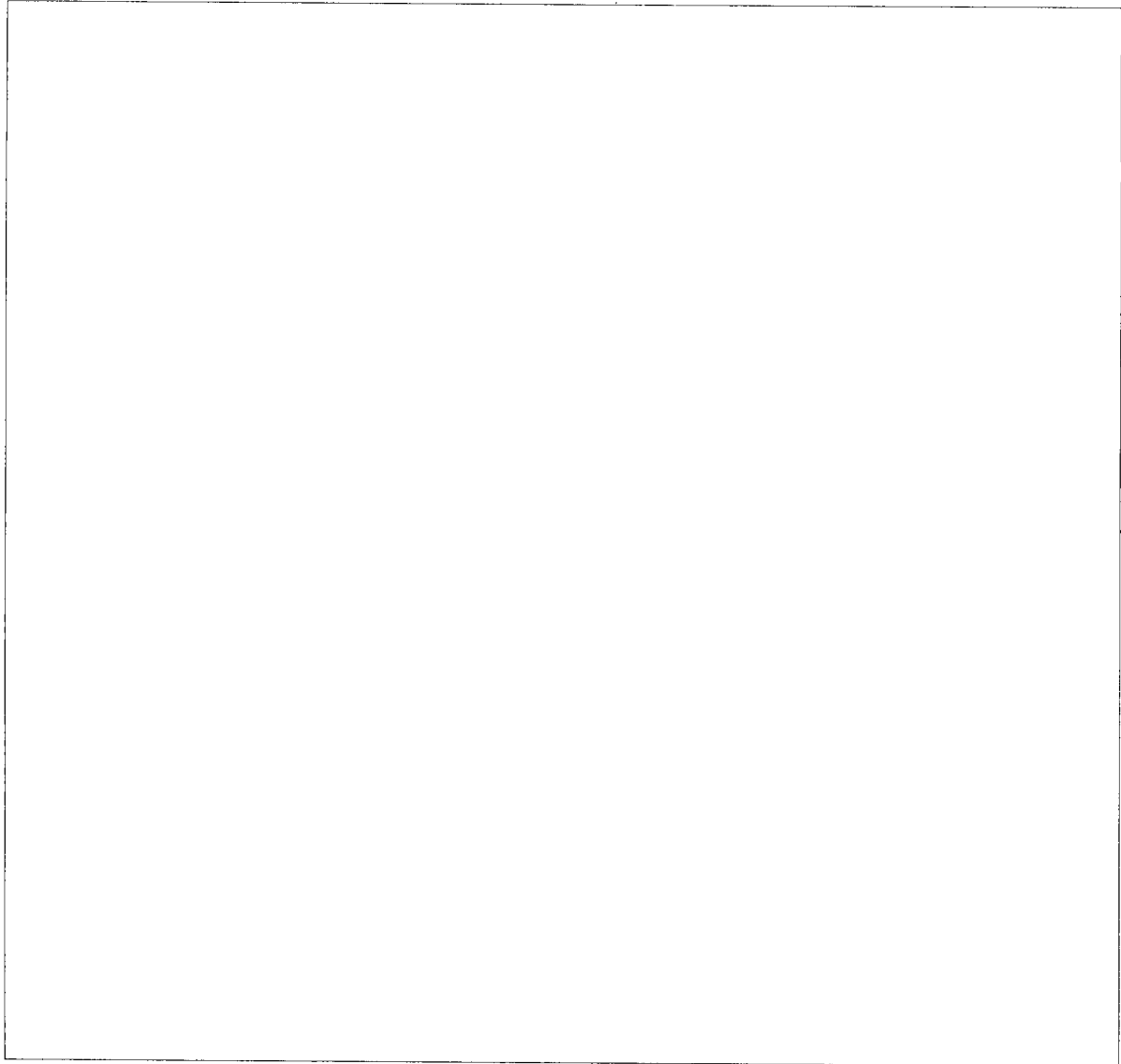
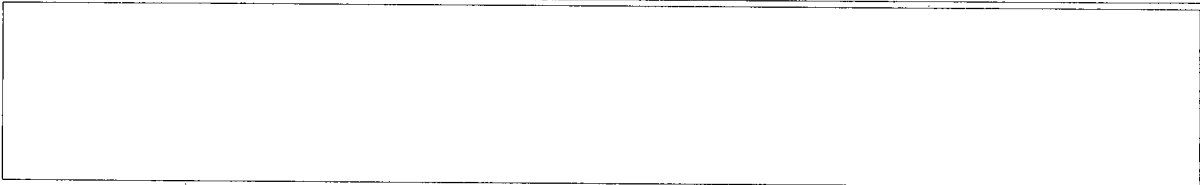


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18. KOREA. Communist delegation at Kaesong continues active: North Korean messages intercepted during the latter part of August and early September indicate the continued presence of the entire Communist delegation to the cease-fire talks in the Kaesong area.

One 2 September message from General Nam Il protests orders to return three cars to Pyongyang on the grounds that there are "a total of 629 men," including "ten foreign journalists and a group of more than thirty Chinese" to be supplied in the Kaesong area. Another 2 September message from a junior Communist official at Kaesong states that he will "call the car when the conference reconvenes." Evidence of Communist resupply of the Kaesong group may be seen in messages of 2 and 3 September requesting that supplies of medicine, coats, blankets, and "120 yards of black-out curtains" be sent. (SUEDE, Preliminary field translations of 1699/1 RSM, 1700/1 RSM, 1706/1 RSM, and 1708/1 RSM, Kaesong-Pyongyang, 2 and 3 Sep 51)

Comment: While the continued presence of the conference group in the Kaesong area cannot be considered a firm indicator of Communist willingness to resume negotiations, it is considered doubtful that the group would be maintained at strength unless some hope for a resumption of talks were entertained.

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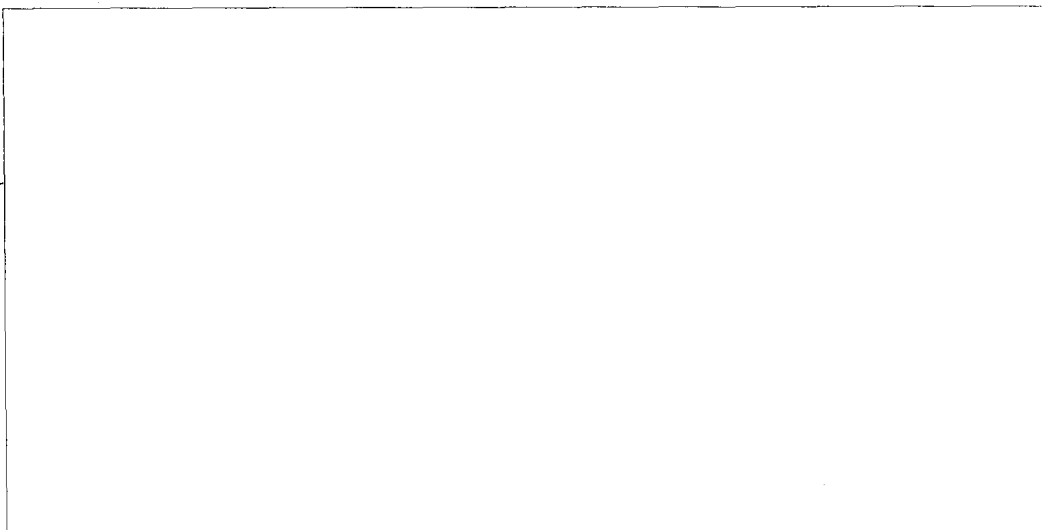
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19. Communist supply route in northeastern Korea cut by floods: A preliminary field translation of a 30 August North Korean message reveals that a total of 196 freight cars were enroute between Tumen, in northeastern Korea on the Manchurian border, and Namyang, northeast of Hamhung, on an unspecified date in late August. Earlier in the month, flood damage had caused a number of serious breaks in the rail line and, in at least one case, repairs would not be completed before 9 September. (SUEDE, ASAPAC TLW 134, CM IN 36931, 4 Sep 51)

Comment: The forces of nature have given an assist to UN aerial and naval bombardment in harassing this exposed rail line. Extensive Communist utilization of this now-secondary route may indicate that the primary border points of entry at Sinuiju and Manpojin in northwestern and central Korea are operating at capacity.

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