

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

FAR EAST

3. Communists may expand propaganda to include chemical warfare in Korea: A 13 March message from a North Korean unit in a rear area reports: "On 7 March the enemy used chemical weapons . . . (they) were white colored powder, which are soluble in water. It is said that when one drinks the water . . . he will be killed instantaneously. This has been discovered by the medical section of the Volunteer troops stationed here." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, SK-H-586, 15 Mar 52)

Comment: Previous Communist propaganda charges against the UN have been preceded by similar "reports." The alleged discovery of a toxic chemical by a Chinese Communist unit may indicate that China is taking the initiative in expanding the campaign to include chemical warfare.

4. North Korean message urges economy in food consumption: A North Korean message on 15 March from an unidentified unit cites an order from the supreme commander telling government clerks to economize in food consumption. According to the provision, all men "under the armed echelons" will be provided with 509 grams of meat and 800 grams of rice per month commencing 15 March 1952. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, Nr 1960, 16 Mar 52)

Comment: Previous intercepts and reports have indicated that most of the North Korean units are well supplied with food. The above message gives the impression that the bulk of the North Korean diet is composed of coarse grains -- not rice -- the favorite Korean food.

5. North Koreans remove electrical equipment to border area: A 13 March North Korean message addressed to the "Supply Department Chief of the Communications Command Bureau" reported that "the communications equipment that started from Anju on 30 January and two freight cars . . . were unloaded at Sinuiju on 13 March." The reporting unit comments that this movement may be associated with a North Korean battery factory in this area. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/8372, 14 Mar 52)

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Comment: Removal of these facilities from interior North Korea to the relative safety of the border regions would seem to demonstrate that the North Koreans expect the conflict to continue.

The one-month delay in moving the shipment a distance of only 60 miles again shows the effectiveness of the USAF's rail cutting tactics.

6. North Korean unit plans 19 March operation: A 13 March message from a regiment of the North Korean 27th Division, in combat in the east-central sector, instructs a subordinate unit -- probably artillery -- to "prepare completely for firing at the present location by 2000 hours on 19 March without fail." A 15 March message, probably from this same regiment, indicated that because "vehicles and artillery" would be concentrated, they should be "scattered and prepared for action."

A 15 March message from the North Korean "Front Line Command" instructs a subordinate unit -- possibly anti-aircraft artillery -- that it "should attack the enemy aircraft in the night. The beginning of the attack is 1 (?) March and report the completion of the preparation and the beginning of the attack on the 1(?) and 1(?)." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, SK-H-568, 14 Mar; 15RSM/8514, 16 Mar; SK-H-719, 17 Mar 52)

Comment: The fragmentary nature of these messages precludes analysis of the scale, location, or purpose of this operation. There are no current indications of a general Communist offensive in Korea, but limited objective operations remain a constant possibility.

7. Chinese bomber division to move from Mukden to North Manchuria: Nine TU-2 bombers of the Chinese Communist 8th Division were to leave Mukden on 17 March for Tsitsihar in North Manchuria on a "test flight." The reporting agency comments that all previous flights of this nature have been followed by the transfer of the entire unit concerned. At present 11 TU-2's of the 8th Division are in the Nanking area and 37 are at Mukden, according to the reporting agency. (SUEDE 6920 Security Group Johnson AB, AP 045, 16 Mar 52)

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Comment: TU-2 light bombers, the largest in the China area, have not been in the Korean war since November 1951. The transfer of this division would leave only part of one light bomber regiment in south Manchuria.

8. Jet division may transfer from Manchuria to South China: Four transports of the Chinese 4th Air Division were scheduled to leave Liaoyang, Manchuria, for Canton on 15 March. The flight was an "airfield transfer." A later message, however, referred to the same aircraft as transports of the 6th Air Division. The reporting agency cautions that neither designation is confirmed, but that the transfer of a Chinese Communist air unit is indicated by these messages because similar transport flights in the past have preceded entire unit transfers. (SUEDE SG 839, Johnson AB Japan, 16 Mar 52)

Comment: Both the Chinese Communist 4th and 6th Air Divisions are equipped with MIG-15's and have had extensive combat experience over Korea. Since the only MIG-15 division in South China is not yet fully trained, the transfer of either of these units to the Canton area would appreciably increase Communist air strength there.

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