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FAR EAST

3. Chinese Communist armored unit in Korea still hindered by rainy season: A 21 July message passed between two unidentified units, thought to be subordinate to the 61st Chinese Communist Antiaircraft Artillery Division, stated that "because of rain and overflowing (streams?), withdrawal from the line is difficult." (CANOE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-4564, 23 July 52)

Comment: In previous operations in Korea during the rainy season, Communist units sustained heavy losses in equipment as rivers overflowed and dirt roads became impassable. Since that time, the Communists have selected their position areas in an attempt to lessen the effects of the summer rains.

4. North Korea's principal academy located in Pyongyang outskirts: In a 20 July message an officer at North Korean Armored Forces Headquarters stated that "four students for the Kanggon Officer School will leave for Sadong (just to the east of Pyongyang) on the 21st." (CANOE 15RSM/769, Korea, 22 July 52)

Comment: The Kanggon Military Academy, named after the deceased commander of North Korean forces in the invasion of South Korea, is the principal military institute in North Korea. A politico-military counterpart, the Kim Chaek Academy, is located in northeastern Korea.

5. North Koreans believe move of US battleship Iowa to west may presage heightened operations: In a message passed over the net of a North Korean brigade in western Hwanghae Province on 21 July, the brigade chief of staff warns: "they say that the capital ship Iowa moved to the west coast...they are expected to start their activity with the US Imperial Air Force and the 77 US Air and Naval Force in a few days." (CANOE 15RSM/799, Korea, 22 July 52)

Comment: This message is further indication of the enemy's continued uncertainty as to future UN courses of action in Korea.

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6. Engineer troops of reserve North Korean division at front in east: An officer of the North Korean 8th Division, I Corps, on coastal security duty south of Wonsan on 21 July reported the disappearance of a squad leader of "the engineer company directly attached to the 81st Regiment." The vanished North Korean soldier was on a mine-removal mission at the front near Kosong on the east coast. (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-275, 22 July 52)

Comment: The North Korean 8th Division, including its 81st Regiment, remains in reserve for the I Corps on the east coast. Its principal mission appears to be coastal security. The use of engineer personnel of a reserve division at the front is not unusual.

7. Basic training unit from North Korean Army located near Sariwon: In a message from the North Korean IV Corps security officer on 11 July, an order is issued to apprehend three deserters from various battalions of the "Preparation regiment," which is located at Anak, west of Sariwon in western Korea. (CANOE ROK Int Grp M Korea, SK-L-301, 14 July 52)

Comment: Other intelligence sources have reported a North Korean basic training center in the vicinity of Sariwon. The principal centers, however, are in the Chongchon River area in northwestern Korea and in an unlocated area of northeastern Korea.

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