

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~

FAR EAST

6. Chinese Communist unit complains of misuse of transport vehicles: On 2 October the forward command post of the Chinese Communist 21st Artillery Regiment stated that "there still aren't enough vehicles assembled for the shipping of ammunition." The originator complained that "someone in the rear area. . . is still shipping blackboards, thereby wasting vehicles and manpower, and adversely influencing the transport of ammunition." (CANOE L [] T1039, 4 Oct 52)

Comment: The same regiment in a 20 September message complained of ammunition shortages due to a lack of vehicles. This is probably a local problem as the Communists have continued to employ a heavy volume of artillery and mortar fire during the past two weeks.

7. Chinese Communist armored unit in Korea has heavy tanks: In a 29 September message passed by a Chinese armored unit in western Korea, it was stated that the "division notified us to go and pick up the 85mm and 122mm ammunition." Later the sender said he had proposed that "four heavy tanks be selected to participate in direct bombardment." (CANOE G [] T-65, 3 Oct 52)

Comment: Although accepted by the Far East Command in Chinese Communist units, heavy armored vehicles mounting 122mm guns have never been encountered at the front. Aerial sightings, however, have previously indicated the presence in Korea of either JS-I or JS-II heavy tanks or JSU-122 self-propelled guns. It is apparent from this message that this heavy armor is to be employed as "mobile pill boxes."

Of collateral interest in this message is the reference to "division." It would appear from the text of the message that an armored division is implied. Recent indications, however, have pointed to the presence of independent Chinese tank regiments in Korea, rather than divisional formations.

8. Chinese Communist unit in Korea issued Korean currency for local expenses: The Chinese Communist 21st Artillery Regiment on 1 October stated that it had received orders from its division headquarters "to pick up Korean currency." The originator, explaining how the money would be used, stated that "each man will receive an increase of 3,000

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won for bathing expenses," but those units with shower facilities were not to receive any additional money. (CANOE L [] T1035, 4 Oct 52)

Comment: Presumably, those Chinese troops that do not have shower equipment would use civilian bathing facilities. Recent messages indicate that the Chinese are making efforts to pay the Korean civilians for local expenses.



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