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6. North Korean antiaircraft defenses may shift from transport to supply installations: In a 26 October message a North Korean antiaircraft battalion, defending rail bridges north of Wonsan on the east coast, was ordered to turn over this responsibility, and possibly some of its 37mm guns, to the "32nd Regiment." The latter may be an infantry unit being converted to antiaircraft artillery. This transfer is to be effected by 30 October. The unit being relieved is to proceed by 5 November to the "main army supply warehouse" and be prepared for combat by 7 November. (CANOE IL, [] T-1642, 26 Oct 52)

Comment: The most logical reason behind this unit transfer is the changed pattern of the UN air interdiction program. Transportation targets previously received the most attention while more recently the emphasis has shifted to enemy supply installations.

7. Unidentified Chinese artillery unit moves up on western Korean front: An unidentified Chinese artillery regiment informed one of its subordinate battalions on 25 October that "they are to take over all the positions and (bivouac?) areas of the 25th Artillery Regiment" in combat in western Korea.

A message passed by the same unit on 5 October indicated that elements of this force had been in the Yonan coastal area west of Kaesong at that time. This earlier message also referred to a vehicle of the "126th Division." (CANOE G [] T-185, 28 Oct 52; L [] T-1622, 27 Oct 52)

Comment: The artillery regiment being relieved by this unidentified force is subordinate to the Chinese 1st Artillery Division, supporting the 38th and 39th Armies in western Korea.

The mention of the 126th Division, subordinate to the Chinese 42nd Army, lends credence to the reports that elements of that army were in the Yonan area in early October. It is further possible that the northward move of this artillery unit was coincident with a similar move on the part of the 42nd Army into reserve positions behind the western front.

29 Oct 52

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8. North Korean air force may be reaching combat readiness stage: Analysis of North Korean air force messages from 15 September to 15 October by an air force field unit reveals that this force is becoming increasingly proficient in night operations and in ground attack and bombing tactics.

Four principal air units, located in Manchuria and North Korea, have been identified [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] This latter group of fighter-escort aircraft appears to be concentrating its efforts on becoming proficient in night operations. The other groups have been, for the past eight months, engaging in intensive specialized training.

On 23 October, North Korean aircraft in the fighter-escort group were heard over the GCI net operating near American F-86's in the Pyongyang area. This is unusual both for the southerly penetration of the flight and its continuance for 15 minutes in an area where Sabres were operating. Previously the North Koreans had fled as soon as F-86's were reported on the way north. (CANOE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AFB Japan AP-652, 25 Oct; AP-674, 25 Oct 52)

9. Chinese Communist air division may have transferred from Mukden to Takushan: Sixteen MIG-15 aircraft of the Chinese Communist 12th Air Division were scheduled to fly from Mukden to an unlocated destination on 24 October. The route of the flight and the fact that the 12th Air Division was recently active at Takushan suggest that the destination is probably Takushan. (CANOE AP-637, SPOT 4646, 24 Oct 52)

Comment: The Takushan airfield was improved by the Communists in early October. Apart from the size of the flight, there is no indication that the 12th Air Division will be permanently based at Takushan.

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