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9. KOREA. Chinese captured recently in Korea report defensive mission: Chinese Communist prisoners of war captured in both the west-central and east-central sectors have reported that their units were assigned a defensive mission. One prisoner from the newly-identified 67th Army in east-central Korea stated that his battalion's mission was to defend for approximately one month beginning on 10 September, while a prisoner from the west-central front stated that his army -- the 42nd -- was to defend for a month until bridges in the rear areas could be repaired and the front line units resupplied. The latter prisoner stated that following this an offensive was to be launched to drive UN forces to the 38th parallel.

Comment: These unconfirmed reports are unique in that this is the first mention of an additional defensive period prior to the launching of an offensive. Of equal interest are the allegations that additional supplies are needed by the front line units and that the objective of the coming offensive is the 38th parallel.

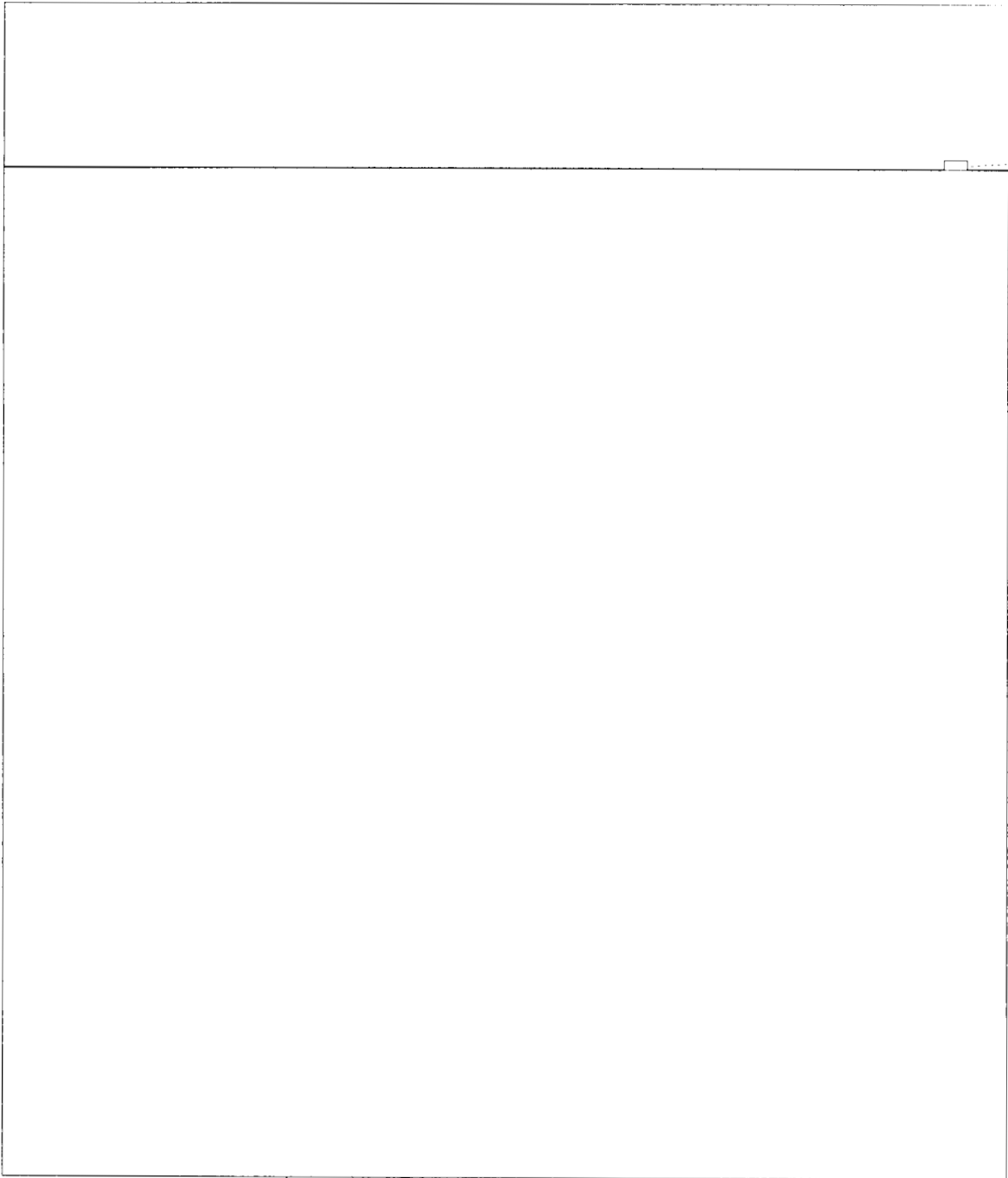
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