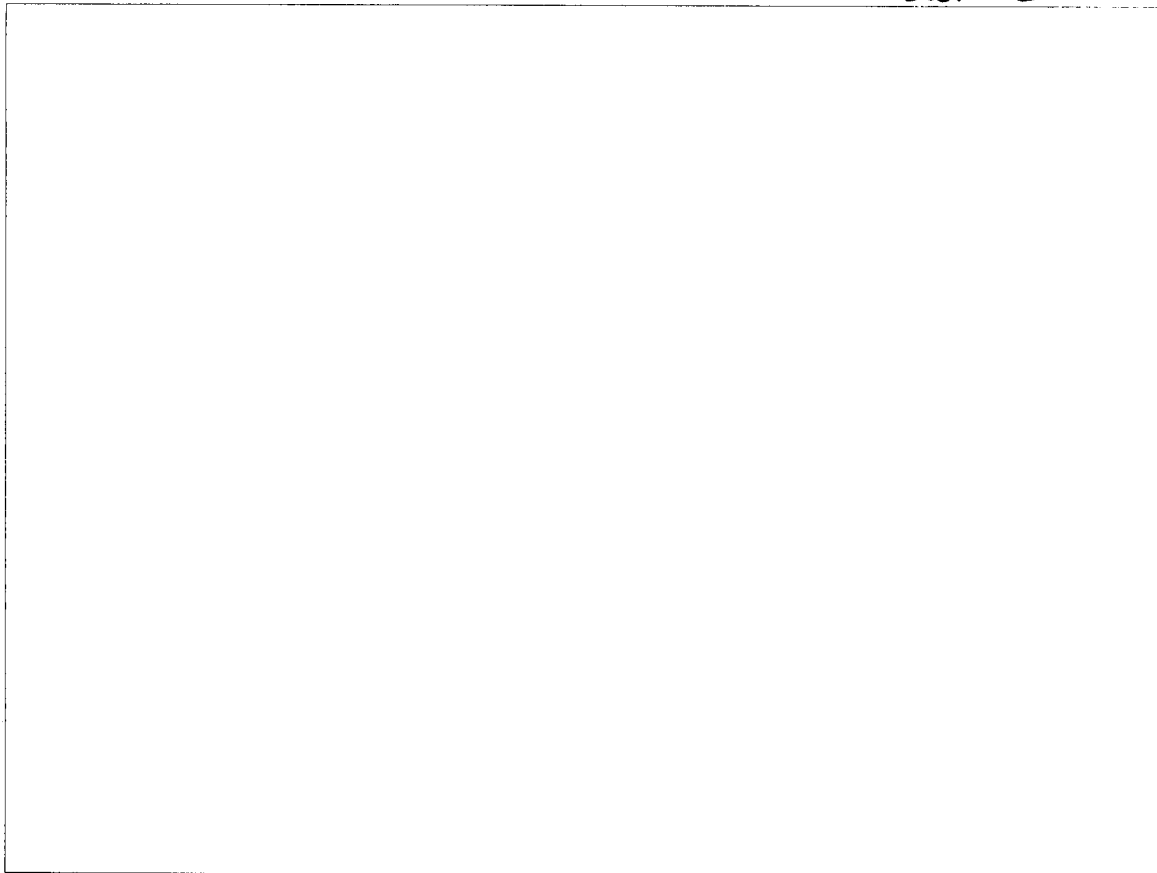


18 Jul 53

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2. Chinese Communists may be planning late July offensive on western Korean front:

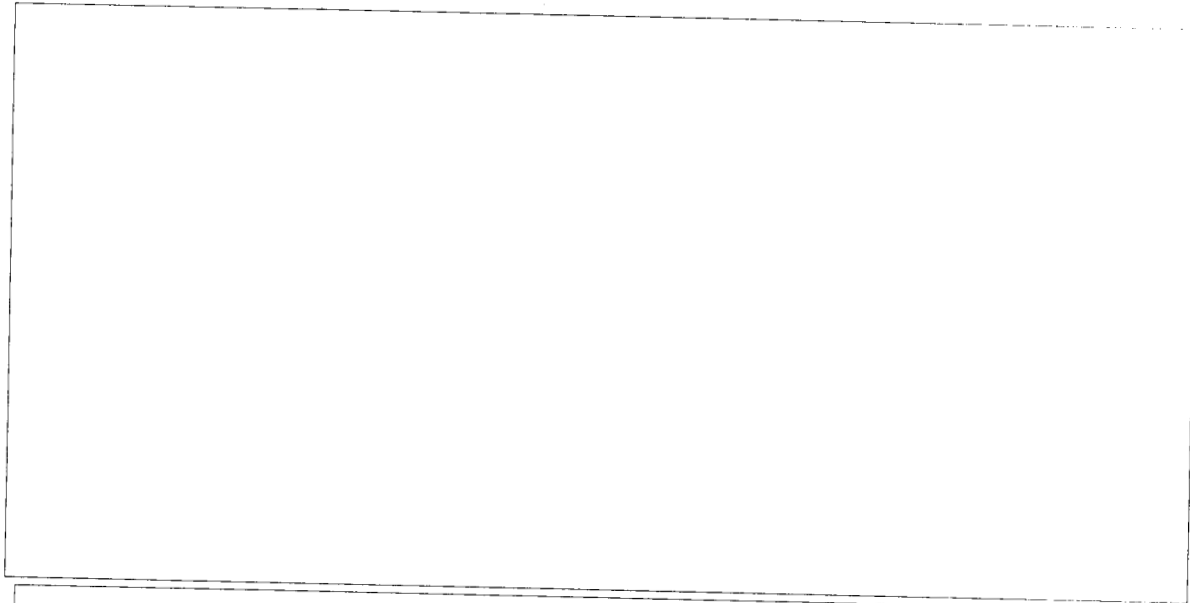
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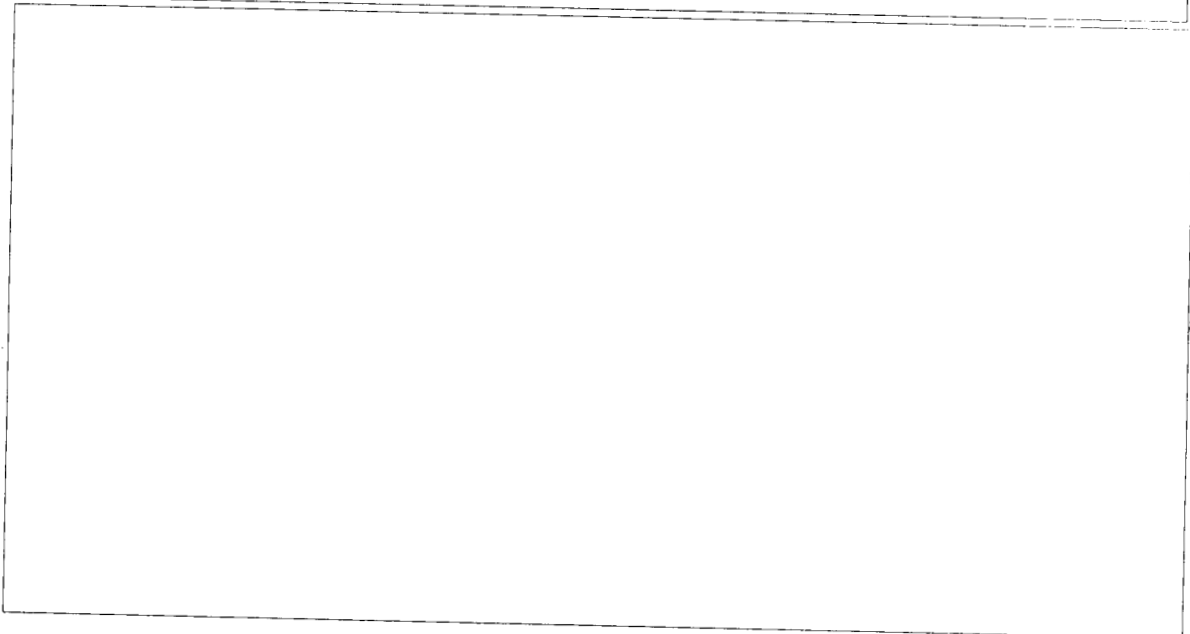
A message from the headquarters of the Chinese 21st Artillery Regiment intercepted on 15 July states that "an offensive is being planned for the near future," and that "a little more than ten days" are left for training.

Comment: The 21st Artillery Regiment is believed to be taking up new positions on the western front opposite the American I Corps sector. Recent messages have suggested that other artillery units are also moving to this area, and an increase in tank strength from two to four regiments has been noted.

There are indications that an offensive by the North Koreans on the eastern front also may be planned for late July.



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