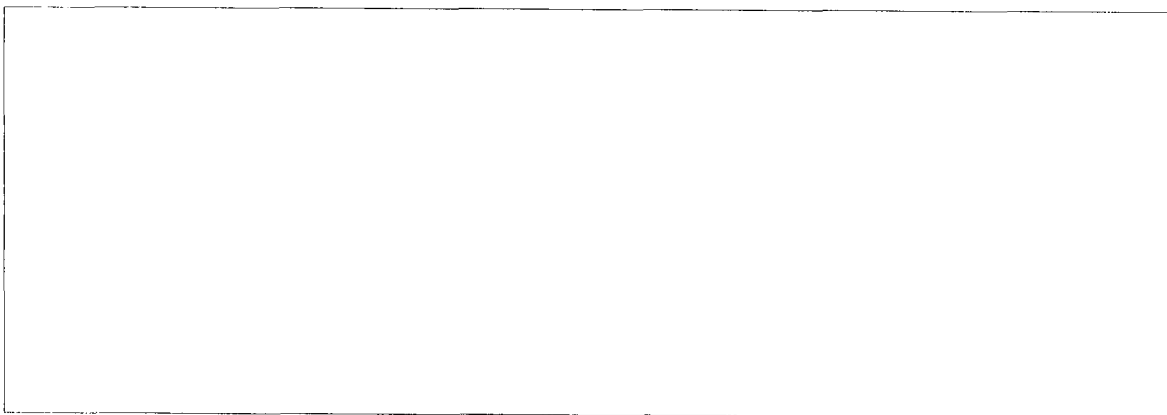


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3. Soviet transport flights to China continue at high level: Possibly 19 Il-2 transports of unknown subordination were scheduled from Chita in the USSR to Mukden during the period 5 to 16 December, and an additional seven C-47's left Voroshilov for Mukden on 14 December. The US Air Force comments that the exact significance of these flights to China is undetermined, although it is apparent that the USSR is continuing to increase the capabilities of the CCAF through the transfer of aircraft and possible transportation of materiel. (SUEDE US Air Force Roundup 262, 2145Z, 18 Dec 51)

Comment: Flights of more than one or two transports from the USSR to China were rare before October. There have been several flights of about ten transports each since late October, and there is no record of these aircraft returning to the USSR. A few of these transports are now believed to be engaged in an airlift operation to the snow-bound Tibetan border region, but the disposition of most of these recent arrivals is unknown.



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5. KOREA. North Korean unit foresees return of prisoners at Kaesong: A North Korean regiment charged with the security of the Kaesong-Panmunjon area, commented in a 17 December message as follows: "It is reported that in the future over 100,000 prisoners of war will be exchanged at Kaesong." (SUEDE AS CM IN 61691, 17 Dec 51)

Comment: While the reporting of this regiment has not always been accurate, the message indicates a definite expectation that a prisoner of war transfer will eventually be effected.

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6. Friction may exist between Communist commanders over composition of Kaesong guard unit: There has been some suggestion in enemy communications that the North Korean unit charged with the security of the Kaesong-Panmunjon area was relieved from that assignment and ordered to return to its parent unit. In a 17 December message, however, the unit reports that "Comrade General Chief of Staff (Nam Il) again demanded of General P'aeng To'k Hoe (Peng Te Hui) by radio that if all of the (Korean) Peoples Army units left Kaesong, it would be difficult to carry out the various duties, so they have been allowed to remain stationed at Kaesong." The unit further reports that they will no longer accept commands from the Chinese 65th Army to which they were subordinate but "will accept definitely the commands of the general chief of staff." (SUEDE AS CM IN 61691, 17 Dec 51)

Comment: It appears from this message that a Chinese Communist attempt to remove the last remaining North Korean unit in the Kaesong area was successfully rebuffed by the North Korean Chief of Staff. While the nature and extent of the dispute between the Chinese and the North Koreans in this instance is not clear, the continued maintenance of Korean troops in the area would seem to be a minimum prestige requirement for the North Koreans.

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