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6. Artillery is principal arm of newly formed North Korean brigade: A recently available message of 16 June located subordinate battalions of the recently identified North Korean 22nd Brigade in northeastern Korea. All but one of the four battalions mentioned were described as "mechanized artillery." (CANOE ASAPAC, Japan, PASAL-163, 26 July 52)

Comment: Of the currently identified North Korean brigades in eastern Korea, three -- the 22nd, 24th, and 25th -- have been identified as being primarily artillery units. The 20th Brigade, about which little is known, may also be artillery.

An apparent de-emphasis on artillery brigades, however, is under way in the west. The 23rd Brigade, formerly artillery, provided the cadre for the newly-formed 21st Brigade, an infantry unit. The 26th, the remaining North Korean west coast artillery brigade unit, has not been identified through any intelligence source for many months.

7. North Korean VII Corps may have received more officers: In a 3 July message [redacted] with the HR70-14 North Korean VII Corps in the Wonsan area, a "personnel staff officer" reported the arrival of "77 platoon leaders." The message suggested that they were newly-commissioned officers returning to their unit from officers school. (CANOE ASAPAC, Korea, PASAL-174, 28 July 52)

Comment: The receipt of this considerable number of junior officers will probably increase the combat effectiveness of the VII Corps.

The VII Corps, untested in combat, may be preparing to enter combat in the near future to relieve one of the long engaged corps presently at the front.

8. Well poisoning reported by North Korean east coast armored unit: A North Korean armored regiment near Wonsan reported on 25 July that it had "captured a 15 year-old girl who was putting poison into the drinking water." (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, 15RSM/976, 26 July 52)

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Comment: A number of recent messages from units on the North Korean east coast have reported incidents of poisoning. It is not clear whether this is an expression of hostility on the part of the North Korean population, an enemy plant for propaganda purposes, or whether it stems from other causes.

9. Usual bases of Russian jet units in Manchuria reported: The location and activity of the nine Russian MIG-15 units in Manchuria was determined by a study of GCI communications through 10 July. Three interceptor units are at Tatungkou and also operate from Anshan, Fengcheng and Mukden. Two MIG units are at Antung, but were relatively inactive from March until early July. On 10 July the unit at Tungfeng in central Manchuria transferred to Fengcheng near Antung. One unit at Anshan and two at Mukden usually operate at night. (CANOE Special Air Information Summary 52-30, 17 July 52)

Comment: These nine units contain an estimated 320 jet fighters. Russian MIG-15's are much more active in combat over Korea than jets piloted by Chinese and Koreans.

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