

~~TOP SECRET ACORN~~

KOREA

1. North Korean and Chinese officers expect new "phase" in war:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] North Korean and Chinese Communist officers believed that the recent "withdrawal" of their forces was part of a tactical plan. If UN forces applied pressure, a withdrawal as far as the 38th Parallel was anticipated. There replacements and equipment from stockpiles north of the Yalu River would be received, and at an unspecified time after 6 February an all-out counter-attack, referred to as the "third phase of the war," would take place.

Comment: "Plans" of this sort may be part of an attempt to bolster morale. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A captured North Korean officer has reported receiving instructions for a limited withdrawal, to be followed by infiltration of UN lines while awaiting the start of the "fourth and final" phase of the Korean war. A captured operations order from the commander of the North Korean V Corps states that a "fourth and final phase" is scheduled for the end of February or the beginning of March 1951. While such reports could be interpreted to indicate an enemy expectation of substantial reinforcement, North Korean operational orders in the past have also been used as the vehicle for morale-boosting propaganda statements.

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