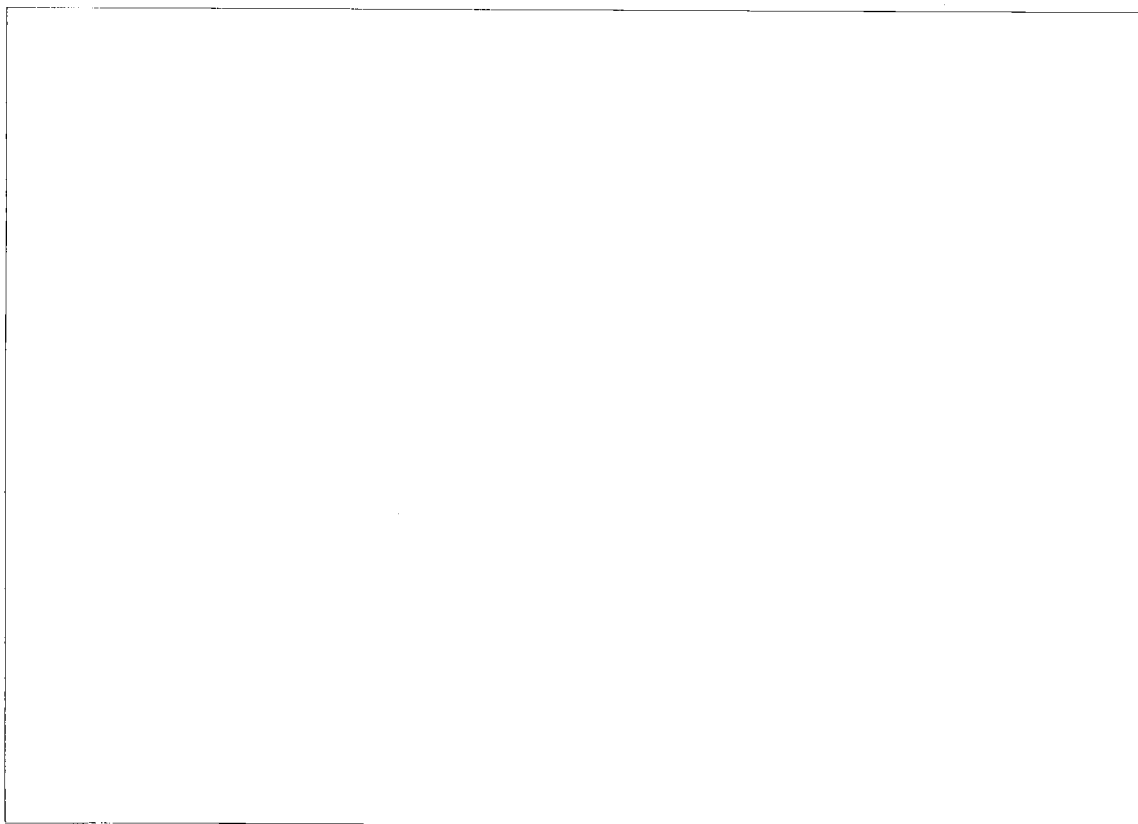


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13. KOREA. Famed air strip at Hagaru in northeastern Korea may become operational for Communists: UN carrier-based aircraft observed grading equipment, large black crates and occupied buildings at Hagaru airstrip, just south of the Changjin reservoir. ([redacted] 7 Dec 51)

Comment: Hagaru airstrip was built by US Marine engineers for supply and evacuation purposes while the 1st Marine Division was surrounded at the Changjin reservoir in December 1950. Although no operational enemy aircraft have yet been sighted on airfields in northeastern Korea, the recent expansion of enemy jet operations in this area may foreshadow an attempt to base aircraft at some fields there.

14. Chinese Communist major units rotate in the line: The Far East Command reports that the veteran Chinese Communist 39th Army has relieved the 47th Army in the line west of Chorwon. This report is based on a lack of contact with the 47th and the capture of a prisoner from the 39th. [redacted]

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[redacted] 9 Dec 51)

Comment: The veteran Chinese Communist 39th Army, committed in the initial intervention and withdrawn for rehabilitation last spring, has been carried in the Pyongyang area. Its relief of the battle-weary 47th Army is further evidence of the Communist policy of rotating major units in the combat area.

15. North Korean I Corps takes over on extreme east coast: [redacted]

[redacted] the North Korean 47th Division, I Corps, has relieved the 19th Division, VI Corps, in the extreme eastern portion of the line. The other divisions of the I Corps -- the 8th and 17th Mechanized -- are still believed to be in the rear area of the eastern sector. There is some evidence that the 19th Division will withdraw to the Wonsan-Hamhung area. This report on the rotation of North Korean units is based on a lack of contact with the 19th Division and the taking of prisoners of war from the 47th Division. ([redacted] 9 Dec 51)

Comment: Inasmuch as the North Korean 19th Division was a reasonably fresh unit in comparison with other units in this sector, this relief would not seem to be intended to allow a battle-weary unit such as the III Corps to be rotated for rehabilitation.

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