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16. KOREA. Soviet transport aircraft may have landed in North Korea: According to preliminary field analysis of recent Soviet transmissions on the ground control intercept net in North Korea, a transport aircraft, subordinate to an unidentified Soviet troop carrier unit, landed at Sinanju in northwestern Korea on 21 January. The US Air Force adds that a similar aircraft was observed on 21 January at Antung and may be related to the aircraft at Sinanju. (SUEDE US Air Force CM IN 5984, 23 Jan 52)

Comment: Similar transport aircraft movements to Sinanju are believed to have taken place on 2 and 8 July, 1951. The Sinanju area is known to be a center of the Soviet air defense system in North Korea. There is a usable sod field at Sinanju which conceivably could support a transport aircraft.

17. Communists plan recapture of major UN-held island: A recently translated North Korean message reveals that a battalion -- probably the 5th -- of the 23rd Brigade is to have preparations for the "Cho-do attack . . . completed by 2400 hours 28 January." The same battalion was ordered to attack Ho-do, supported by four 120 mm howitzers. Other North Korean messages indicate that the 6th and 9th battalions of the 23rd Brigade are equally active in preparations for small-scale amphibious actions against islands still in UN hands. (SUEDE AS CM IN 6259, 24 Jan 52)

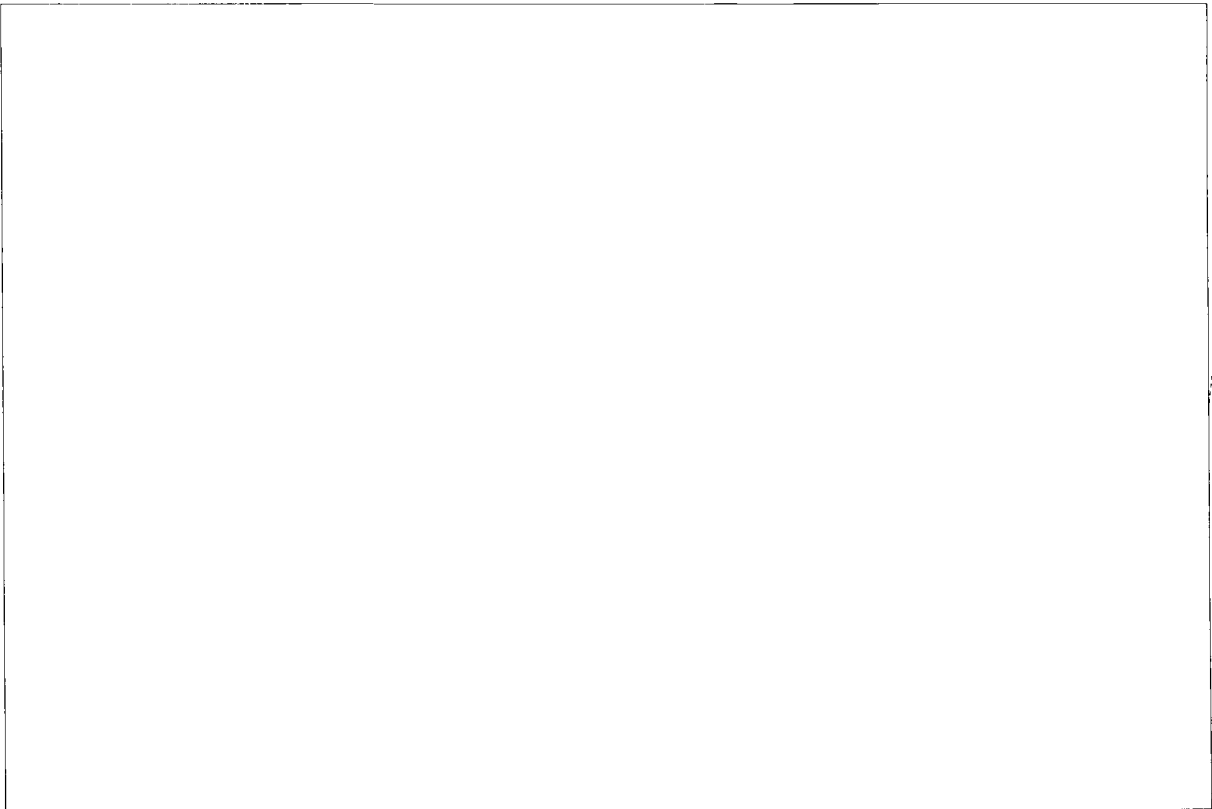
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Comment: Cho-do is one of two principal UN-held islands off the coast of west-central Korea. Its location, southwest of Chinnampo, makes it more suitable as a guerrilla and espionage base than Paengyong-do, the other important island.

18. New Orbit language heard in Korean intercept: A United Nations intercept operator in Korea monitored a ten-minute enemy transmission in a previously unheard language on 22 January. The intercept operator stated that the new language was possibly one of the many used by Soviet minority groups in the Caucasus mountain region of the USSR. Voice characteristics of the transmission were not oriental. (SUEDE AFSA-251, 0815Z, 23 Jan 52)

Comment: No immediate significance can be attached to the appearance of this new language in Korea. The USSR is known to have a sizable contingent of military personnel serving in various capacities within North Korea, and it is possible that the use of this comparatively obscure minority group tongue was an attempt at security on the part of some of these forces.



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28 Jan 52