

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

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5. Supply situation in two North Korean units revealed: Recently available North Korean messages of mid-February, addressed to the rear area logistics command from unlocated units in the Wonsan-Hamhung area, reflected the supply situation. One unit stated that the grain supply received from Kowon had been entirely used up and "we are worried" because the entire grain and kerosene supply at Hamhung is exhausted. The other intercept also reported on the grain situation at Kowon, stating that two trains of (white rice?) for the 7th and 37th Divisions had arrived. (SUEDE [ ] 3001, 10 Feb; [ ] 3002, 14 Feb 52)

Comment: Previous intercepts revealed that most of the Communist units have been well supplied. In this eastern coastal area, however, constant bombardment by UN naval units and aircraft caused a general deterioration in railroad facilities which probably resulted in temporary shortages.

6. Synthetic petroleum plant on Soviet-Korean border may be still in operation: A 28 March North Korean message from "Aoji" was addressed to the "Heavy Industrial Ministry, Chemical Control Department." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/9523, 30 Mar 52)

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Comment: The Japanese constructed a synthetic fuel plant using a low temperature carbonization system at Aoji. During 1940-45, this installation produced daily 250 barrels of liquid fuels and 100 barrels of methanol. The plant was known to be operating in early 1950.

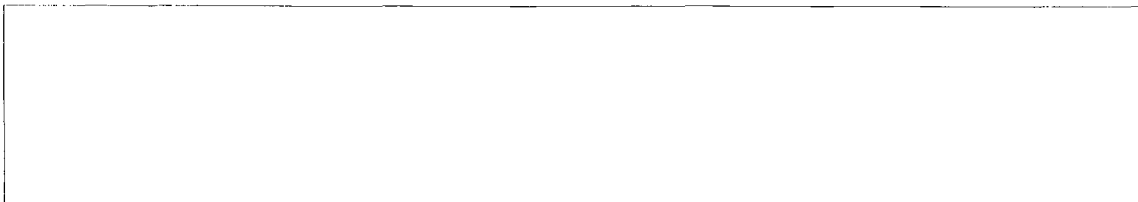
7. Chinese Communist control of North Korean rail system suggested: The North Korean Sinuiju Depot Chief informed a superior on 28 March that "we had loaded the materials on 2 freight cargo trains, but we unloaded because the (Chinese?) Volunteer Army thought the wooden freight cars were insufficient." The message continued that shipment would be impossible in March, but would be effected in April. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/9530, 30 Mar 52)

Comment: The exact regional rail authority in Korea can not be clearly established; however, there are a number of indications which point to North Korean predominance in the East and Chinese Communist authority in the west. It is known that a joint railroad command exists in Mukden.

8. Communists report epidemic in North Manchuria: A transport plane was scheduled to leave Peiping on 31 March and to proceed to Tsitsihar in northern Manchuria. The mission, as stated in an intercepted Chinese Communist message, was "to investigate the epidemic." (SUEDE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AB, SPOT NR 223, 30 Mar 52)

Comment: Tsitsihar is much farther north than the areas of Manchuria which the Communists declare were violated by American biological warfare attacks.

Numerous reports now state that epidemics in Manchuria and China proper are widespread. Although intercepts of recent messages do not yet confirm the existence of epidemics on a scale unusual for China, they do reveal unprecedented attention by the Chinese to the epidemic threat.



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