

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

FAR EAST

6. Communists in Korea may anticipate a UN offensive: A 12 April message passed to "all battalions" of an unidentified North Korean unit stated that "according to the officer at the corps, the enemy has pushed forward into our area. They are feeling out our positions so they can bomb them." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM, [] 3081, 13 Apr 52)

Comment: Although this message may have been originated by a rear area unit and may have reference to UN agents, a Chinese Communist unit in eastern Korea on 17 March ordered its units to be in readiness because "the enemy are preparing to launch a revenge attack against us. . ."

7. Chinese Communist unit reports plague-infected rat in central Korea: The "Anti-plague Committee" of a Chinese Communist rocket launcher regiment in east central Korea reports to its parent unit on 3 April the discovery of a "dead rat at the battalion medical officer's location." Chemical analysis made by the "Army Group's Quarantine Unit" revealed that "the rat was infected with and died with bubonic plague." The message concludes, however, with the statement that "at present we still have not discovered any cases of bubonic plague among the troops." (SUEDE [] 962, 3 Apr 52)

Comment: Rats are the primary hosts of bubonic plague.

The devastation in Communist-controlled areas of Korea has greatly heightened the possibility of a serious epidemic. Currently, however, typhus and typhoid have been the only diseases reportedly occurring with a high incidence.

8. North Korean unit may possess large stockpile of gasoline: In a 10 April message "the artillery statistical officer" of the North Korean 5th Division in the Pyongyang area reported to his superior that "gasoline on hand on the 13th of March: 2,217,800 kilograms." The balance of his report on fuels mentioned that the authorized quantity used for various purposes aggregated 10,487 kilograms. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM, [] 3080, 11 Apr 52)

Comment: If the figure is correct, this North Korean unit would have over 700,000 gallons of gasoline. There has been no indication that fuel was so plentiful in North Korea; in fact current reports show fairly strict gasoline regulations.

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16 Apr 52

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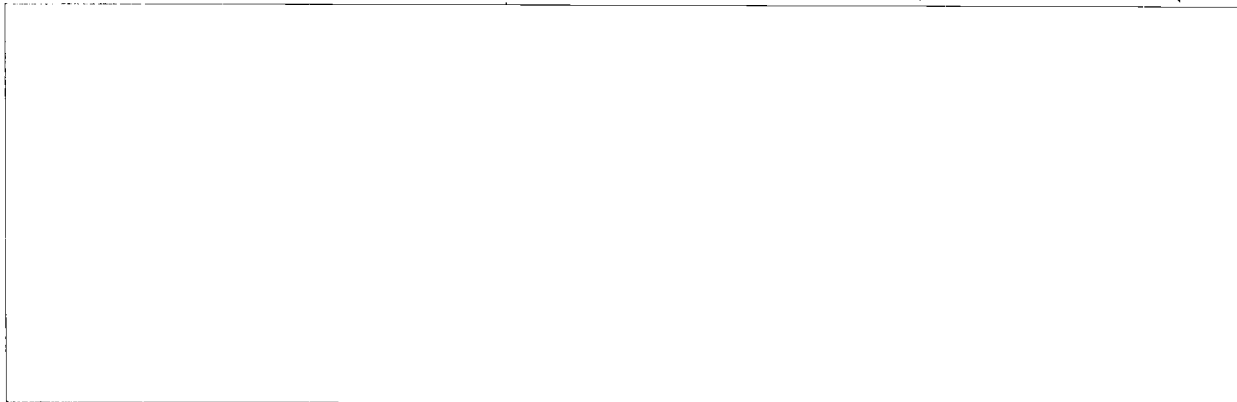
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9. Vehicular strength and practices in Korea of Chinese Communist Artillery Division reported: The supply element of the Chinese Communist 7th Artillery Division in eastern Korea reported to its headquarters on 2 April that the division had a total of 438 operational vehicles with 225 additional ones under repair. The bulk of them were similar to the US 2½-ton truck. The message continued that gasoline expenditure is limited to 91 gallons per vehicle per month.

A later message of 6 April from the same 7th Artillery supply element reported that "the regulations relative to the use of petroleum products are not strict enough." The message notes that "utter confusion" prevails and that they have been "experiencing unseemingly losses" in fuel consumption. In conclusion the sender suggests that ration books be printed with stamps for 5, 10, and 25 gallons and that the new system be given "a trial run beginning 21 April." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-2169 and [redacted] 953, 9 Apr 52)

Comment: The monthly ration of 91 gallons per vehicle would limit each vehicle to under 500 miles of travel. Nevertheless, this message indicates that sufficient gasoline is arriving in the forward areas to allow considerable truck movement.



NR

11. Chinese army units urged to exceed quotas in san-fan campaign: A Chinese Communist artillery division headquarters in Korea quotes a directive from the Northeast (Manchuria) Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party which establishes a "quota" of major and minor embezzlers to be discovered in each division during the campaign against corruption, waste and bureaucracy. The headquarters urges all units to "seek to

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exceed" the quota of three "large tigers" and eighteen "small tigers" allotted to the division in the "first phase" of the campaign. (SUEDE [] 900, Unknown-Unknown, Korea, 10 Feb 52)

Comment: The above directive, ordering an arbitrary number of offenders to be found regardless of the evidence, is clearly a misuse of the highly regarded quota system and may in time be viewed as an expression of the "bureaucratism" which the campaign in part aims to combat. Although any given unit may contain its allotted number of "tigers," the establishment of a quota and the exhortation to exceed that quota illustrate the process by which Communist functionaries can prove their industry and rectitude only by denouncing their associates, fabricating evidence where necessary.

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4. UN pilots see 500 jets on two Yalu River airfields: Four F-86 pilots reported on 13 April the sighting of 450 jets at Tatungkou and 50 at Antung, both airfields on the Korea-Manchuria border. The pilots were thoroughly interrogated and FEAF gives full credence to their account. Photographs taken five hours later showed only 81 aircraft at Tatungkou and 101 at Antung.

FEAF offers several possible reasons for this unusual concentration of aircraft: (1) bad weather which may have precluded use of other Manchurian airfields, (2) testing the facilities at Tatungkou for staging large numbers of aircraft, and (3) training pilots and maintenance personnel in necessary procedures and techniques under crowded conditions. ([redacted] 15 Apr 52)

Comment: On 9 March UN pilot reports of enemy aircraft on the Yalu River airfield were invalidated by photographs taken at the time. However, conditions for observation may have been more favorable on 13 April. If accepted, the report of the pilots means that most of the estimated jet aircraft in Manchuria were parked on these two fields. Their normal complement is about 100 planes each.

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