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4. Relief of 2nd Chinese Communist Artillery Division by the 1st Division further indicated: During the period 20 to 24 April, a new Chinese Communist artillery unit occupied positions in west central Korea which had been occupied by elements of the 2nd Artillery Division. One message indicated that elements of the 1st Artillery Division might be the relieving force.

Confirmation of the presence of 1st Artillery Division elements is seen in another message from a 2nd Division unit in process of relief which stated that "concerning the matter of the 27th regiment (subordinate to the 1st Division) wanting to borrow, temporarily our one map. . ."

On 22 April, an unidentified Chinese artillery unit reported a successful fire mission in west central Korea and noted that "our artillery . . . assumed fully the defensive

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duties of the 29th Regiment" (subordinate to the 2nd Division).
(SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-2414, 23 Apr 52)

5. Cryptic message suggests enemy air activity within North Korea: A cryptic, garbled North Korean ground force message of 22 April noted that ". . . today. . . the pilot of the 2nd battalion at the combat area was sent by emergency airplane at 1100 hours. . ." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/11235, 23 Apr 52)

Comment: Possibly coincidentally, UN fighter pilots discovered and destroyed a Communist conventional ground attack aircraft on Wonsan airfield on 22 April. While there is no direct link between this message and the destroyed enemy plane, it may be speculated that a North Korean operational air unit exists in the Wonsan-Hamhung area of the east coast.

6. North Korean unit orders vegetables at extremely low price: An unidentified North Korean unit states that, "after conferring with the city people's commissar," it will buy some 27 metric tons of vegetables at a price of "one won per one kilogram." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/11268, 23 Apr 52)

Comment: Various vegetables offered to the North Korean public at government-controlled prices average 37 won per kilogram. Probably the military would pay less than the civilian segment; however, one won per kilogram seems excessively low.

7. Soviet air unit at new base in central Manchuria: A Chinese Communist message of 22 April revealed a Soviet air detachment at Tungfeng, 120 miles northeast of Mukden. On the same day, six Soviet MIG-15's landed at Tungfeng.

Three transports, probably of the Soviet 9th Air Army, made shuttle flights from Mukden and Anshan to Tungfeng between 16 and 23 April. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 79, 23 Apr; 6920 Security Grp Johnson AB Japan, 23 Apr 52)

Comment: These developments suggest that a Soviet air unit, equipped with MIG-15's, is now based at Tungfeng. The only Soviet MIG-15's previously known to be based outside of the Dairen and Antung area of Manchuria were in a small unit at Anshan, which may include the aircraft involved in the move to Tungfeng. This group has been associated with night interception over Korea.

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