

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

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6. Additional use of radar by North Koreans indicated: A recently available North Korean Air Force message of 12 March indicated that an air unit, possibly at Sariwon, was to use "detectors" and wanted to know what "type of detecting machine. . . is to be used."

Similarly, the 21st North Korean Independent Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment reported on 26 April that an individual "who was being trained to be a radar operator" must return to his unit. (SUEDE ASAPAC Japan, 8621 AAU Spot 3370A, 25 Apr; 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/11503, 27 Apr 52)

Comment: Although the Communists have made considerable use of radar in North Korea for antiaircraft artillery direction, ground-controlled intercept, and early warning, it was generally believed that Soviet personnel were operating the bulk of this equipment.

Sariwon has been identified as the site of an early-warning radar installation, possibly served by Soviet personnel, and this message suggests that the North Korean air unit there might receive additional equipment of their own.

7. "Orientation" to be conducted at North Korean Supreme Headquarters: An unlocated element of the North Korean Railroad Security Division was informed on 25 April that "the persons attending the Supreme Headquarters orientation will arrive by 26 April." (SUEDE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-940, 26 Apr 52)

Comment: An increase in the number of staff meetings and conferences, particularly in tactical units, has generally preceded enemy offensives in the past. It is probable, however, that this meeting is for political or logistical instruction, rather than for operational planning.

8. North Korean Air Force may be using airfield within Korea: In the late afternoon of 25 April, reports a US Air Force field unit, North Korea air force voice traffic indicated that an operational airfield was undergoing repairs. A Korean ground control station informed an aircraft to "come in one hour later. We are cleaning the playground" (cover-name for airfield).

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The field unit comments that this is the first such occurrence since 23 November 1951, when a North Korean ground station reported that "the playground is dirtied." UN aircraft had strafed Uiju airfield that day. (SUEDE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AB Japan, AP 604, 28 Apr 52)

Comment: Both Sinuiju and Uiju were operational on 25 April. Recently North Korean air activity has been noted at Sariwon, Wonsan and Yonpo, near Hamhung.

9. Mechanized North Korean unit believed deactivated mentioned: An unidentified North Korean armored unit in the Pyongyang area mentioned the "17th Division" on 24 April. The text of the message did not indicate the status of the Division. (SUEDE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-935, 26 Apr 52)

Comment: It is generally thought that the 17th North Korean Mechanized Division was deactivated, and that its personnel and equipment were transferred to the 105th Armored, 10th Mechanized and the newly formed mobile artillery brigades. While this message alone does not refute the previous indications that the 17th was deactivated, it raises the possibility that this unit still exists.

10. Chinese Communist artillery unit is in "bivouac" following relief: Headquarters of the 2nd Chinese Communist Artillery Division in west central Korea requested its recently relieved 29th Artillery Regiment to "report by letter a summary of the transfer of your battalion's positions, also the present arrangement of your bivouac area." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-2472, 26 Apr 52)

Comment: Elements of the 29th Artillery Regiment were relieved from combat between 20 and 24 April. This message, although indicating that the 29th has not returned to combat in another sector of the front, reveals that it is still located in some proximity to the front lines.

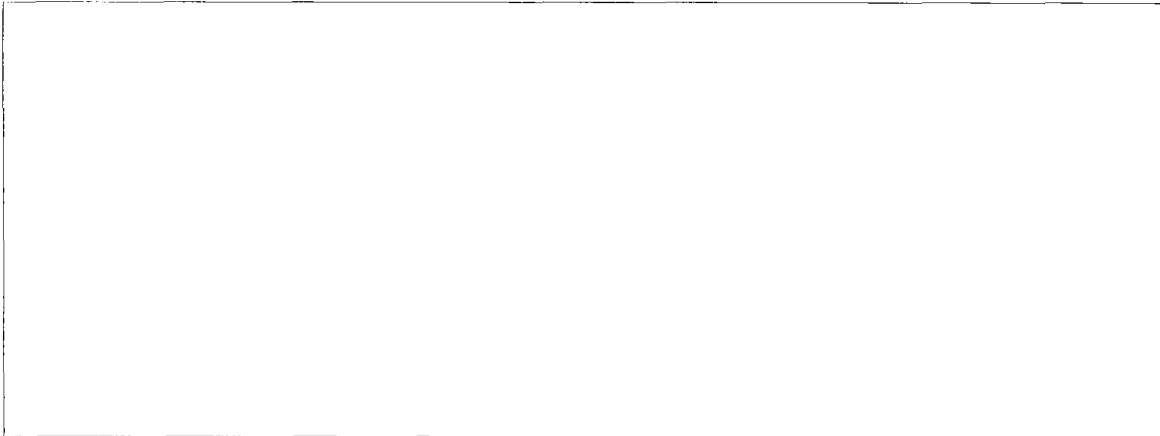
11. Large flight of Soviet jets at Tungfeng in central Manchuria: A Chinese message of 26 April reported 35 Soviet MIG-15's on a training flight at Tungfeng, 120 miles north-east of Mukden. Transports subordinate to the Soviet Union continue to make shuttle flights from Mukden into the Tungfeng area.

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The Air Force comments that the appearance of 35 Soviet jets is another indication that a Soviet fighter unit has just moved there. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 82, 28 Apr 52)

Comment: A Chinese message of 22 April revealed that a Soviet air unit was at Tungfeng. The number of MIG-15's observed flying there on 26 April is the normal complement of a Soviet air regiment.



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