

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

FAR EAST

2. Chinese Communist artillery regiment apparently moving toward Korean front: A Chinese Communist message on 24 May from a regiment of the 8th Artillery Division mentioned that "because we have recently changed positions things are not running as smoothly as usual." It also stated that the 40th Chinese Communist Army "has ordered that we (complete or forward something?) by the end of June." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-3201, 24 May 52)

Comment: Two previous messages recently indicated that the 8th Artillery Division is changing its position and moving forward in the central sector. The reference to the 40th Army, elements of which have been observed in the same general area, may indicate that the 8th Artillery Division will be supporting the 40th Army.

3. Enemy trucks damaged in Korea being shipped to China: A unit of the Chinese Communist 7th Artillery Division informed the division headquarters on 25 May that "three GAZ trucks with cabs. . . have been damaged. . . and they should be returned to China for repairs." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-3223, 27 May 52)

Comment: As it is known that the Chinese have several large maintenance depots in Korea, the above message would seem to indicate that either the depots do not have the facilities for making major repairs or that they are overloaded.

4. Communist messages indicate diseases continue in Korea: A North Korean intercept on 21 May from a battalion, possibly subordinate to the 21st AA Regiment, stated that "cholera trouble occurred in the Pyongyang area" and preventive measures should be prepared in the Sadong area. One day later another Korean unit, thought to be of the same subordination, declared that "cholera and pest (plague) are prevalent."

A Chinese Communist message, also on 21 May, revealed that an unidentified division's hospital and one of its emergency rest centers were "extremely" crowded, with nine tubercular patients at the latter. (SUEDE 15RSM [] 3317, 24 May; ROK Int Grp M, [] 3318, 25 May; 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-3023, 24 May 52)

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29 May 52

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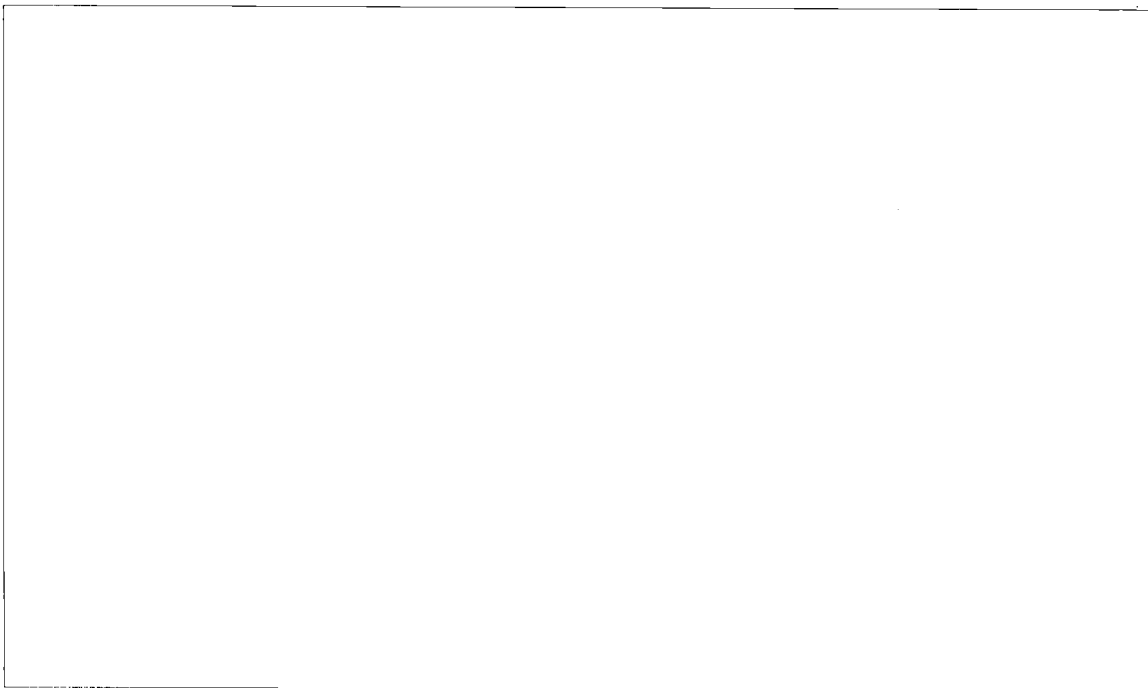
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Comment: The above messages, coupled with previous information, confirm the existence of cholera and plague among North Korean civilians and Chinese Communist troops. The diseases heretofore appeared to have been most prevalent in the area south of Wonsan.

5. Chinese conventional fighter regiment still active near Harbin: A Chinese Communist flight message on 27 May scheduled 12 or 21 LA-9 conventional fighters on a 200-mile round-robin flight at Lalin, near Harbin. The reporting agency comments that these are probably in the 25th Regiment of the 9th Division. No flight of more than one aircraft of this regiment has been observed since early December. (SUEDE 6920 Security Group Johnson AB Japan AP 977, 27 May 52)

Comment: The strength of the 25th Regiment is carried at 21 LA-9's. The division's other regiment, the 27th, is at Tunhua and also has 21 LA-9's. This division, the only known Chinese conventional fighter unit in Manchuria, has never been assigned to a combat base.



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