

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~

FAR EAST

4. High Chinese battle morale suggested: On 8 October a forward element of the 202nd Chinese Rocket Launcher Regiment supporting 38th Army elements in the attack on White Horse Mountain in west central Korea reported that its 4th company asked to "be allowed to carry out this mission to avenge the sacrifice of the comrades of the 5th and 6th Companies." The message continued that subordinate units "demand" to continue the fight.

Later that day, 202nd regimental headquarters replied that such demands showed "good spirit" and that the unit could participate in combat "if there is an opportunity." Headquarters warned, however, that the morale of the 2nd Battalion might be adversely affected if additional heavy casualties were suffered. Other messages passed on this Chinese artillery net indicate that the unit suffered considerable casualties. (CANOE L [] T1204, 9 Oct; L [] T1240, 10 Oct. 52)

Comment: It is possible that this reported pugnacity is for ultimate domestic propaganda consumption.

5. Chinese combat unit shows sensitive concern for Korean civilians: On 7 October an unidentified element of the Chinese 21st Rocket Launcher Division queried a subordinate unit about battle results. Included in the message was a reprimand to the effect that "yesterday the artillery position. . . destroyed the civilian's wheat. Please send men to cultivate it." (CANOE L [] T1235, 7 Oct 52)

Comment: This oversolicitous Chinese concern, in the midst of battle, for the well-being of a Korean farmer suggests that rigid rules of behavior toward the native population are being followed by the Chinese. Past messages have indicated an urgent Chinese desire to avoid antagonizing their unwilling civilian hosts.

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