

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~

9 Dec 52
CIB

FAR EAST

1. North Koreans lay groundwork for renewal of BW charges:

US Army Korea
29 Nov, 7 Dec 52
CANOE

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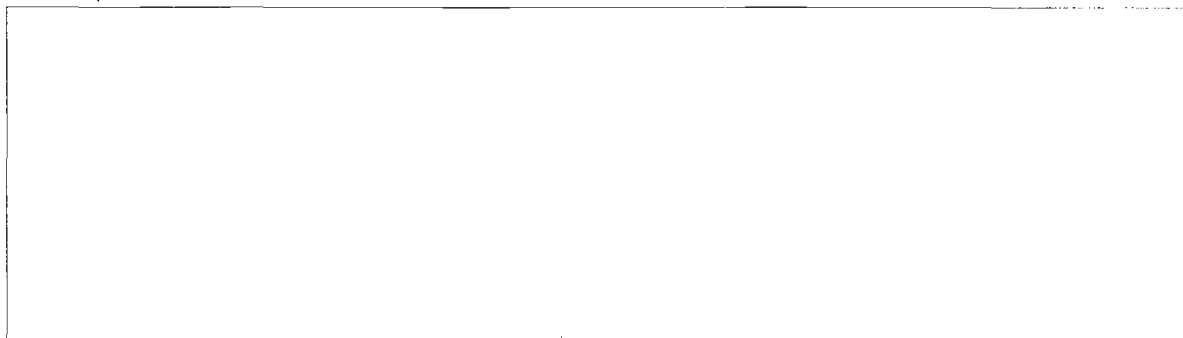
Two recent North Korean military messages may indicate a revival of the Orbit's BW propaganda campaign. The first message, on 29 November, was a report of "insects" which appeared on 20 November and "which have been positively identified as being unusual." The sender added that there had been "no cases of illness" and that preventive measures were being taken.

A second message, on 6 December, located "quantities of insects that carry bacteria" in the North Korean sector of the front lines and attributed their spread to the "barbarous United States empire." Preventive measures against smallpox and typhus, both endemic in North Korea, were stressed in the message.

Comment: Similar "discoveries" by enemy field units in early 1952 provided the basis for a major Communist propaganda theme of 1952--American use of BW in Korea. The primary purpose of that campaign was to further the "hate America" theme with a secondary aim of improving sanitation and controlling disease in North Korea.

The timing of this effort may be intended to coincide with the scheduled consideration of Communist BW charges in the UN.

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