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KOREA

2. North Korean corps move from Manchuria under handicaps:

North Korean Military 7-8 Feb 51 ACORN The southward move of the VI, VII, and VIII North Korean Corps into Korea from training areas in Manchuria continues, although, in the case of the VIII Corps, under serious handicaps imposed by UN action. The VI Corps, according to an 8 February message, is "marching in accordance with the previously planned route of march"; the Corps command post and its artillery are not moving as yet. According to a 7 February message, the lead trains of the VIII Corps had reached a point about 70 miles northeast of Hungnam, their destination, but had apparently been halted as of 1130 hours 7 February by UN naval and air attacks. The message stated, "Due to enemy air and naval bombardment, Number 1 train cannot proceed. Consequently, the rear guard trains cannot advance."

Comment: The North Korean VI Corps is advancing to the Anju-Kaechon area on the west coast of Korea; the VIII Corps is destined for the area between Wonsan, Hungnam and Pukchong along the east coast. A total of 20 trains have so far been noted as in-

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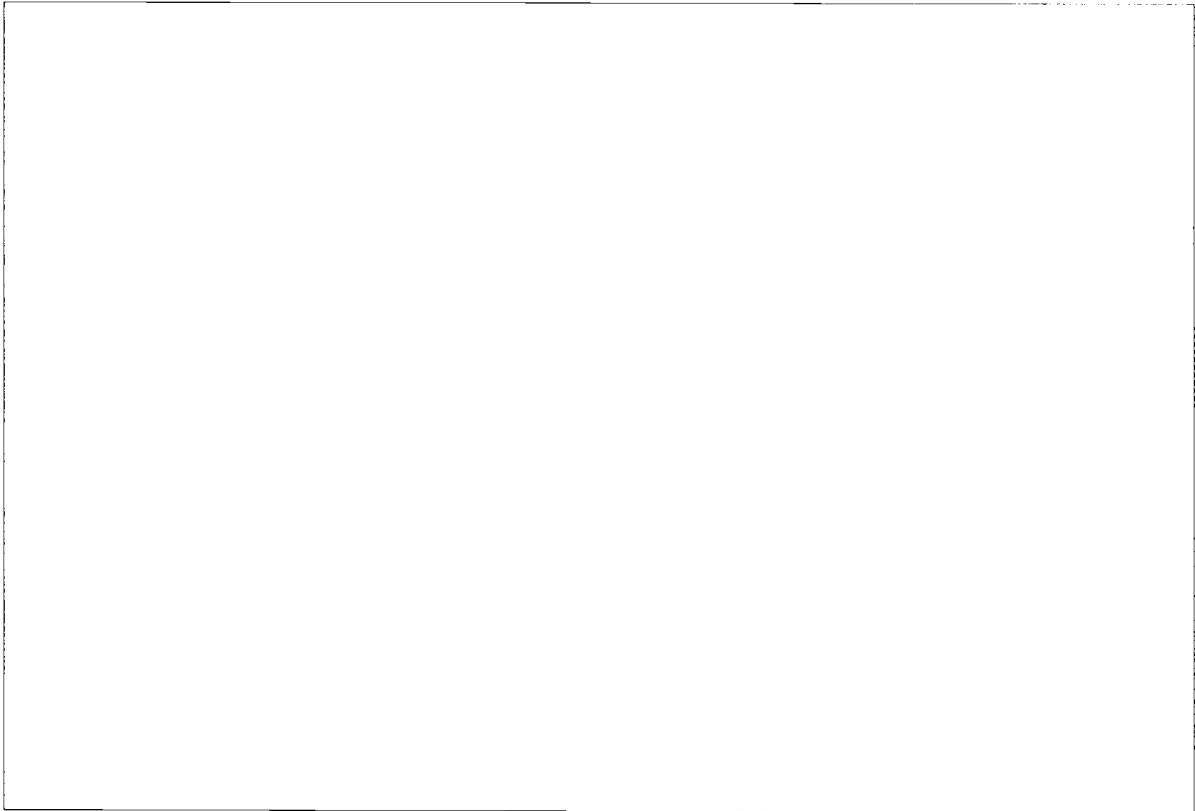
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involved in the move; earlier messages have referred to damage to other trains behind the lead elements. Expectation on the part of the Chinese Communists of damaging UN attacks on these convoys may have been the cause of the difficulties encountered by the North Koreans in arranging for the loan of these trains from China.



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