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"A" CHINA: Sino-Soviet decisions on Korea. [redacted]

[redacted] Stalin and Mao Tse-tung have conferred in Moscow (time unstated) and have decided to increase the Communist military effort in Korea. [redacted] a decision was reached to form an "international volunteer army" from Soviet, Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese (presumably POW's) and European satellite forces.

[redacted] it was further agreed that the USSR will supply 1000 aircraft and 400 tanks, that Peiping will furnish 1,350,000 of the 1,500,000 troops to be committed, and that LIN Piao will be C-in-C, with KIM Il-sung and a Japanese officer as deputies and a Soviet officer as Chief-of-Staff. [redacted] a large-scale Communist offensive in Korea is scheduled for late April, with the Chinese Fourth Field Army in the initial phase as the main striking force on the "right wing," supported by NIEH Jung-chen's "Fifth Field Army," and the Third Field Army as the main force on the "left wing." The "best" North Korean units are to be assigned to harassing missions behind UN lines, while all other international "volunteer" forces will be stationed on a "second line."

COMMENT:

Reports on MAO's whereabouts and physical condition during the past two months are in conflict. Reports of Soviet plans for an "international volunteer army" were current in the autumn of 1950, but were then - and are now - regarded as improbable, since the Communist military effort in Korea does not lack manpower. Judging from present evidence, the scale of the alleged Soviet and Chinese contributions to the "volunteer" effort, in materiel and men respectively, appears exaggerated. Although [redacted] forthcoming Communist operations in Korea appears to be plausible in part (see below), the report as a whole does not seem reliable.

"A" KOREA: Communist "5th Phase Offensive". Recently-captured Chinese Communist PWs in Korea have stated that the "5th Phase Offensive," described as "an all-out drive on Pusan," would begin on 25 March. Other PW's have stated that Chinese Communist Third Field Army units from Wonsan, and "an Army Group from China," would reinforce presently-committed Chinese Fourth Field Army units. One prisoner from the 66th Chinese Communist Army identified the "new" force entering Korea as the 19th Army Group of the First Field Army. The PW further stated that the

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19th Army Group consisted of three mechanized armies and that the Chinese Communist Air Force will be committed in support of the "Fifth Phase" operation. [REDACTED] COMMENT: FECOM, while not accepting these reports, comments that it is possible that the 19th Army Group, formerly in the Yenchi-Tumen area in Manchuria, has entered Korea. Other reports indicate that this Army Group has received Soviet equipment and training. FECOM also considers it possible that the abortive "4th Phase Offensive", reported in early February, has been redesignated as a holding action, in preparation for a "5th Phase."

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