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FAR EAST

24 Apr 51
CIB

Korea

I. Communist offensive in Korea begins:

North Korean Military Kim Ung, front line North Korean field commander
 22 Apr 51 at Combined Headquarters, reported to Premier
 ACORN Kim Il Sung on 22 April that "in compliance with
 the unit order the assault units have turned to the
 offensive at 1800 hours this date." [redacted]

[redacted] reports "hostile activity along the
 UN central front characterized by coordinated night attacks of battalion and
 regiment strength following artillery preparation." [redacted]
 further reports the capture in the west on 22 April of a badly wounded
 Chinese Communist from the newly-identified Chinese Communist 12th
 Army, 3rd Army Group.

Comment: The scale and direction of the initial
 attacks during the evening of 22 April, the gist of Kim Ung's message,
 and the tentative identification of the Chinese Communist 3rd Army Group
 in the west, where the newly-arrived Chinese Communist 18th and 19th
 Army Groups have been concentrated, indicate that the long-anticipated
 Communist offensive has begun. The reported current enemy disposition
 suggests that the Communists' major effort will be concentrated along the
 approaches to Seoul in the west. In addition, the recent forward deploy-
 ment in the eastern sector of major North Korean units heavily supported
 by artillery suggests that Communist offensive plans may include an
 attack or feint in that more weakly-held area.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
 DATE: 23-Mar-2010