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7. KOREA/CHINA. Communist "International Volunteers" in Korean war again reported:

[redacted] Communist "International Volunteers" will enter Korea in January; if peace talks are still in progress, the move will be postponed. [redacted] the "volunteer" force to be composed of one CCF 4th Field Army army group, one "liberation" army of former Japanese POW's, one cavalry army of Outer Mongolians, one "composite" army, and 1500 aircraft.

[redacted] on 4 December "one Polish artillery battalion, one Czech artillery battalion, both stationed at Wonsan, and a Soviet Caucasian artillery unit at Anju and Suncheon were all ordered to evacuate to the Antung-Tungwha area." Additionally, "one regiment of the Soviet 13th Antiaircraft Division was ordered to evacuate" and "two regiments of the Soviet 18th Antiaircraft Division was (sic) ordered to evacuate."

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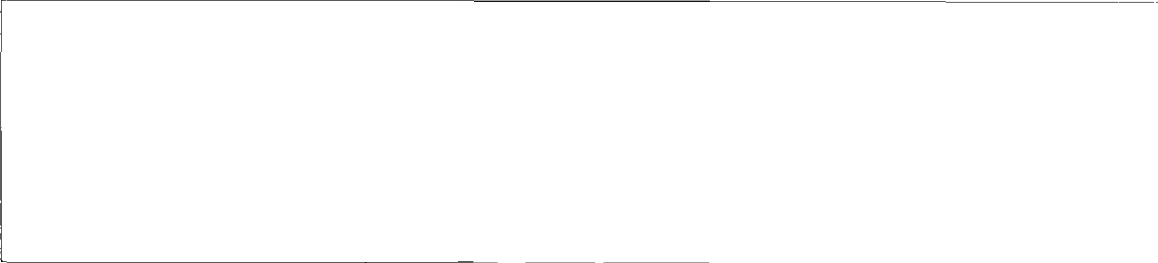
Comment: Although the presence of an "International Volunteer Army" of comparable composition has been consistently reported in the Manchurian-Korean theater [redacted] the existence or non-existence of this force has never been established. The presence of the considerable number of Soviet military personnel believed to be in Korea, however, could have given rise to this concept of a separate tactical force.

Soviet personnel are believed to be serving antiaircraft artillery in Korea and there is no reason why they should not be in organized units. The reported order for these units to evacuate to the Communist zone of communications in Manchuria, if true, could indicate preparations for a cease-fire and subsequent inspections to avoid compromising the identity of these covert participants in the Korean war. In the event of a breakdown of negotiations, an enlargement of the conflict would require increased antiaircraft protection of Manchuria.

8. ROK reacts immediately to UN POW tally: The ROK Office of Public Information took immediate exception to a news story from Panmunjon in which a US spokesman mentioned only 7,000 to 11,000 UN prisoners in Communist hands. The ROK release stated that "my government wishes to call attention to the fact that over 88,000 ROK soldiers are missing in action and more than this number of loyal South Korean civilians were seized and carried north by the Communist invaders." The statement continued, "we are confident that UN negotiators cannot be overlooking the ROK prisoners as they conduct negotiations." [redacted]

Comment: The news story obviously referred to non-ROK personnel. This reaction gives further evidence of the extreme sensitivity of the ROK Government to any real or imagined slight.

The Communists' statement that they hold only some 7,000 ROK prisoners further complicates this situation. UN sources have claimed that upwards of 90,000 ROK prisoners are in Communist hands. It is possible that the Communists have forwarded only the names of those ROK soldiers who are actually in POW camps and have omitted, possibly for later bargaining, the names of those taken into North Korean military service.



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