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9. KOREA. Kaesong guard unit sees long negotiations: The North Korean 82nd Regiment in the Kaesong area, in a 5 January message, reports the apparent impasse over the construction of Communist airfields and the exchange of prisoners. Although the message states that "I suppose the conference

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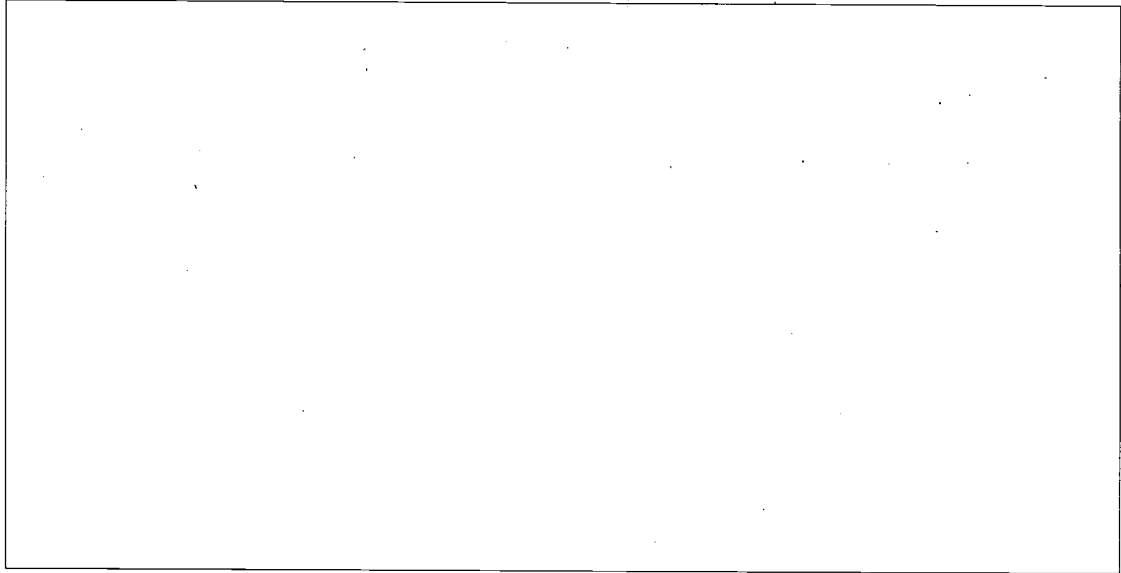
will take a long time," it notes that the "General Staff has been planning the prisoner treatment and they obtained the buildings for prisoners in Kaesong already. . ." (SUEDE AS CM IN 1311, 6 Jan 52)

Comment: The 82nd Regiment is a local security unit and presumably does not have access to high-level Communist decisions relating to the cease-fire talks. This unit would, however, be in a position to observe activities in Kaesong related to preparations for an eventual prisoner-of-war exchange.

10. Communists continue island campaign in west central Korea: In addition to the reported 2 January capture of Sunwi and Wi islands just south of the Ongjin peninsula by the North Korean 23rd Brigade, recent messages of 4 and 7 January detail plans for operations against Yuk and Wollae islands to the west of the Ongjin peninsula and against Ohwa island to the south. The latter operation is to be conducted by the 26th battalion of the 23rd Brigade and is to begin at 0300 hours on 8 January. (SUEDE AS CM IN 1032 and 1669, 5 Jan and 7 Jan 52)

Comment: Elements of the Chinese Communist 40th Army and the North Korean 23rd Brigade have been engaged in eliminating UN guerrilla and espionage bases in the western coastal waters since November.

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