

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

9. KOREA. North Koreans order precautions against alleged bacteriological warfare: A North Korean battalion commander was ordered on 27 February to take special precautions to avoid contamination of his unit's food and water because "the enemy dropped bacteria" in central Korea. Covering wells and disinfecting United Nations leaflets were additional recommendations.

These latter measures were probably inspired by a 16 February message which stated that "spies are putting poison into the drinking water" and distributing paper which causes death to "anyone using these papers for the nose." (SUEDE AFSA-251, 1547Z, 28 Feb; 501st Comm Recon Group Korea, 15RSM/6456, 16 Feb 52)

Comment: There is no evidence that a serious health problem exists in North Korea. Following recent charges made by both the North Korean and the Chinese Communist Foreign Ministers that the United Nations were using bacteriological warfare in the Korean war, the entire Soviet Orbit has been giving great emphasis to this subject. The American Embassy in Moscow observes that Soviet press and radio coverage links the BW issue with the Panmunjom truce talks.

10. North Korean major commands have large political unit: A 27 February message to the North Korean "Front Line Headquarters" noted that "the table of organization of political platoon was changed....it should consist of 42 persons in corps headquarters, while 51 persons in division as before." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Group Korea, SK-G-919, 28 Feb 52)

Comment: This disproportionately high number of political personnel assigned at staff level is further evidence of the great emphasis placed on indoctrination in the North Korean army.

11. Supply of foodstuffs for three North Korean battalions listed: A North Korean message of 22 February -- possibly between two rear-area units on the east coast -- listed the foodstuffs on hand for three battalions and the number of days the provisions are to last. Each battalion had approximately 11 days supply of rice on hand and a ten-day supply on requisition. In general, the battalions had a one to three week supply of miscellaneous grains and vegetables on hand with no additional supplies on requisition. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Co Korea, 15RSM/6760, 22 Feb 52)

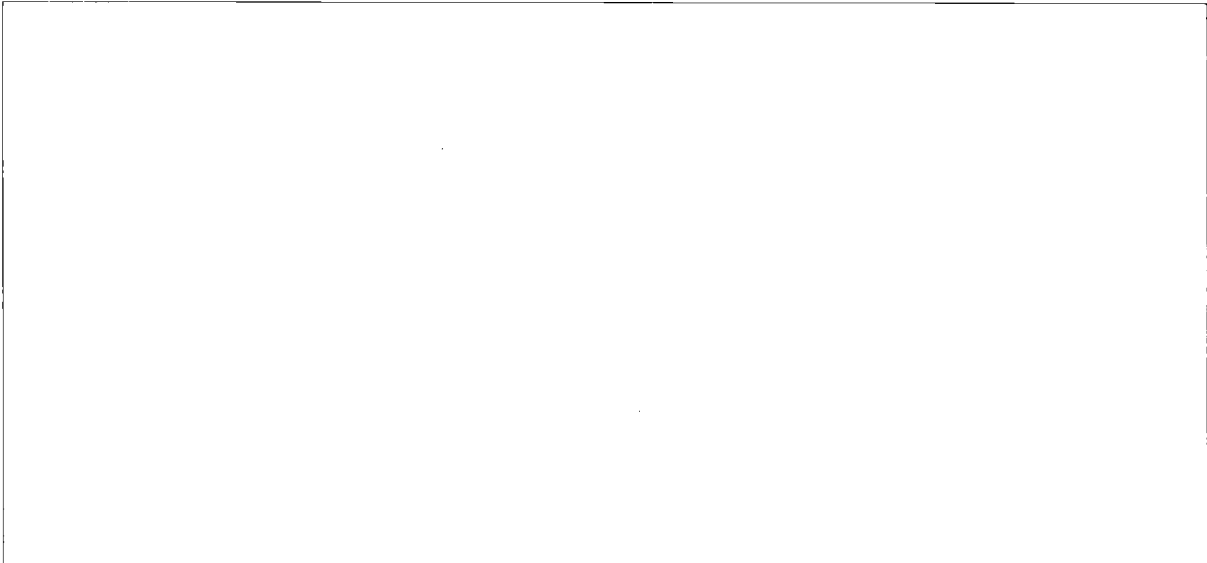
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Comment: Units in a static defensive role on the east coast might be expected to maintain a somewhat higher level of rations on hand. This relatively low level may reflect continued transportation difficulties.

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