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6. Russians make large shipments to Chinese and Korean Communists: Recent Russian messages reveal letters of credit covering Chinese purchases of four million rubles (one million dollars at the official rate of exchange) worth of spare parts for motor vehicles and tractors, almost 200,000 rubles for medical supplies, and over 350,000 rubles for explosives. The delivery date for these items is believed to be no later than 21 June.

The US Air Force comments that a build-up pattern strikingly similar to that which preceded the outbreak of hostilities in 1950 is provided by this transaction coupled with recently reported letters of credit amounting to 13 million rubles covering Soviet shipments of petroleum products to the North Koreans, and deliveries in late May or early June of approximately 2,000 motor vehicles. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 91, 9 May 52)

Comment: A steady build-up of supplies during the period of the truce negotiations has provided the Communists with sufficient materiel to launch a major offensive against the UN forces. A continuing flow of deliveries from the Soviet Union is foreshadowed by a Sino-Soviet trade protocol which was signed in mid-April and which provided, according to TASS, for "a considerable expansion of goods exchange in the coming year as against the 1951 level."

7. North Koreans intercept UN communications: The commander of the North Korean 23rd Brigade, assigned to coastal defense in western Korea, learned "by intercepting the enemy wireless telegram," of UN operational plans in this area. The officer, reporting to his corps commander on 9 May, stated that ROK guerrillas were evacuating islands north of the 38th parallel and were concentrating on Paengnyon island, just south of the parallel.

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He attributes this withdrawal to a UN expectation of "final success at the truce conference" which provides for such a withdrawal. The North Korean warns, however, that the ROK guerrillas are preparing to attack the Communist-held Ongjin peninsula area. (SUEDE CS506-extract, Unknown-Unknown, 10 May 52)

8. Four new Soviet GCI stations appear in northwest Korea: The US Air Force reports that an additional Russian-language ground-controlled-intercept station, possibly located at an airfield south of the Yalu River, appeared on 15 April. Three additional Russian-language GCI radar stations, also located in the same general area and directly subordinate to the chief controller at Antung, appeared between 16 and 19 April.

Following the discovery of these new GCI installations, the volume of inter-net communications among the stations of the Russian-language GCI net has increased sharply.

The Air Force observes that the establishment of these new stations represents an expansion of operational air defense capabilities, while the increased volume of communications suggests an increased state of readiness on the part of the Communist air defense system. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 90, 8 May 52)

9. No communications equipment increase scheduled for North Korean Army in May: A North Korean communications staff officer informed a communications supply officer at Pyongyang on 6 May that "there are no plans for the communications equipment for the 'Inmingun' (Peoples Army) for May." The message continued that although some equipment had arrived presumably in Manchuria, as "trading material," the two freight cars assigned to the communications office were incapable of transporting any equipment owing to rail damage in northwestern Korea. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/12030, 7 May 52)

Comment: This communications organization has previously concerned itself with the manufacture of batteries and with the importation of wire and telephone equipment.

The reference to the lack of plans indicates that no communications equipment is to be imported in May. It also suggests that either a sufficient quantity of such material is on hand or that bad scheduling caused a break in arrivals.