

FAR EAST

11. Communist unit in Korea has epidemic outbreak: An unidentified North Korean unit, probably an antiaircraft artillery battalion in eastern Korea, reported on 8 May that "on the 6th and 7th day, 17 patients suddenly came down with a high fever." (SUEDE USM-664, Korea, SK-J-225, 8 May 52)

Comment: This is the first indication in communications intelligence this year of disease in epidemic proportions among Communist units in North Korea.

Other intelligence sources, however, have indicated a relatively high incidence of communicable diseases in North Korea.

12. Chinese move antiaircraft artillery nearer Korean front: An unidentified Chinese Communist antiaircraft unit, probably located in the Singye area of west central Korea, in referring to "the 38th Army's Independent 2nd Battalion" reported on 6 May: "at the present time that battalion's commander accompanied by one company has arrived." A little later on the same day, this unit reported that "as the 38th Army's small antiaircraft artillery units, and the 11th Battalion have already proceeded forward to assume the defensive duties of the 1st and 3rd companies. . . ." This message continued that the 1st and 3rd companies which were relieved by the 38th Army AAA Battalion ". . . will be deployed. . . with their principal duty. . . the direction of fire upon enemy aircraft. . ." (SUEDE USM-664, Korea, K-2731 and K-2732, 10 May 52)

Comment: The 38th Chinese Communist Army is believed located in the Sunchon area, northeast of Pyongyang. The deployment of its organic antiaircraft battalion to an area in the immediate rear of the front lines gives further evidence of the increasing importance attached to antiaircraft defenses in the combat zone. It does not appear that the bulk of the 38th Army will follow this AAA battalion.

13. North Korean unit well supplied with food despite reduction in meat ration: Every man in the 21st Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment will be provided with 150 grams of salt

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a month "to use for toothpaste" but 50 grams of meat will be deducted from the month's ration, according to a 10 May North Korean message. The message concluded that "there is no need to save the main and auxiliary food beginning on the first of May." (SUEDE USM-664, Korea, 15RSM [ ] 3280, 11 May 52)

Comment: Despite the curtailment of meat, which is of minor importance in the soldier's diet, the above message demonstrates further the continued logistical success of the Communists.

14. Small amount of fertilizer may be imported into North Korea: A North Korean message passed between two unidentified units on 9 May states that "they have loaded" 130 bags of fertilizer at a small town in the Hungnam area. (SUEDE USM-664, Korea, 15RSM [ ] 3281, 11 May 52)

Comment: This message suggests that possibly a small amount of commercial fertilizer, known to be virtually unobtainable by the average North Korean farmer, is being imported. Other possibilities are that this fertilizer was stockpiled in some isolated area or that a small amount is being produced in the Hungnam-Hamhung area, the former center of North Korea's extensive fertilizer industry.

15. More gas masks needed by Communist artillery unit in Korea: The 7th Chinese Communist Artillery Division headquarters informed its supply element on 7 May that personnel were going to Antung "to request gas masks." The message continued that two vehicles were being prepared by the transportation company, possibly to transport the masks. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-2762, 11 May 52)

Comment: On 22 March, the 7th Artillery Division received 500 gas masks, the first receipt of anti-gas equipment noted in Korea. These masks, probably intended for training purposes, were distributed to the artillery regiments subordinate to the 7th Artillery on 2 April.

16. North Korean Air Force "lecture" scheduled for 12 May at Sinuiju: In a 6 May message passed between two unidentified and unlocated North Korean air units,

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an individual was instructed: "since there is a lecture from 12 May, you are to arrive at Sinuiju by 11 May." The message was garbled. (SUEDE USM-35, Korea, ALT-024, 10 May 52)

Comment: While no immediate significance can be attached to this meeting, the enemy in Korea has always preceded a major operation with a series of high echelon official conferences.

17. Another Chinese jet division may move to Antung airfield: A Chinese message scheduled 22 MIG-15's of the 3rd Division from Mukden to Antung on 13 May." This flight may be a unit transfer, according to the reporting agency, which comments that after this move there will be at least 347 jets on Yalu River bases. (SUEDE USA-38 AP 782, 12 May 52)

Comment: The 3rd Division flew combat missions at Antung from mid-October 1951 to mid-January 1952, when it returned to Mukden. Although it may be moving into the Antung area to replace one of the units now based there, there are no indications yet that any are moving out. Four Chinese MIG-15 divisions, averaging 50 planes each, and one Korean and three Soviet units are believed to be already based in the Antung area.

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