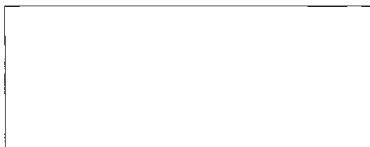


~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

22 Jul 53  
CIB

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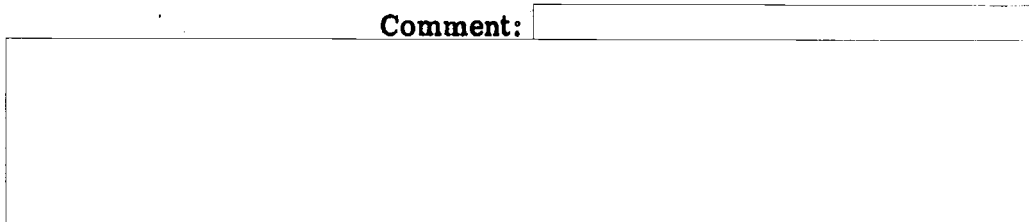
1. South Korean foreign minister threatens to prevent armistice:



Ambassador Briggs reports that South Korean foreign minister Pyun on 21 July made an "unequivocal, reckless and last-minute" threat to torpedo the armistice by demanding "clarifications" on two of the assurances which UN chief negotiator Harrison made to the Communists on 19 July. Specifically, Pyun and Prime Minister Paek Tu-chin wanted to know what Harrison meant when he said that the UN would "maintain the armistice" if it were violated by South Korea, and would "protect" neutral nation personnel authorized to enter South Korea,

Implying that Robertson had shown bad faith in his conversations, Pyun and Paek also demanded to know whether the United States would give "moral and material support" in case of unilateral South Korean military action, and whether it would grant Rhee the type of mutual defense pact he requested on 9 July.

Comment:



In the past Rhee's opposition to the truce has risen whenever it seemed imminent. It is possible that Rhee plans to exploit the unsettled issues in the Rhee-Robertson agreement in a last-minute effort to block a truce or gain further concessions from the United States.

2. Enemy planning action in Korea on wide front:

Chinese Comm Military 19, 20 July 53  
CANOE  
L 79065  
L 79131  
A 19 July message revealed that two tank companies from an unidentified tank regiment had been instructed to proceed immediately to the Chinese Communist 24th Army sector and support that army in combat. Another message dated 20 July from an unidentified unit mentioned moving to the 46th Army sector to participate in combat.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: 23-Mar-2010

**Comment:** These messages, the first to refer to participation of the 24th and 46th Armies, suggest that action on a wide front is being planned. The 24th Army is located in central Korea while the 46th is located in western Korea, just east of Panmunjom. A number of messages have indicated a pending offensive to take place on or about 25 July in eastern Korea and western Korea near Chorwon.



NR