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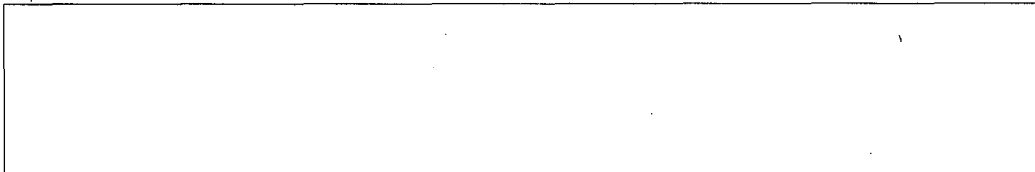
24 May 51
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"B" KOREA. Communist Offensive Turned Back Along Entire Front. [redacted]

[redacted] the second attack of the Communists' 5th Phase Offensive "ended in failure" due to heavy casualties. [redacted] large scale withdrawal on all fronts, although enemy activity in the east is not yet entirely clear. It is believed that the Communists will be incapable of resuming the offensive for a period of from 8 to 10 days. ([redacted] 24 May 51).

"C" KOREA. Manpower Scandal in the ROK. According to press accounts, the ROK Ministry of Health on 22 May released statistics for the month of April on health conditions among the more than 400,000 South Korean men once held in "training camps" in South Korea. These figures revealed the death of 13,000 conscripts in April due to disease as well as hunger and extreme malnutrition in over 200,000. Apparently much of the blame for maltreatment of these men rests on the shoulders of officers of the now-disbanded National Guard. ([redacted] 22 May 51) COMMENT: Prior to the 2nd Communist capture of Seoul in January, the ROK Government rounded up all men of military age and sent them south under guard to prevent their conscription by the Communists. The men were held in virtual concentration camps in the south and no ROK Government agency would accept full responsibility for their maintenance. Some 250,000 of the 400,000 were recently released. It is believed that this scandal was a factor in the recent ROK Cabinet turnover and may also account for the current high degree of legislative indignation against President Rhee.

"C" KOREA. Reorganized Chinese Communist Units may be on Western Front. A Chinese Communist soldier, captured north of Seoul on 22 May, identified his unit as the 1st. Cavalry Regiment, Independent Cavalry Division. The prisoner stated that his troop was attached to the Chinese Communist 38th Army for reconnaissance and also that the 38th Army was to attack. [redacted] further clarification and confirmation of this information must be received before accepting it. ([redacted] 24 May 51). COMMENT: Although very sketchy, this report lends credence to previous reports of an unidentified army group to the rear of the 19th Army Group on the western front. While it was previously believed that this force might be elements of the 2nd Army Group, this report may indicate that the reorganized 12th Army Group (38th, 39th, and 40th Armies, long in Korea and presently out of contact) is in reserve on the western front.



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