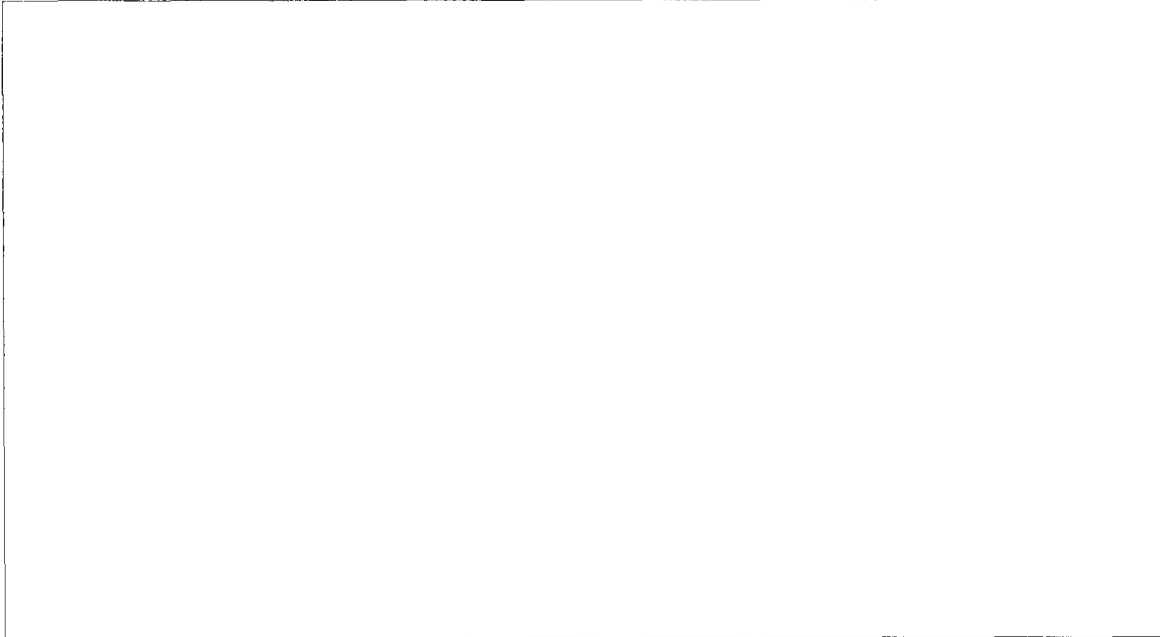


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8. KOREA. Continued Communist preparations for cease-fire seen: A North Korean railroad security regiment in northeastern Korea sent a routine message to its headquarters in Pyongyang on 21 November requesting clarification "with regard to drawing up a list of names of liberated privates . . . now serving in our unit." The message indicates that the "liberated privates" are either conscripted South Korean civilians or captured ROK military personnel. (SUEDE US AFSS CM IN 55319, 23 Nov 51)

Comment: The compilation of such a list of former South Korean personnel now serving in the Communist army suggests that preparations are being made for future negotiations on the exchange of prisoners.

9. Communist air unit withdrawn from Sariwon in early November: Recently available North Korean air messages covering the period 1 to 4 November suggest that operations from that field have been suspended, although construction activity continues.

The Sariwon airfield commander, Ch'oe Kun Pil, was informed by Air Headquarters in Pyongyang that "your unit commanders are being transferred." He replied on 3 November that "there will not be any personnel remaining at Sariwon."

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On 4 November, however, Sariwon reported that "we are constructing . . . according to orders." (SUEDE [ ] 1853, 1852, 1855, Pyongyang-Sariwon, 1, 2, 2 Nov; [ ] 1851, 1854, Sariwon-Pyongyang, 3, 4 Nov 51)

Comment: A number of small airfields in the vicinity of Sariwon are suspected of being bases for one and two-plane harassing attacks on UN installations. These messages suggest that the personnel involved in this relatively unprofitable endeavor are being withdrawn further to the rear.

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