

21 May 52
CIB

FAR EAST

1. Gas mask issue to Chinese Communists seen as propaganda maneuver:

[Redacted]

20 May 52

[Redacted]

Sixteen recently captured Chinese Communist soldiers reveal that they were either issued gas masks or instructed in the use of anti-gas field expedients during April 1952, according to Far East Command. Three possible reasons advanced by FECOM for such enemy preparations are that the Communists anticipate UN use of gas, that they intend to wage chemical warfare, or that the gas masks are to provide "proof" for enemy propaganda charges of the United States using CW in Korea.

FECOM concludes that available evidence fails to indicate enemy intentions of employing chemical warfare in the immediate future.

Comment: The issue of gas masks, [Redacted] probably is intended to support Communist charges of American use of chemical warfare agents in Korea.

While specific Communist propaganda allegations of US use of biological warfare ended in early April, a continuation of the American "atrocities" theme has been provided by recent charges that the United States has used CW agents in combat.

Radio Pyongyang on 24 April detailed 33 incidents of alleged use of chemical warfare occurring between 27 February and 9 April, and again on 7 May charged that the United States used CW on 22 and 25 April.

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5. North Korean Ministry of Industry to receive communications equipment: The North Korean Supreme Headquarters in Pyongyang on 14 May, quoting from "the Trade Department statistics," listed 238 telephones, 61 wireless radios and 27 transmitters which would be available to the Ministry of Industry. The addressee, an unidentified supply unit, is informed that "you will be able to receive them. . .at Antung, if you bring the requisition from the Industry Ministry."

On 16 May, an unidentified unit informed Pyongyang that "the equipment that arrived at Antung is. . .in the Sinuiju warehouse." The originator then inquired about fuel "for the purpose of transporting the equipment." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp, 15RSM/12530, 17 May; 330th Comm Recon Co, BLT 101, Korea, 16 May 52)

Comment: In view of the North Koreans' urgent desire to transport communications equipment into Korea, the regime has probably decided to employ trucks instead of using the circuitous northeastern railway routes. This is one of the rare instances of a non-military agency receiving equipment in such short supply.

6. Family threatened if North Korean airman deserts: A series of recent North Korean Air Force messages have detailed the intentions of a North Korean airman to desert "to China." In reference to this situation, North Korean Air Headquarters at Sinuiju informed an air unit near Pyongyang on 15 May that "you are to tell him that if he deserts, his family will share the trouble. . ." (SUEDE 15th RSM Det 151, Korea, 15RSM/12642, 18 May 52).

Comment: Although many recent prisoners of war have revealed that their political officers threatened retaliation on their families if they deserted, this message is the first evidence of such a policy noted in communications intelligence.

7. Artillery regiment mentioned as organic to Chinese division in Korea: A Chinese Communist message in Korea on 17 May directly referred to the "Artillery Regiment" of the 117th Division. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K 2906, 17 May 52)

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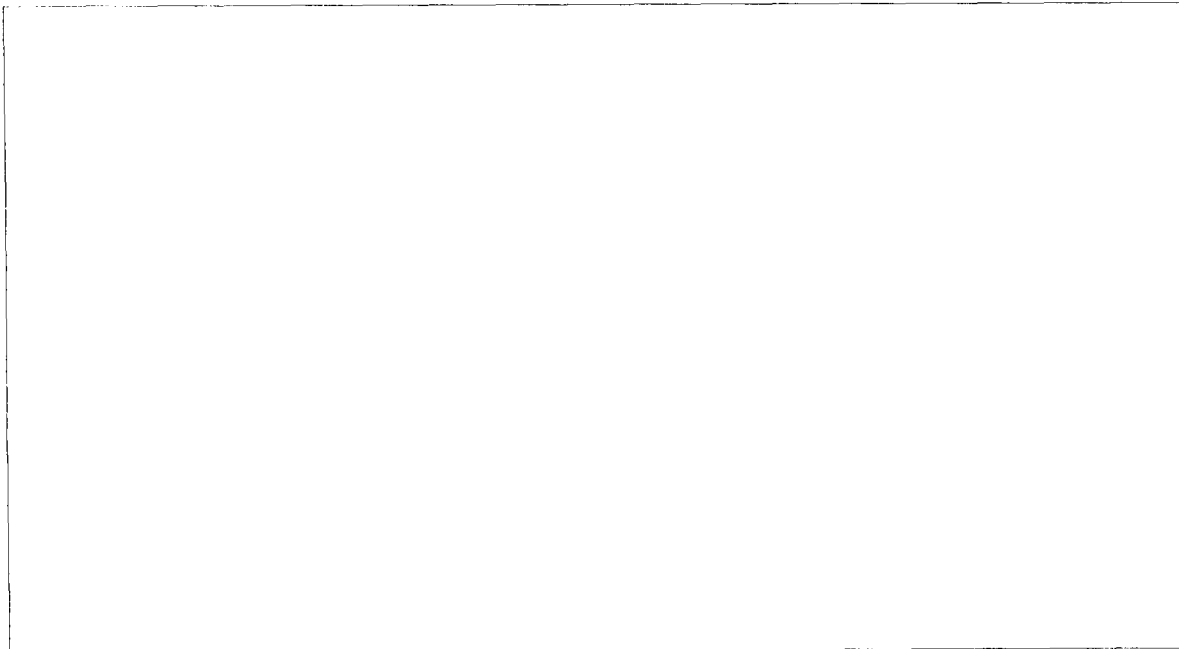
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Comment: The Far East Command concluded recently that, as a general rule, an artillery regiment was organic to each army. Artillery regiments, however, have long been recognized as integral parts of divisions in the 9th and 20th Chinese Army Groups. But this is the first reference to a divisional artillery regiment within the 13th Army Group.

8. US patrol plane attacked probably by Soviet MIG's: A US naval patrol bomber was attacked by two MIG-15's on 11 May while flying over Korea Bay, midway between Soviet-controlled Port Arthur and Takushan, a Chinese jet base. About the same time a Chinese air defense search net reported two aircraft traveling at 300 knots on a southerly course from Port Arthur. (S COMNAVFE 0920Z, 12 May; SUEDE Air Force Roundup 97, 19 May 52)

Comment: The fact that the US patrol bomber was almost within the limits of the Port Arthur Naval Base area, as defined in the 1945 Sino-Soviet Treaty, also suggests that the attacking MIG's came from the Soviet base at Port Arthur.



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