

FAR EAST

11. Chinese artillery unit north of Pyongyang ordered to front:
An unidentified Chinese Communist division commander on 19 May instructed a subordinate that "Higher Headquarters has ordered that your regiment staying at Anju (north of Pyongyang) will immediately return to the front. You will immediately make preparations to participate in battle." The message ordered the recipient to inform the "601st Regiment" that they are to "proceed as of the 20th of this month to Kaesong" and "for further details on the move contact the 43rd Regiment of my division." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-2988, 23 May 52)

Comment: Preliminary analysis of this information suggests that an unidentified regiment of the 8th Chinese Communist Artillery Division, currently supporting elements of the 19th Army Group in western Korea, is soon to enter combat.

The 601st Regiment would normally be subordinate to the 67th Chinese Army, believed located in eastern Korea and in no position to move to Kaesong, the extreme western front.

12. North Korean units on Ongjin Peninsula alerted for UN attack: An unidentified North Korean unit on 22 May reports that "on the 19th they were preparing to land on Ongjin... therefore all troops should prepare for combat at any time and never let one of them land. The 81st Regiment, 22nd Regiment, the units in the area and the patrol company should report their attempts from time to time...." (SUEDE USA 54A Korea, CS 535, 21 May 52)

Comment: In addition to demonstrating the sensitivity of the enemy to any suspected UN amphibious operations, this message locates two previously unlocated North Korean units in western Korea.

The 22nd Regiment is probably antiaircraft artillery. The 81st Regiment, however, would normally be subordinate to the 8th Division, now in eastern Korea. Recent agent reports have indicated the presence of an "81st Mixed Brigade" with both Korean and Chinese troops on the Ongjin Peninsula in western Korea. It is possible that the 81st, like the 82nd at Kaesong, did not move to the east with its parent division, but was expanded and remained in the west with a coastal security mission.

13. Extension of North Korean land lines continues: A North Korean unit, possibly assigned to coastal security duties in the Wonsan area, stated in a 19 May message that it had completed installing two land lines. One line is over 2 miles long and the other over 21. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/12929, 19 May 52)

Comment: The continuing effort to provide land lines for communications despite material shortages, such as copper wire, has been typical of North Korean security consciousness.

14. Five additional Chinese Communist air divisions reported: An analysis of traffic intercepted on the Chinese Communist Air Force administrative network indicates that five previously unknown Chinese Communist air divisions are located in China proper. Four of them were first noted in November 1951, and the fifth in February. (SUEDE CC/CAP-231, 22 May 52)

The operational status, type and strength of aircraft, and numerical designations of these divisions are unknown.

Comment: This information increases to 25 the number of known Chinese Communist air divisions. Only ten, with an estimated strength of 500 planes, are in Manchuria, where 350 to 400 Soviet and Korean jets and conventional fighters are also based.

The number of combat planes in the Chinese Communist Air Force increased from an estimated 1,000 in June 1951 to the present estimate of 1,800 planes.

15. Sharp increase in Chinese flights reported on GCI net: Analysis of traffic on the Chinese-voice GCI net on the Manchuria-Korea border reveals that Chinese Communist planes made a minimum of 662 flights in March and 1,292 in April. The number of aircraft operating on this net also increased in the same period. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 100, 22 May 52)

Comment: An over-all increase in Communist air strength near the Korean border during April was apparent from UN pilot observations of as many as 500 planes on the fields across the Yalu River. There were four known Chinese Communist divisions-- the 4th, 12th, 15th and 17th -- at the three fields near Antung in April. Perhaps the 3rd and 6th, the remaining Chinese Communist jet divisions in Manchuria, also operated on the GCI net, even though they were believed to be in Mukden.

17. Chinese move additional air elements to Korean border:
The movement of elements of the Chinese Communist 18th Air Division to the Yalu River area is revealed in several intercepts.

Heretofore carried at Canton, in South China, this division was mentioned in a 21 May message in connection with the departure of aircraft from Mukden in Manchuria. A message the next day scheduled the flight of nine MIG-15's of this division from Mukden to Takushan, on the Korean border. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup No. 101, 23 May 52)

Comment: Movements of elements of an air unit have frequently foreshadowed entire unit transfers. If transfer of the whole 18th Division materializes and this unit enters combat, some 75 percent of the known Chinese Communist jet units will have been combat trained.