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FAR EAST

8. North Korean "Kaesong Guard Unit" moves toward east: The commander of the North Korean 82nd Regiment reported on 28 June that his medical unit had arrived northwest of Chorwon by early morning of 27 June. The balance of the message indicated that the entire 82nd Regiment, formerly on special guard duty at Kaesong, was moving toward the eastern sector, possibly to rejoin its parent 8th Division. One battalion of the 82nd may have remained in Kaesong. (CANOE 15th RSM Det 151 Korea, 15RSM/15508, 29 June 52)

Comment: The implications of this move are not immediately apparent. The 82nd Regiment was in a special category in the North Korean Army because of its assignment in Kaesong. With the possible exception of some special North Korean non-combat units in the Kaesong area, this entire sector is now occupied by the Chinese 65th Army and its command post in Kaesong.

9. Presence of North Korean armored battalions on east coast suggested: An unknown North Korean unit, using a system previously identified with armored units in western Korea, notified a unit tentatively identified as the 7th Division in the Wonsan area on 24 June that "the stamps of all Wonsan and Hamhung battalions should be sent back at once." (CANOE 15th RSM Det 151 Korea, 15RSM/15218, 25 June 52)

Comment: It is possible that all messages in this system relate to an Armored Command of the North Korean Headquarters.

If tank and self-propelled artillery battalions are the subject of this message, they are probably subordinate to the North Korean 24th and 25th Mechanized Artillery Brigades in eastern Korea.

10. Chinese MIG's more aggressive over Korea: According to Chinese voice traffic passed on the ground-controlled intercept (GCI) net at Antung from 21 to 23 June, Chinese fighters were being directed to attack UN planes.

The Air Force comments that Chinese aircraft have attempted few interceptions since early March, and avoided combat engagements during April. (CANOE Air Force Roundup 126, 30 June 52)

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Comment: Most of the MIG's encountered by UN planes over Korea have been piloted by Russians. However, Chinese jets have been flying patrol and occasional combat missions over Korea since September 1951. The increase in Chinese aggressiveness coincides with recent evidence that an additional Chinese jet division (the 4th) is flying combat missions. A total of five Chinese divisions, with about 250 jets, are now believed assigned to operations over Korea.

11. Jets of Chinese 18th Division definitely in Manchuria: A Chinese Communist message on 29 June scheduled 18 MIG-15's of the 18th Division's 52nd Regiment on a round-robin flight from Takushan over Korea. (CANOE 6920 Security Group Johnson AB Japan AP-254, 29 June 52)

Comment: This is the first report of 52nd Regiment planes in combat. Flights by elements of 18th Division jets in Manchuria have been reported for over a month. This message suggests that almost the entire 52nd Regiment has been transferred from Canton to Takushan for combat duty.

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