

5 Apr 53
CIB

FAR EAST

1. Communists halt movement of goods into Korea:

National Security
Agency
3 Apr 53
CANOE
O/KC/R-18-53

Unusual and unexplained stoppages in North Korean shipping and rail activity are revealed from analysis of recent North Korean [redacted] On 10 March, rail officials halted the shipment of petroleum into Korea from Tumen, Manchuria, while a local maritime transportation office revealed that all shipping had been discontinued as of 16 March.

Comment: Although these messages preceded the Communist truce proposals by some two weeks, it is possible that the above action may have been taken in anticipation of an early cease-fire. In the past, stoppages have been occasioned by either the lack of storage facilities or damaged rail lines in North Korea, but these factors are not known to be responsible in the present case.

2. South Korea urges bilateral defense pact with US:



South Korean Foreign Minister Pyun has strongly urged that the US Government enter into a bilateral defense pact with Korea. Ambassador Briggs suggests that such a pact may be a quid pro quo for the withdrawal of South Korean opposition to an armistice.

Comment: This is the first suggestion that the South Korean Government might agree to an armistice which would leave Korea divided. During the past week, South Korean legislative and executive officials have expressed opposition to an armistice as currently contemplated by the UN.