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12. KOREA. Chinese Communist 50th Army confirmed in North Korea: A North Korean message of 4 December reports the "combat results of the Chinese 50th Army on the 16th." The report also states that "the troop of the 50th Chinese Army which has been guarding the wooden ship met with the following accident" and proceeds to describe an anti-Communist guerrilla raid. (SUEDE AS CM IN 58274, 5 Dec 51)

Comment: The Chinese Communist 50th Army has been tentatively accepted in northwestern Korea, north of the Chongchon river. There is some indication in the message that elements of the 50th Army participated in recent enemy amphibious operations against UN-held islands in this area; however, this is not confirmed.

13. North Korean use of GCI equipment reported: A 4 December North Korean air message from Sinuiju to Pyongyang reports that "the air control van did not work during the night...." (SUEDE AS CM IN 58274, 5 Dec 51)

Comment: This is the first mention in a North Korean message of this type of equipment. In recent weeks a Korean-language ground-controlled intercept net has been noted controlling operational aircraft in the Sinuiju area. There are some indications that this net is integrated with or at least parallels the Soviet GCI radar net in Korea.

14. North Korean IV Corps may have new combat mission: A badly garbled North Korean message of 3 December, probably addressed to the North Korean 23rd Brigade on west coast defense duty, stated that "beginning 10 December, in accordance with the general plans of the new . . . (landings?) of the 4th Corps, and since the combat training will commence, you will without fail prepare the first phase of the . . . equipment by 9 December." (SUEDE AS CM IN 58066, 4 Dec 51)

Comment: While this message is so garbled as to prevent accurate analysis, it does suggest IV Corps preparations for a new assignment. This new duty may be a further expansion of the corps' coastal security mission on the west coast in anticipation of UN amphibious operations, or it may presage preparations of elements of the corps for limited amphibious operations.

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15. Communists salvage crashed aircraft: A 3 December North Korean message from an unknown source to the commander of an "artillery troop" orders the latter to "keep and camouflage the enemy and our aircraft which crashed and not handle the accessories." The message also states that the "troop who have the aluminum for the mess equipment" should report the quantity. It warns that punishment will be meted out to anyone who "destroys" the crashed aircraft. (SUEDE AS CM IN 58093, 4 Dec 51)

Comment: This message, probably to an antiaircraft unit in the rear area, shows the interest the Communists have in salvaging airplanes and aircraft parts. Also of note is the suggestion that the aluminum from crashed airplanes is used for mess kits.

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