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11. KOREA. North Korean air unit returns to Korea: In connection with a scheduled conference of senior air officers to be held at North Korean Air Headquarters in Sinuiju on 5 December, a senior officer at Fengcheng in Manchuria reported on 4 December that "I can't take part in the meeting because we are moving." Possibly explaining this reported move, seven IA-9 conventional fighters, believed subordinate to the North Korean Air Force's "855 unit" at Fengcheng, were scheduled to depart for the North Korean border airfield at Uiju on 27 November. The continued presence at Fengcheng of aircraft subordinate to the North Korean Air Force is indicated, however, in recent messages scheduling training flights for IL-10 ground attack planes. (SUEDE AS CM IN 68479, 5 Dec; SUEDE Air Force Roundup 264, 2116Z, 6 Dec 51)

Comment: While available evidence is inconclusive, it appears that the North Korean IA-9 fighter unit stationed in Fengcheng may be returning to Korea. There is no evidence indicating the disposition of the 110 conventional fighter and ground attack aircraft estimated to be subordinate to the North Korean Air Force. It is known, however, that a considerable number of conventional aircraft are based both at Sinuiju airfield and at the newer field at Uiju.

12. Communists continue efforts to take Korean islands: North Korean communications of early December indicate that an attack is to be launched, probably by elements of the North Korean 23rd Brigade, against the small UN-held island of Yuk, on the west coast just north of the 38th Parallel. (SUEDE AFSA SIB 403, 1135Z, 7 Dec 51)

Comment: The Communists have recently made systematic efforts to eliminate UN guerrilla and espionage bases located on many of the small islands off central western Korea. During the first week of December unusually heavy vehicular traffic was observed on principal north-south routes in this isolated area. Recently a North Korean brigade, possibly the one which is to make the assault on Yuk Island, was ordered to form an amphibious unit of 80 men by 17 December.

13. North Korean unit identified in the Sinuiju area: A 13 November message from northeastern Korea to an individual in the "815th Unit, Korean People's Army" located at "Namsinuiju (south Sinuiju)" states "I wish your success in battle." On 4 November a North Korean air unit in Sariwon south

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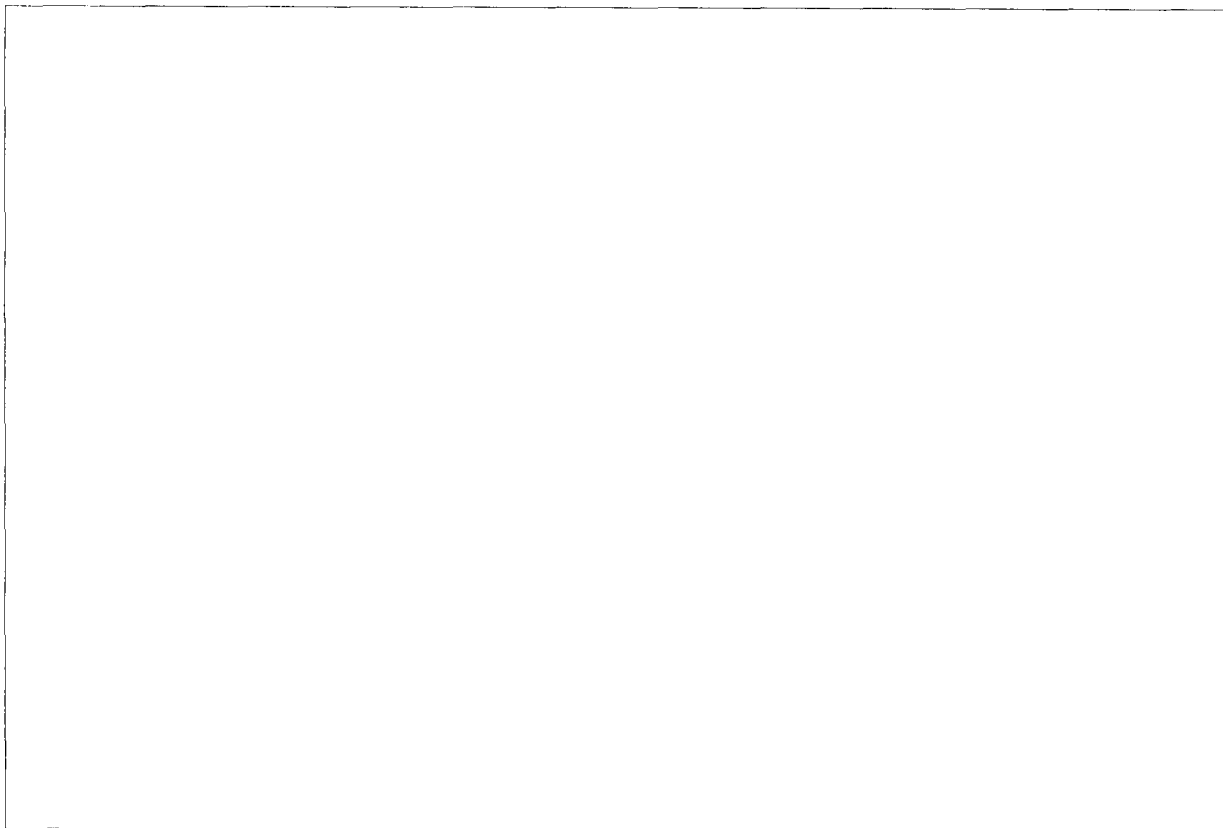
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of Pyongyang queried then-Airforce Headquarters in Pyongyang as to what they should do "since the 815th Military Unit is being transferred...." (SUEDE AS CM IN 58347, 5 Dec; SUEDE [redacted] 1859, 4 Nov 51)

Comment: The mention of the "815th unit" on an air force network, and its location, makes it apparent that it is an air force unit. There is no indication, however, as to whether it is a ground maintenance or construction unit, or an operational air unit.



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