

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~

FAR EAST

8. Increasing number of Communist units in Korea hampered by rainy season: An unidentified Chinese Communist unit on 27 July stated that the rainfall in that unit's area was "heavy" and that "the river cannot be crossed at present." The message also revealed that a few air raid shelters had collapsed and the "transportation company and their kitchen have already been moved into homes of the local civilians." (CANOE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-4656, 28 July 52)

Comment: Numerous recent Communist North Korean and Chinese messages have been similar to the above intercept, revealing that the summer rains are beginning to hamper the activities of Communist units.

9. Two North Korean armored units receive ample provisions: An unidentified North Korean armored regiment informed its superior on 24 July that "we secured 100 day and night rations of goods (from?) supply." Another armored unit on the following day stated that it had provisions for 70 days and nights. This latter unit also revealed that it had received clothes, medicine and lamp oil. (CANOE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/972, 26 July; SK-L-615, 26 July 52)

Comment: These messages demonstrate the considerable logistical strength of the enemy despite the concentrated UN interdiction program. The current rainy season has hampered UN air strikes and the enemy has taken advantage of this situation as demonstrated by the increased rail and vehicular traffic noted in the past week.

10. Defective hand grenades to be repaired by North Korean tactical unit: The Artillery Chief of Staff of the North Korean 23rd Brigade informed a unit of the 21st Brigade that the "national hand grenades will be repaired" by the latter unit. The Chief of Staff issued lengthy instructions on how to repair the grenades and stated: "the material which is needed to repair them will be supplied from the superior." (CANOE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/839, 24 July 52)

Comment: Small, primitive hand grenade factories are scattered throughout North Korea and constitute a significant portion of that country's munitions output. It is probable that these "national" grenades came from one of those factories and were defective when received by the 21st Brigade, a tactical unit located in Hwanghae Province.

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11. North Korean tactical unit alerted to apprehend UN POW escapees: An element of the North Korean 7th Division, near Wonsan on the east coast, was warned on 25 July by a circular notice from "Air and Sea Defense Headquarters" to be on the alert to recapture "the American prisoners. . . who were quartered at Pyok Tong, Hwanghae Province." The escape apparently took place on 13 July.

The same day another message was passed on this 7th Division net which ordered a general tightening of security in all units in the area and a search of the perimeter of the unit for the escapees and for "enemy agents." (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-330, 26 July; ALT-338, 26 July 52)

Comment: Despite the fact that the prisoners escaped in western Korea south of Pyongyang, a country-wide alert was disseminated. The time lag between a 13 July escape and a 25 July message suggests that the system is not as efficient as it might be.

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