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2. Korea - North China - Japan

North Korean ground forces, whose combat strength is estimated at 125,000 men, have received a steady flow of replacements, at least 17,000, during August. A recent message indicates an additional 126,000 men are in the training camps; their degree of readiness is unknown. A total of 2,600,000 Korean males (in the 15 to 49 age group), in Korea and Manchuria, is believed available to the North Koreans for training.

Considerable quantities of ammunition and Soviet-type machine guns and artillery pieces were supplied to combat divisions within the past week. A shipment of 85mm anti-aircraft ammunition presages heavier fire against UN planes. North Korean logistical efforts have included the repair and construction of steel and wooden bridges; a number of such projects have been successfully completed.

The North Korean Air Force continues to prepare for intensified operations despite UN air attacks, thus indicating an expectation of the receipt of more aircraft. Soviet-supplied combat aviation gasoline has been sent to the Kunsan air base. As yet, there has been no evidence of the movement of additional Soviet-type fighter aircraft into North Korea, and actual operations have been limited and sporadic.

Messages referring to a USSR-North Korean trade contract of 27 July, believed encompassing annual requirements for certain commodities, indicate Soviet planning for North Korean needs in 1951.

The serial number found on the Russian officer recovered from the Soviet bomber recently downed by UN aircraft (as reported by Ambassador Austin to the UN) is believed to be the field post number of a Soviet naval air unit in the Vladivostok area.

Fragmentary evidence indicates the possibility that certain of the Chinese Communist Military District forces in Manchuria may now be organized as field units. Strength of Manchurian Military District forces is estimated at 400,000 men, plus 165,000 defected Nationalist troops.

Communications intelligence indicates that additional elements of the 4th Field Army may be in Manchuria. Units of the 12th Army Group and a possible 17th Army Group have been addressed in Manchuria. (Last week the 13th Army Group was reported as addressed at Antung.) Three of the four remaining army groups of the 4th Field Army and the Field Army Headquarters are still indicated to be in east or south China.

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