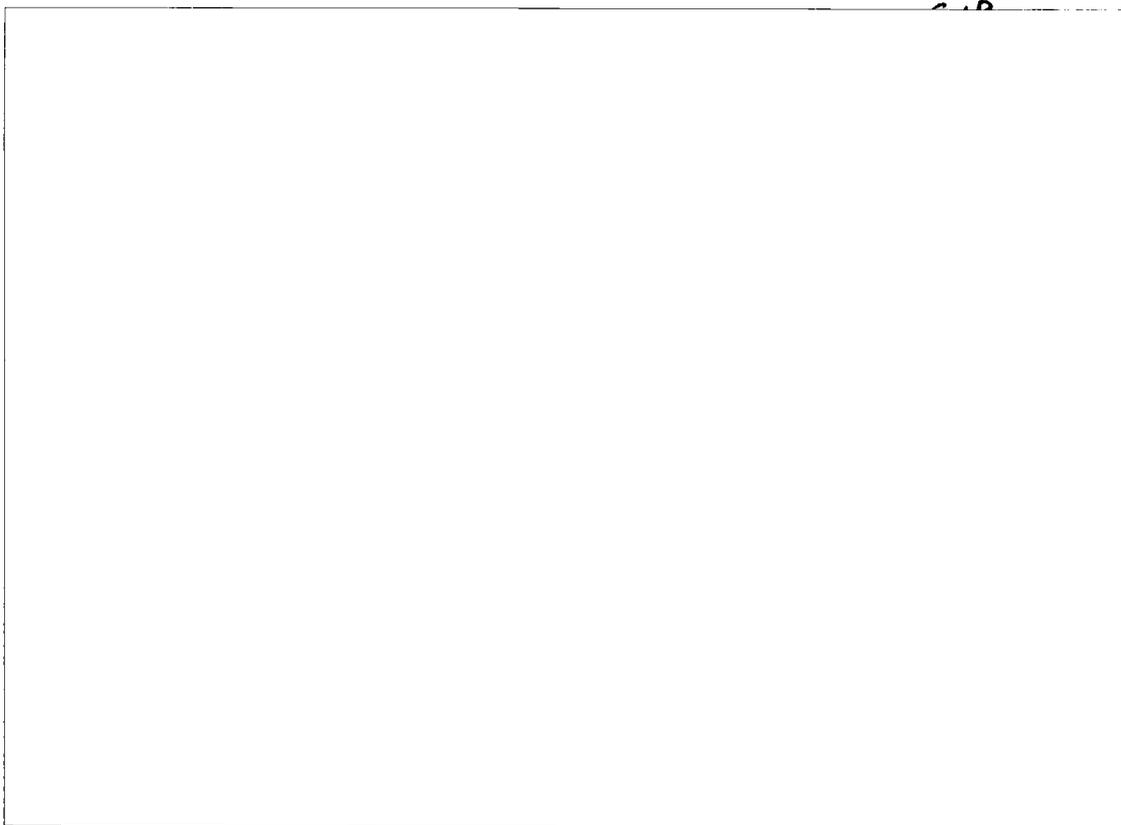


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24 Feb 51

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KOREA

2. North Koreans request bombing of UN ships:

North Korean Military
23 Feb 51 ACORN

North Korean naval authorities responsible for mine-laying in Wonsan harbor have complained that their work was being hampered by enemy vessels which continued to cruise in the harbor. They requested that the "enemy ships be severely bombed by airplane, thus driving them far away."

Comment: In the past two weeks, UN naval and air action has disrupted North Korean efforts to lay mines at

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Wonsan by damaging three out of five "motorships" enroute to Wonsan and the east coast rail line (on which mines and mine-laying personnel were being sent from Chongjin).

The North Korean air force is believed to be capable of delivering the requested attacks only on a sporadic basis by isolated aircraft. In order to attack in force, it would have to stage operations from fields near Wonsan. Its 130 planes are now in Manchuria, and it is believed that fields in the Wonsan area are not adequate at present to support large-scale attacks. Attacks by large numbers of Chinese Communist twin-engine planes of the TU-2 type could be made whenever the planes are moved close to the Korean border.

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