Reports on MAO's whereabouts and physical condition during the past two months are in conflict. Reports of Soviet plans for an "international volunteer army" were current in the autumn of 1950, but were then and are now - regarded as improbable, since the Communist military effort in Korea does not lack manpower. Judging from present evidence, the scale of the alleged Soviet and Chinese contributions to the "volunteer" effort, in material and men respectively, appears exaggerated. Although forthcoming Communist operations in Korea appears to be plausible in part (see below), the report as a whole does not seem reliable.

"A" KOREA: Communist "5th Phase Offensive". Recently-captured Chinese Communist PWs in Korea have stated that the "5th Phase Offensive," described as "an all-out drive on Pusan," would begin on 25 March. Other PWs have stated that Chinese Communist Third Field Army units from Wonsan, and "an Army Group from China," would reinforce presently-committed Chinese Fourth Field Army units. One prisoner from the 66th Chinese Communist Army identified the "new" force entering Korea as the 19th Army Group of the First Field Army. The PW further stated that the
19th Army Group consisted of three mechanized armies and that the Chinese Communist Air Force will be committed in support of the "Fifth Phase" operation. **COMMENT:** FECOM, while not accepting these reports, comments that it is possible that the 19th Army Group, formerly in the Yenchi-Tumen area in Manchuria, has entered Korea. Other reports indicate that this Army Group has received Soviet equipment and training. FECOM also considers it possible that the abortive "4th Phase Offensive", reported in early February, has been redesignated as a holding action, in preparation for a "5th Phase."