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24 Apr 51  
CIB

Korea

FAR EAST

I. Communist offensive in Korea begins:

North Korean Military Kim Ung, front line North Korean field commander  
22 Apr 51 at Combined Headquarters, reported to Premier  
ACORN Kim Il Sung on 22 April that "in compliance with  
the unit order the assault units have turned to the  
offensive at 1800 hours this date."

reports "hostile activity along the UN central front characterized by coordinated night attacks of battalion and regiment strength following artillery preparation." further reports the capture in the west on 22 April of a badly wounded Chinese Communist from the newly-identified Chinese Communist 12th Army, 3rd Army Group.

Comment: The scale and direction of the initial attacks during the evening of 22 April, the gist of Kim Ung's message, and the tentative identification of the Chinese Communist 3rd Army Group in the west, where the newly-arrived Chinese Communist 18th and 19th Army Groups have been concentrated, indicate that the long-anticipated Communist offensive has begun. The reported current enemy disposition suggests that the Communists' major effort will be concentrated along the approaches to Seoul in the west. In addition, the recent forward deployment in the eastern sector of major North Korean units heavily supported by artillery suggests that Communist offensive plans may include an attack or feint in that more weakly-held area.



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