KOREA. Kaesong guard unit sees long negotiations: The North Korean 82nd Regiment in the Kaesong area, in a 5 January message, reports the apparent impasse over the construction of Communist airfields and the exchange of prisoners. Although the message states that "I suppose the conference
will take a long time," it notes that the "General Staff has been planning
the prisoner treatment and they obtained the buildings for prisoners in
Kaesong already..." (SUEDE AS CM IN 1311, 6 Jan 52)

Comment: The 82nd Regiment is a local security unit and presumably
does not have access to high-level Communist decisions relating to the
cease-fire talks. This unit would, however, be in a position to observe
activities in Kaesong related to preparations for an eventual prisoner-
of-war exchange.

10. Communists continue island campaign in west central Korea: In addition
to the reported 2 January capture of Sunwi and W1 islands just south of
the Ongjin peninsula by the North Korean 23rd Brigade, recent messages of
4 and 7 January detail plans for operations against Yuk and Wollae islands
to the west of the Ongjin peninsula and against Ohwa island to the south.
The latter operation is to be conducted by the 26th battalion of the 23rd
Brigade and is to begin at 0300 hours on 8 January. (SUEDE AS CM IN
1032 and 1669, 5 Jan and 7 Jan 52)

Comment: Elements of the Chinese Communist 40th Army and the North
Korean 23rd Brigade have been engaged in eliminating UN guerrilla and
espionage bases in the western coastal waters since November.