

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

9. KOREA. North Korean VIII Corps possibly still in existence: North Korean message states: ". . . acknowledged that (the units under the command of our?) 8th Corps have been (arranged?). . . ." (SUEDE DCM-2661, 8 Feb 52)

Comment: While the fragmentary nature of this message precludes a sound conclusion, this is the first recent indication of the continued existence of the North Korean VIII Corps. This command lost its units by deactivation or by transfers to combat corps or to the VII Corps during early spring, 1951. Unconfirmed collateral reports have stated that the VIII Corps was enroute to or in Manchuria organizing and training new North Korean units.

10. Unusual activity in Wonsan area seen: Unusually detailed reporting of UN naval activity in the vicinity of UN-held islands in the Wonsan area was given in a 10 February message from an unidentified railroad security battalion to its parent regiment, the 7th.

Another unidentified battalion farther north in the Hamhung area reported on 10 February the receipt of 100 "ships" with another 50 still expected. (SUEDE Det 151 15th RSM Korea, CS 072, 11 Feb; 501st Comm Recon Group Korea, SK-6-258, 12 Feb 52)

Comment: It may be speculated that this detailed reporting and the mention of the receipt of "ships" possibly indicates a future Communist attempt to capture UN-held islands in Wonsan bay. During the past six months only one successful enemy landing has been made on these islands, although several small attacks have been made.

11. North Korean antiaircraft protects unknown installations north of Hamhung: Two North Korean plain language messages indicate the deployment of antiaircraft guns, possibly subordinate to the North Korean 21st AAA Regiment, to protect certain unidentified installations north of Hamhung. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Group Korea, SK-G-313, 11 Feb; 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, AIT-110, 11 Feb 52)

Comment: The deployment of antiaircraft guns north of Hamhung, along an alternate supply route from Manchuria, may indicate protection of lines of communications or supply dumps.

While no 21st antiaircraft artillery regiment is identified in North Korean order of battle, the 19th, 20th, and 23rd Independent AAA Regiments have been accepted.

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