FAR EAST

7. North Korean rear units ordered to produce half their vegetable requirements: A North Korean message on 23 March orders each rear service battalion commander to obtain approximately 30 acres of farming land in order to provide 50 percent of the unit's vegetable requirements for seven months. The remaining 50 percent will be provided by the logistics command, but each battalion is warned that "the superiors" will be unable to supply more than their half. (SUEDE-3007, 23 Mar 52)

Comment: The North Koreans are apparently following the practice of the Chinese Communist units in static positions which were recently ordered to start vegetable gardens (See Special Intelligence Supplement 19 Mar 52). The considerable amount of acreage to be obtained by the military may well work a further hardship on the straitened North Korean farmers, already suffering from exorbitant taxes in kind.

8. Chinese Communist military clothing arrives in North Korea: Messages from a Chinese Communist artillery division and the 68th Chinese Communist Army on 21 and 22 March confirm the arrival of these units' clothing in Antung, North Korea. Both messages indicate the uniforms will be sent to the forward area. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-1689, 21 Mar; K-1680, 22 Mar 52)

Comment: These messages presumably refer to stocks of summer uniforms. The issuance of this clothing suggests a Chinese Communist expectation that their troops will be in Korea for at least a few more months.

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