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4. Soviet plan for UN or Big Three discussion of Korea and Formosa reported: [redacted] states that Sino-Soviet "negotiations" were under way as of 1 March regarding policies toward Korea and Formosa. The USSR is said to desire that the Korean talks be "delayed indefinitely," so that India and other Asian states can press for UN or Big Three discussion of the Korean question and "all Asian problems."

The Chinese, who consider the conquest of Formosa their number one objective, reportedly fear that an attempt to invade Formosa would provoke the United States to extend the war into China. The USSR prefers that the Formosa operation be postponed pending a Big Three meeting. [redacted]

Comment: The USSR has made several attempts to transfer the Korean talks to the UN Security Council where decisions would be subject to Soviet veto. The USSR made several feelers during 1951 regarding a Big Three meeting, but there have been no such overtures in recent months.

Peiping's propaganda has frequently demanded control of Formosa as a condition for a Korean settlement and has often called for an international conference to settle outstanding

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Asian problems. Many sources have reported that Peiping hopes to acquire Formosa by political means.

5. Tuberculosis, typhoid and typhus occurring in North Korea: Approximately 60 percent of all North Korean government office workers and party organizers are infected with tuberculosis. [redacted]

[redacted] typhus and typhoid serum are top priority import items and that the government has printed posters stating that the US has dropped typhoid germs in populated North Korean areas. [redacted]

Comment: The reported incidence of disease among Communist bureaucrats seems extraordinarily high. The need for typhus and typhoid serum and the blaming of the US for typhoid in populated areas may be cited as evidence that these diseases, endemic to Korea, still occur. Poor sanitary conditions and lack of mass civilian immunization, probably have contributed to this situation.

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