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5. Major North Korean reserve unit may move to the front: On 18 June a message [redacted] by the North Korean VII Corps, on coastal security duty in the Wonsan area, stated that reconnaissance groups from two divisions of this reserve force were currently "assigned" to two front-line divisions of the North Korean III Corps on the eastern battle front. (SUEDE ASAPAC Korea, SPOT 3581A, 25 June 52)

Comment: While the presence of these reserve reconnaissance units at the front is not conclusive evidence that their parent units will follow, it strongly suggests either an impending relief of the III Corps by the VII Corps or a reinforcement in this sector.

The battle-weary III Corps has been in combat for over a year, while the VII Corps apparently completed combat training this spring. VII Corps units have recently reported much activity and referred to "movements."

6. Major Chinese unit may withdraw from combat zone in Korea: An unidentified North Korean regiment, probably on coastal security duty in western Korea, informed "Comrade Division Commander" on 25 June that the "125th Infantry Division of the Volunteer Forces requested to reconnoiter the defensive area." (SUEDE ROK Int Grp M Korea, SK-K-524, 26 June 52)

Comment: The 125th Chinese Infantry Division is subordinate to the 42nd Army, recently relieved from combat in the west central sector of the line and now carried in immediate reserve in this area.

Although not conclusive, this reconnaissance request may indicate that the 42nd Army is to withdraw completely from the front. Such a withdrawal from the active west central front would have particular significance because it represents a decrease in the Communists' offensive capability in this traditional invasion corridor.

7. North Korean East Coast Defense Commander revealed: In a message relating to the custody of two UN pilots captured on 17 June, the 21st North Korean Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment in the Hamhung area reported on 19 June that "by order of Comrade Pang Ho-sang, East Coast Defense Commander. . . (the pilots are). . .to be sent under guard to the regiment"

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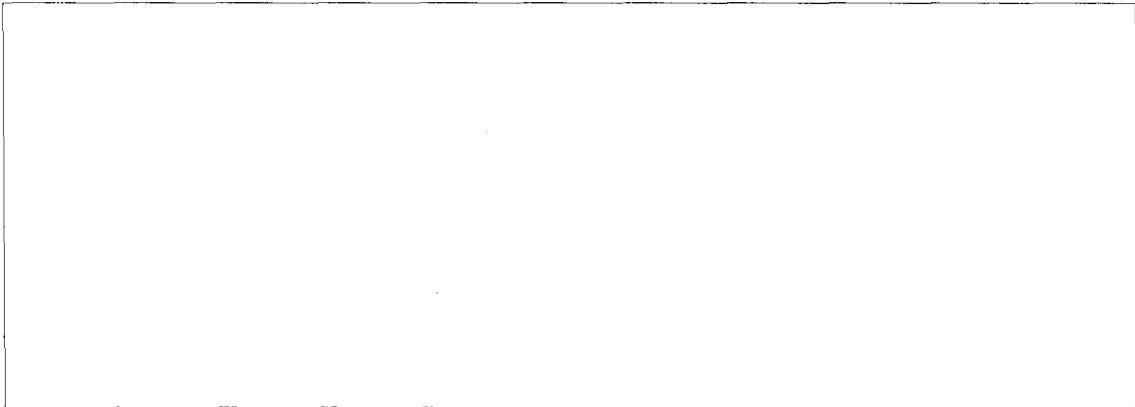
through the division and the corps (because of) operational needs. So they have been handed over to the 46th Division upon receipt of a letter of transfer." (SUEDE ROK Int Grp M Korea, SK-K-318, 20 June 52)

Comment: Pang Ho-sang, last identified as commander of the North Korean V Corps, is primarily a product of Yanan-training, although he is reported to have attended Soviet military schools. He commanded an all-Korean division in the Chinese Communist Army prior to 1950 and was an able commander of the North Korean 6th Division in the invasion of South Korea.

Of equal importance in this message is the implication that the V Corps is now responsible for coastal security on the east coast. If true, the VII Corps, previously charged with this mission, may be headed for combat as recent messages have indicated.

8. North Korean jets fly from Korean border airfield: A flight of four MIG-15's was scheduled to fly from Sinuiju to Antung on 23 June. The lead pilot was believed to have been a Korean commander of one of the regiments of the MIG-equipped 1st Korean Air Division.

The US Air Force field unit reports that this is the first mention of jet flights from Sinuiju airfield, where previously only conventional aircraft have been based. (SUEDE 6920 Security Grp Japan, SPOT 301, 23 June 52)



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