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imagery analysis report

Production of Indigenous, Self-Propelled
Weapons Confirmed at Two North Korean
Arms Plants (S)

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Z-12056/83

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PRODUCTION OF INDIGENOUS, SELF-PROPELLED WEAPONS CONFIRMED AT TWO NORTH KOREAN ARMS PLANTS (S)

1. A review of early 1983 imagery confirms that North Korea's newest, indigenously designed self-propelled multiple rocket launcher (SP MRL) was under production at a plant in Sinhung and that the M-1981 self-propelled gun (SPG) was in at least the final stages of assembly at a plant in Tokchon (Figure 1). (S/WN)

2. The SP MRLs, which consist of a probable pedestal-mounted 107mm MRL on the rear third of a modified M-1973 armored personnel carrier chassis, were at Sinhung Armored Vehicle Assembly/Repair Plant PUG [redacted] 2 nautical miles (nm) east of Sinhung, on [redacted] [redacted] The number of SP MRLs observed suggests that this weapons system is probably in series production at Sinhung. Eight SP MRLs and four probable SP MRLs without rocket pods, in various stages of assembly, were in the plant's storage/transshipment area (Figure 2). A fifth probable SP MRL, also without a rocket pod, was near the main plant entrance. All were canvas covered. In the past, this weapons system had been confirmed only with the special infantry brigades in the Namdaechon area, where they were observed in June 1982. Namdaechon is 38 nm east of Sinhung. These SP MRLs probably replaced the towed 107mm MRLs there. (S/WN)

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3. The [redacted] identification of one possible and two confirmed M-1981 SPGs at Tokchon Artillery Plant PUG [redacted] 18 nm north of Tokchon, suggested that this weapon was in at least final stages of assembly there (Figure 3). This is the only plant where an M-1981 SPG—assessed as a 122mm field gun mounted on a modified ATS-59 chassis—has been confirmed. Solitary M-1981 SPGs had been seen there several times since at least July 1979; however, in the past, this plant had been assessed as producing or assembling towed field artillery, 122mm M-1974 SP howitzers, and 130mm M-1975 SP field guns. The 122mm gun for the M-1981 is probably produced at Tokchon, while the modified ATS-59 chassis is probably made at Kangso Up Tractor and Construction Machinery Plant Kumsong [redacted] 10 nm southwest of Pyongyang. (S/WN)

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4. The production of SP MRLs (Figure 4) and M-1981 SPGs (Figure 5) probably indicates that North Korea's priorities have shifted to include the mechanization of fire support for infantry divisions. Very little upgrading of infantry regimental artillery (107mm MRLs and 76mm divisional guns) or divisional field gun assets (100mm and 122mm D-74) has been confirmed. With the probability that series production of these two weapons systems is underway, the units most likely to begin receiving them are the divisions, where mechanization has been identified since 1981. (S/WN)

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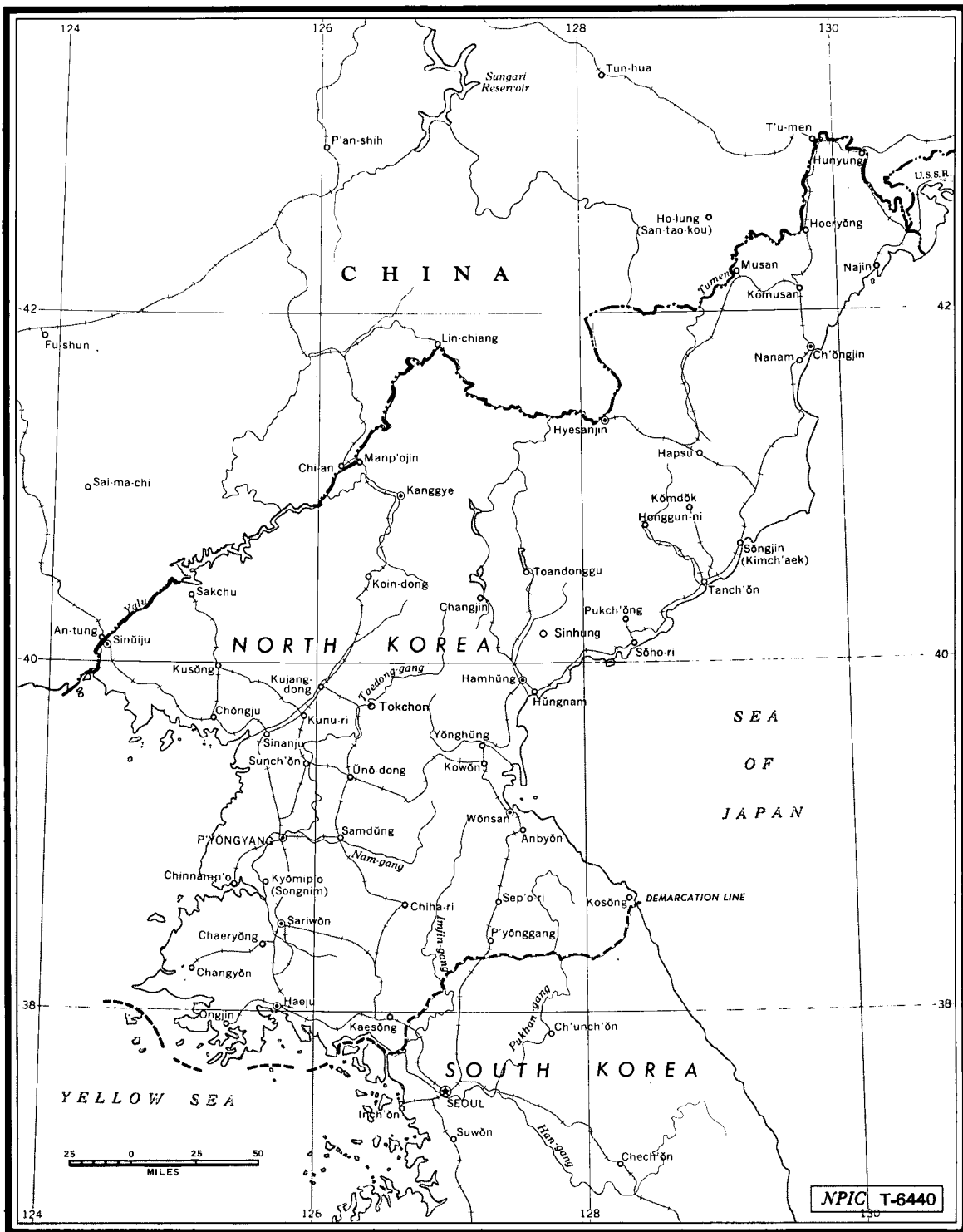
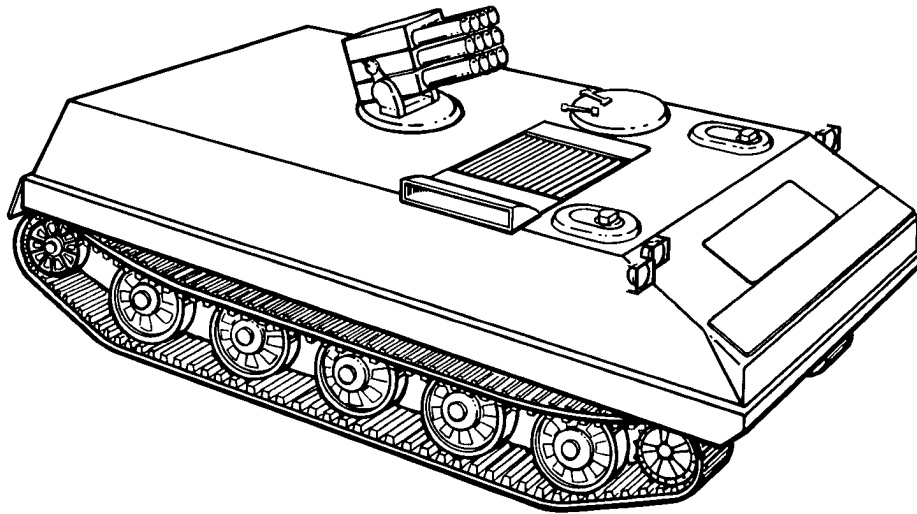


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF NEW CONFIRMED INDIGENOUS WEAPONS PRODUCTION

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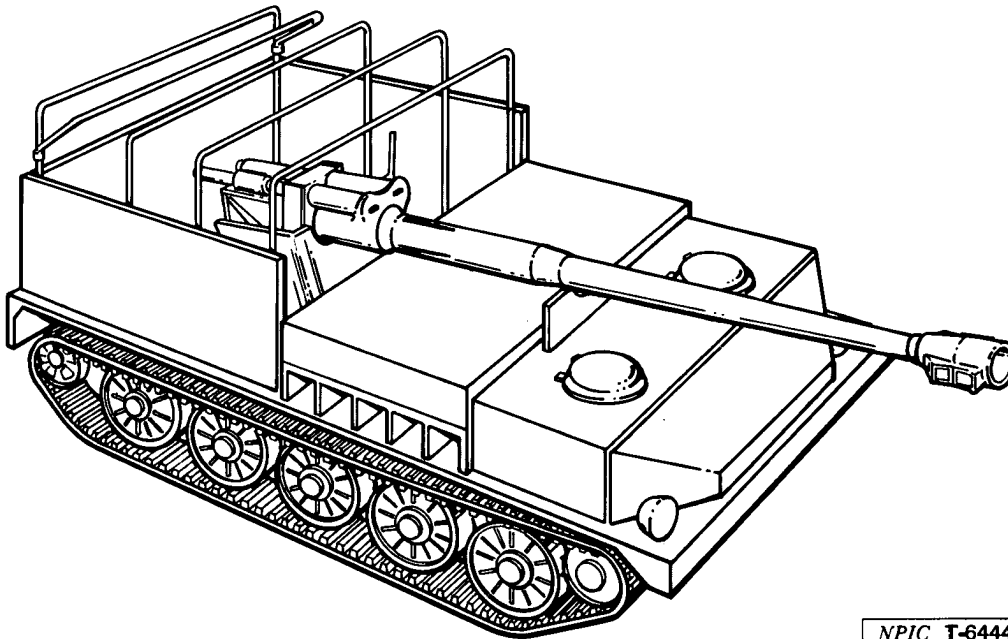
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FIGURE 4. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF NORTH KOREAN INDIGENOUS SP MRL



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FIGURE 5. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF NORTH KOREAN INDIGENOUS M-1981 SPG

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

All applicable satellite imagery acquired through [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report. (S/WN)

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DOCUMENT

1. Dept of the Army. PIM 19-82, ATC-II-1130-005-82, *New North Korean Self-Propelled Gun (U)*, Jan 82

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Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] East Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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