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SECURITY INFORMATION

9 May 1952

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Copy No. 53

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 65
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. X
|| DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS 2809
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 12-15-79 REVIEWER: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[Redacted]

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FAR EAST

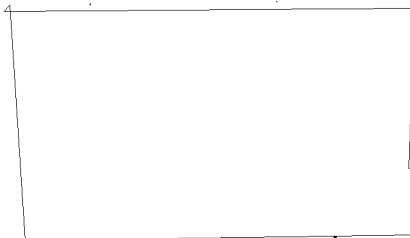
1. Communist units renew charges of BW attacks in North Korea:


"They dropped spiders and ants over Songjin city . . . today," a North Korean coastal security station in northeastern Korea reported on 6 May. The message continues that the alleged drop area has been isolated and is being investigated by "the plague prevention work committee."

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Farther south in the Wonsan-Hamhung area, another North Korean unit on 5 May reported that "on the second of May, at night, they dropped bacteria weapons at Chongpyong."

Comment: In February and March, reports of BW attacks sent by many Communist units in North Korea were used in propaganda charges against the United States. During the past few weeks, Communist propaganda has made little reference to specific BW incidents, although some enemy units reported such attacks as late as mid-April.

2. Large amounts of petroleum products shipped by USSR to North Korea: 3.3(h)(2)

Two recent North Korean banking  reveal that the USSR is to ship a considerable quantity of petroleum products to North Korea during the next few months.

3.3(h)(2)

 instructs a bank in Moscow to open a letter of credit of 9.4 million rubles in payment for "petroleum products." The earlier message of 21 March, opened a similar letter of credit for 3.9 million rubles.

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Comment: If an average value of 200 rubles a ton is assumed, these shipments will aggregate about 66,550 tons of petroleum products, or nearly 20 percent of North Korea's annual peacetime consumption.

If intended exclusively for military use, as seems probable, this quantity of petroleum products would sustain North Korean vehicles and armored operations well into the summer.

3. Communists reportedly plan to attack Nationalist off-shore islands in May:

[redacted] the Communists intend to invade the off-shore islands of Tachen, Matsu, and Chinmen at the end of May. The plan, submitted by Chen Yi, Commander of the Third Field Army, was approved in April by Mao Tse-tung. It seeks to insure the security of the southeast China coast and to learn the reaction of the American Seventh Fleet. This undertaking reportedly was suggested after the Soviet Union failed to order or promise support for an invasion of Formosa.

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Comment: Another report from a different source has referred to a March meeting at which Chen Yi is said to have discussed plans to capture the off-shore islands by early June. The Chinese Communists are estimated to have about 240,000 troops in the adjacent coastal area, as opposed to approximately 75,000 Nationalist troops on the islands.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. British press release adversely affects Iranian-United States relations:

[redacted] The British Embassy in Tehran released to the Iranian press on 5 May purported extracts from a Department of State press conference in Washington on military aid to Iran. The

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transcript, as released by the British without prior notification to the American Embassy, quoted the Washington spokesman as saying that the non-payment of Iran's troops was a problem which does not concern the United States.

Ambassador Henderson reports that the Iranians interpret the release as evidence that the United States is "indifferent if not rather smug" about their difficulties. He believes that the release has undermined Iranian goodwill towards the United States, and points out that the Iranian press has interpreted the release as evidence of American-British collusion against Iran.

Comment: The British release inaccurately attributed to a State Department spokesman a remark made by a correspondent during a 29 April press conference. The British, however, apparently consider that the military aid agreement has strengthened Mossadeq and have already expressed strong resentment over its conclusion.

5. Turks displeased with handling of Tunisian issue:



Turkish UN delegate Sarper told the American delegate that Turkey's decision to abstain on the Tunisian item was partly caused by its reluctance to antagonize France so soon after being accepted in NATO. He added that he was so concerned over his country's difficult position vis-a-vis NATO and the Arab-Asian group that he had almost persuaded Ankara to vote against inclusion of the item on the agenda. Turkey's standing with the Arabs, Sarper hinted, was being increasingly impaired.

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Comment:

Turkey's abstention was influenced by its desire to maintain solidarity with the Western powers, particularly the United States. Turkey, however, would have preferred to have the question dealt with outside the Security Council through direct negotiation.

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Many leading Turks share Sarper's conviction that Turkey would be more useful to the West if it did not openly align itself with Western policies in the area.

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WESTERN EUROPE

6. Poland desires to renew trade agreement with France:

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a Polish Trade Ministry official wants discussions to start soon for renewal of the French-Polish trade agreement which expires at the end of June, failing which the present agreement might be extended temporarily.

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Comment: France has substantial coal import requirements and needs to minimize dollar purchases. In its presentation to COCOM of its commitments to deliver strategic goods to the Soviet bloc, France has already estimated that it will export about fifteen billion francs worth of ball bearing to Poland under its next trade agreement.

In recent months Polish coal prices to Norway, Finland, Austria and Italy have been reduced by as much as 20 percent.

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