FAR EAST

1. Division of North Korean VI Corps receives active role in forward area:

North Korean Military A North Korean message, intercepted in very fragmentary form on 26 February, indicates that the 19th Division of the North Korean VI Corps was to assemble in the Munsan area, northwest of Seoul, by 1 March. Its mission appears to be the defense of the Imjin River area against an expected UN effort to envelop Seoul from the west.

Comment: The VI Corps is one of the three North Korean corps which began moving southward from Manchuria late in January. The 19th Division is the first unit of these three corps known to have arrived in the forward area. Communist plans for a "Fourth Phase" offensive, possibly to occur in March, may rely heavily on such relatively fresh units.