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9. KOREA. North Korean Air Force plan to use Korean airfields: A North Korean Air Force intention to initiate flight training from airfields in Korea is revealed in an 11 January message from an air unit at Sariwon to Pyongyang and Sinuiju. The message states that "practice fields Number 1, 2, and 3 are suitable for . . . (training ?)." The message continues that if "(training planes ?)" are ferried in, they would be stored in operating condition and later dismantled. Fear is expressed that UN air action will destroy the trainers and the sender asks for suggestions as to "countermeasures." (SUEDE [ ] 148, Sariwon-Pyongyang, 21 Jan 52)

Comment: In view of the considerable training facilities previously available to the North Korean Air Force in Manchuria, this move to begin training on UN-interdicted Korean airfields is incomprehensible under

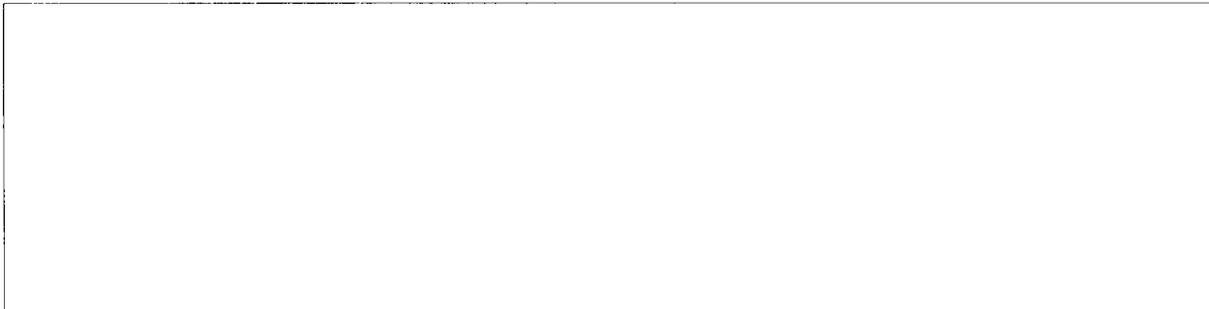
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current conditions. It is possible that the North Koreans expect an early cessation of hostilities, or that the Chinese require Manchurian airfields now available to the Koreans. It is also possible that the message refers not to "training planes" but to operational combat aircraft.



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