FAR EAST

7. New major Chinese Communist unit may be in Korea: A 16 March message, probably carried on the Chinese Communist 7th Artillery Division's net, mentions a "63rd Division." The field reporting unit adds that this unit is organic to the 21st Chinese Communist Army, last reported in the coastal areas of Chekiang Province, East China.

A 7 March Chinese Communist message passed in Korea mentioned the "61st Division," also a subordinate of the 21st Army. (SUEDE CINCPE SIB 465, 22 Mar; AFSA CC/CAP-172, 20 Mar 52)

Comment: The 21st Chinese Communist Army, although it has been mentioned in connection with Korea, has never been accepted in the theater. While not conclusive, these latest identifications may indicate its presence in Korea.

Many recent Chinese Communist messages in Korea have mentioned units not accepted in this theater, but thought to be elsewhere in China. It is entirely possible that such is the case with the 21st Army.

8. North Koreans use diving equipment for salvaging operation: A North Korean naval message of 18 March from a "Ships Section Chief" reports that "we tried to reconstruct it" but diving equipment is needed for "a safe salvaging job." The originator, requesting that a diving party be mobilized, declares that "we might be able to use it after refloatation or salvage." (SUEDE 2968, 18 Mar 52)

Comment: It is unclear what type of materiel is being salvaged by the North Korean naval unit. In the past the enemy has gone to considerable lengths to recover UN equipment.

9. Number of air combat units in Manchuria revealed: An analysis of unevaluated material from the Russian, Chinese and Korean language traffic on the Ground Control Intercept (GCI) voice network, which directs enemy aircraft in combat over Korea indicates that, as of 10 March 1952, the following units were regularly committed to combat from Manchurian bases: three Soviet regiments equipped with about 50 MIG-15's each, a Soviet LA-11 night fighter regiment, two Chinese fighter regiments with about 25 MIG's each, and a North
Korean regiment of unknown size. An additional two to four Chinese units and five Korean units observed on these nets appeared to be engaged only in training activities. (SUEDE AFSA Chinese and Korean Voice GCI Nets in the Korean Area, 14 Mar 52)

Comment: Other intercepts provide tentative identification of these units. The three Soviet MIG-15 regiments may be the Fifth Fleet units which left Port Arthur for Antung in the fall of 1951. The only known Chinese units at Antung or Tatungkou in February were two regiments of the 6th Air Division. A regiment of the North Korean Air Force 1st Division has been active at Antung.