FAR EAST

2. Possible withdrawal of six Chinese armies from Korean front indicated:

National Security Agency Preliminary field reports based on communica-
20 Nov 53 tions changes indicate that the Chinese 16th, 
FROTH 21st, 54th, 67th, and perhaps the 46th armies, 
O/GEN/R 5-7-53 are preparing to withdraw northward from 
the Korean front; the possible movement of the 1st Army westward is 
also suggested. These armies recently have been noted in contact with 
logistical headquarters located in northern and western Korea, which 
would be a normal development in a planned movement to these areas 
(see map, p. 4).

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TOP SECRET-FROTH

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The National Security Agency cautions, however, that this could represent a change of the organizational structure of the logistical headquarters rather than a movement of armies, since no changes have yet been noted in the front line communications complex.

Comment: All the above armies except the 67th are presently accepted as being on the front line. The 67th is believed to be in immediate reserve on the central front. If these armies withdraw, only one Chinese army, the 23rd, would remain on the line, and one, the 24th, in immediate reserve. There are five additional Chinese armies in rear areas.