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COMINT and the PRC Intervention in the Korean War ~~(S-CCO)~~

EO 1.4.(b)

EO 1.4.(c)

EO 1.4.(d)

GUY R. VANDERPOOL

Editor's Note: (U) This is an expanded version of an address given by Guy R. Vanderpool at the Cryptologic History Symposium in October 1993.

"A RISK WE KNOWINGLY TOOK" (U)

(U) On 25 October 1950, four Chinese Communist armies suddenly attacked General Douglas MacArthur's command in the approaches to North Korea's border with the PRC. The United Nations units withdrew to defensive positions.¹ When MacArthur resumed the march a month later, the Joint Chiefs of Staff informed him that members of the UN were concerned the offensive might develop into a "major clash" with the Chinese and produce a general war with China and the USSR. The JCS asked MacArthur whether, to reduce that danger, he could keep U.S. units away from the PRC boundary. MacArthur immediately denounced the idea. Any such change in his operational plan would be "a betrayal" of the Korean people, "appeasement of Communist aggression," and "a tribute to international lawlessness," MacArthur declared. He lectured the JCS that "the entry of Chinese Communists was a risk we knowingly took at the time we committed our forces."²



Douglas MacArthur

(U) Nine PRC armies overwhelmed MacArthur's forces just two days later.³ Survivors of the first assaults saw long columns of Chinese troops moving past in the mountains to cut off retreat.⁴ MacArthur cabled the JCS that he was facing "an entirely new war."⁵

~~(S-CCO)~~ But Chinese Communist communications were not new to American cryptologists. No one who received COMINT product, including MacArthur's own G-2 in Tokyo, should have been surprised by the PRC intervention in the Korean War.

"GENUINE COMMUNISTS"?(U)

(U) The U.S. first obtained COMINT on the Chinese Communists from Japan's communications during the Second World War. The intercepts reported Communist

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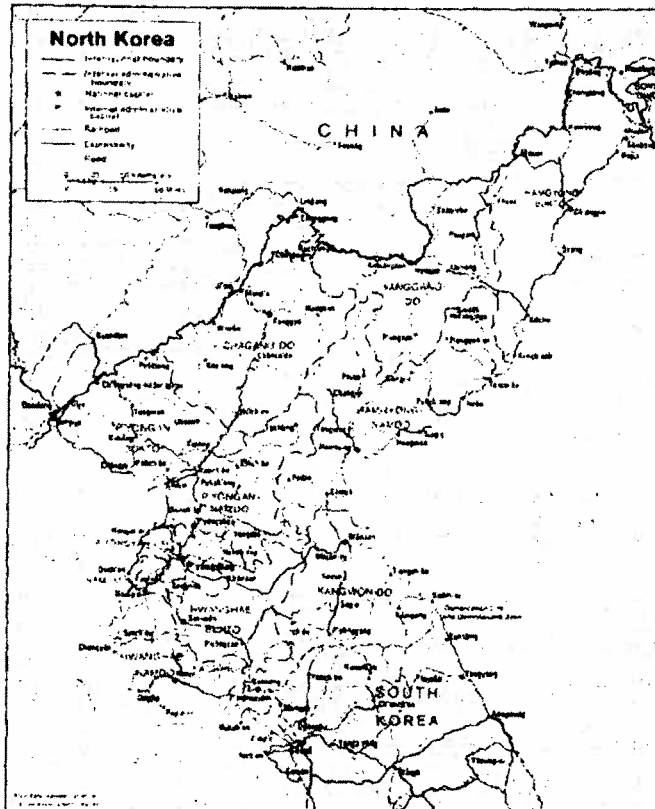
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Joint Chiefs of Staff at Pentagon, November 1949



Map 1

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military operations as well as the position Soviet officials took when discussing the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). For instance, Japanese ambassador Sato informed Tokyo on 4 January 1945 that Soviet foreign minister Molotov had stated during an interview:

Russia does not propose to interfere in Chinese affairs and does not support the Chinese Communists. It is true that there is a self-styled Communist Party and a Communist Army in China, but I personally doubt whether these persons are genuine Communists.⁶

(U) Soviet leaders spoke as soothingly to American diplomats. Marshal Josef Stalin remarked to Ambassador W. Averell Harriman on 10 June 1944 that members of the Chinese Party were "margarine Communists," and Molotov said essentially the same to Messrs. Donald Nelson and Patrick J. Hurley on 31 August.⁷ Hurley, an Oklahoma land speculator and oilman, had traveled to Moscow before taking up an assignment as President Roosevelt's personal representative to the Nationalist government in Chongqing. After a year in China, he still believed Molotov. Hurley announced to reporters in Washington on 28 November 1945 that he had visited Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai at their headquarters in Yan'an and was convinced they weren't real Communists. "The only difference between Chinese Communists and Oklahoma Republicans is that the Oklahoma Republicans aren't armed," Hurley said.⁹



Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai

(U) However the Soviets depicted them and Hurley perceived them, Chinese Communists did not hide their affiliation with Moscow. General George C. Marshall remarked to British visitors in December 1950 that he had a number of conferences with Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai in China in 1946. "Pictures of Stalin and Lenin were everywhere," and Zhou had emphasized that Chinese Communists were Marxists, not mere agrarian reformers. "They regarded the Russians as co-religionists. This feeling was thoroughly indoctrinated in their troops," Marshall stated.¹⁰

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"A STATE OF GRAVE CIVIL CONFLICT" (U)

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(U) General Marshall's personal encounters with CCP leaders resulted from Washington's attempt to fashion a strong, united, and democratic China following World War II. President Truman in November 1945 named Marshall as his special envoy with the job of settling differences between the Communists and Nationalists.¹¹



George C. Marshall

~~(S-CCO)~~ General Marshall established a framework for continued negotiations between the Communists and Nationalists, secured agreement for a cease fire, arranged for representatives of both sides to monitor the truce, and tried to mediate a permanent settlement. Before leaving Washington for Chongqing, he asked the Army's Intelligence Division to provide him COMINT support. The Army Security Agency (ASA) was already collecting diplomatic and Nationalist traffic that provided commentary on China's internal situation, and it sent operators who quickly isolated communications between the Communist negotiators and Yan'an. The collection team moved to Nanjing when the Nationalist government and General Marshall's mission transferred there in May 1946, and ASA also established a new intercept station in Seoul, South Korea, to cover the Communist links.¹²

~~(TSC)~~ Intercept [redacted] were difficult. Unreliable electrical power in Nanjing and poor hearability in Seoul caused collection gaps, and [redacted] General Marshall was impatient. An ASA officer related that in June 1946

We had to go up and explain to General Marshall what [ASA Headquarters] didn't want to put down on paper: [redacted]

¹⁴

~~(TSC)~~ Nevertheless ASA did produce COMINT that assisted General Marshall. [redacted] plaintext correspondence yielded over 800 translations. A State Department official commented in the spring of 1947 that General Marshall had "a very great interest" in those messages.¹⁵

~~(SC)~~ The diplomatic, Nationalist, and Communist communications revealed the two sides were determined to decide the future of the country by fighting rather than by

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negotiating. In a circular message intercepted on 15 August 1946, the Communists specified why they refused to parley with the Nationalist (Kuomintang) government:



Map 2

1. The Kuomintang's unwillingness to cease warfare on all fronts and its insistence on occupying North China by force.
2. The Kuomintang's unwillingness to carry out the decision of the Political Consultative Council and its stubborn refusal to discuss political issues affecting areas which have not been occupied by force.
3. The Kuomintang's insistence on one-party government.
4. The Kuomintang's advocacy of military dictatorship.
5. The Kuomintang's failure to act on its promises.¹⁶

~~(S)~~ By late summer 1946 it was thus evident from COMINT that China's doors were closed to American mediation. General Marshall had become a powerless spectator of the bitter struggle between Communists and Nationalists and a casualty of the Soviet-American Cold War. Washington policymakers increasingly interpreted the strife in China as a battlefield of worldwide conflict with Moscow in which confrontation rather

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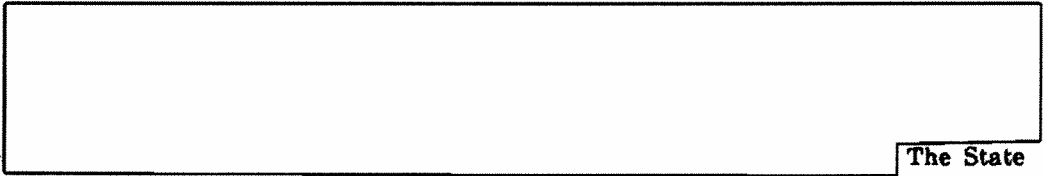
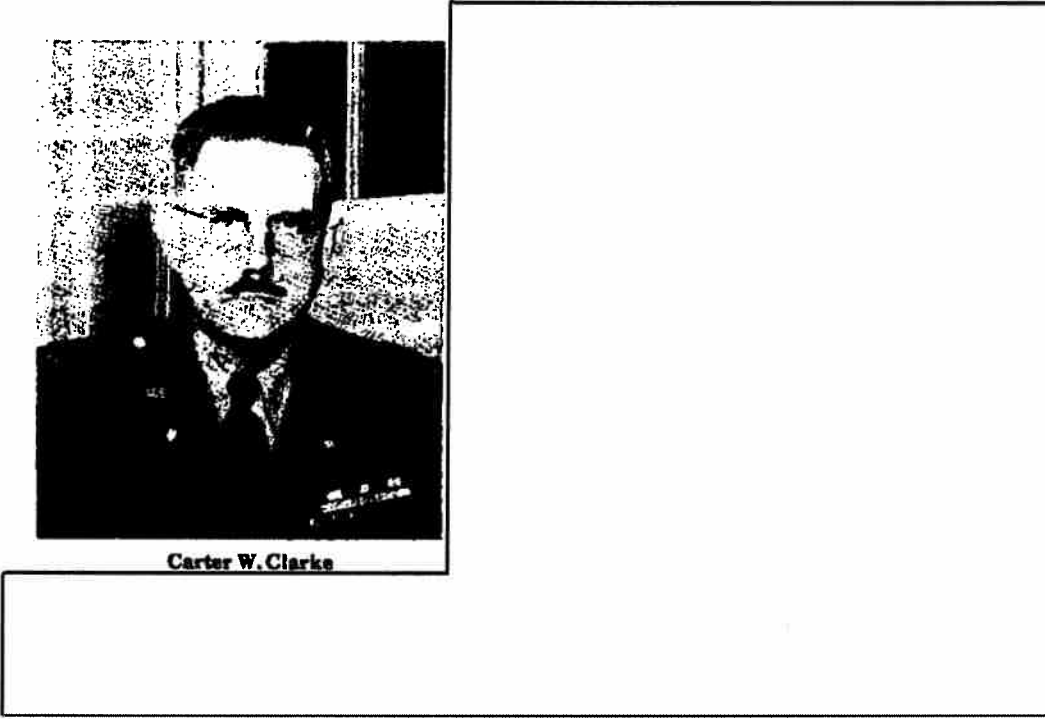
than negotiation was the prime consideration. While General Marshall attempted to bring the two sides together, Soviet military forces occupying Manchuria strengthened the Communists. At the same time, the U.S. provided material and financial aid to the Nationalists.¹⁷ The Communists hated the United States for helping the Chiang Kai-shek regime. They charged in their 15 August message that "the reckless actions in which the Kuomintang has indulged and which have culminated in a state of grave civil conflict are a result of the mistaken policy of the American authorities in giving aid to Chiang [Kai-shek]." In early 1947 General Marshall returned to Washington to be secretary of state,¹⁸ the last Communist envoys departed for Yan'an,¹⁹ and the radio links that had provided intelligence on the Communist negotiating position pulled off the air.²⁰

MORE THAN A MILLION REGULAR TROOPS (U)



Carter W. Clarke

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The State Department's Special Projects Staff (SPS), which was responsible for analyzing COMINT

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and briefing State officials on the results, completed a study of the material on 21 April 1947.

~~(S)~~ For the SPS, "nearly every message" implied "control or coordination from Moscow." The material furnished "authentic and concrete proof" of cooperation between Moscow and Yan'an in "propaganda and organization" and refuted "the repeated denials of organized connections between the [CCP] and the Soviet Government." Furthermore, an 18 March 1946 communication in which the CCP requested a loan of "1.5 to 2.5 million American dollars" for postwar propaganda expenses indicated Yan'an's "dependence . . . on Moscow for financial support."

~~(S)~~ Earlier messages [redacted] both demonstrated the Chinese Communists were Marxist-Leninists linked closely to the Soviet Union and contained information that might have profited American diplomacy and intelligence operations. Yan'an described attempts to subvert Japanese soldiers during World War II and sought Soviet assistance in the contest with the Nationalists after the war ended. On 27 September 1945, Yan'an asked Moscow to airlift Chinese Communist troops to Japanese-occupied Manchuria, promising safe landing areas and "a great quantity of" captured gasoline. Chiang Kai-shek had already secured American help in the race for north China. In August and September 1945, the U.S. Army and Navy hastened to transfer Nationalist armies by air and by sea to accept the surrender of Japan's forces.²⁴

~~(S)~~ Viewed down long years of retrospect, [redacted] suggested as well that the CCP was not Moscow's puppet. The messages had a tone of courteous formality. Yan'an informed Moscow of its political activities, its wars with the Nationalists, and the strength and composition of its army, but appeared to do so selectively and sparingly. The messages made clear that far from the guerrilla remnants that sought safety in Shaanxi province after the Long March of 1934-1935, the Communists possessed formidable military power at the end of World War II.²⁵

~~(S)~~ Other than the indications that Colonel Clarke, possibly General Marshall, and members of the State Department's SPS saw some of the [redacted] translations, we have no information on the U.S. distribution. If China analysts at State and the Department of Army had access to the material, they ignored it when calculating the strength of the Communist army. In April 1945, Mao Zedong stated publicly that he had 900,000 regular troops. In early October 1945, [redacted] intercept revealed Communist regular forces totaled 1,020,000; according to the message, the CCP intended to reorganize the formations into sixteen armies of three divisions each. Almost a year later, in mid-1946, the G-2, Department of the Army, carried only 600,000 regular troops in the Yan'an order of battle. In August 1947, the Department of State's Chinese Affairs Division estimated Communist forces numbered no more than 1,000,000 troops. In contrast, Mao Zedong stated on 25 December 1947 that Communist regulars totaled 2,000,000 - probably an accurate figure given the indication of a progression in strength between April and October 1945.²⁶ The American tendency to underrate PRC military power would persist

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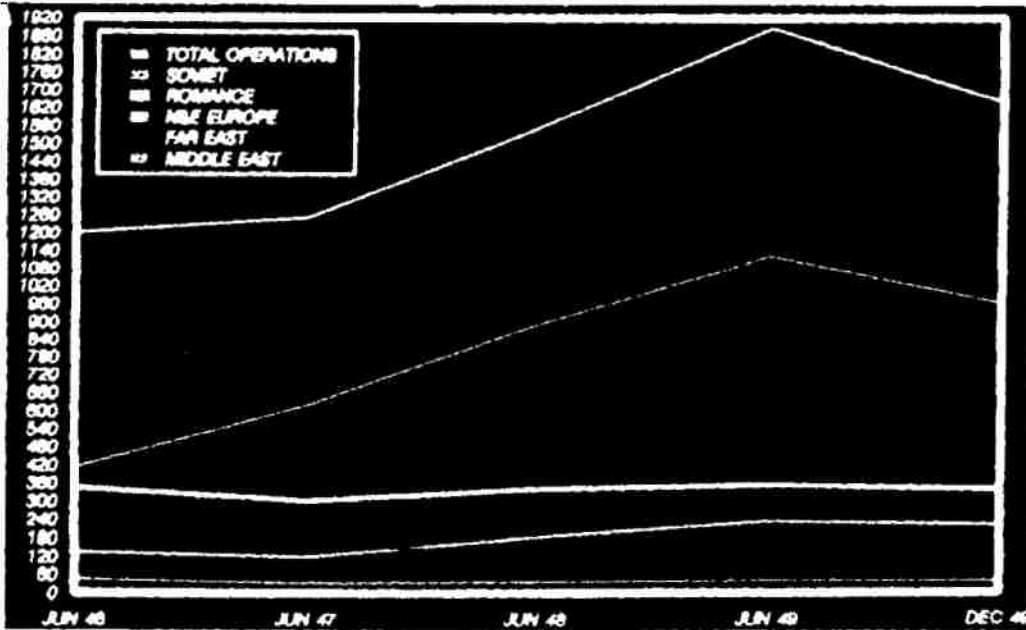
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with harmful effect through the fall and winter of 1950, when it fell to commanders and intelligence officers to assess China's ability to intervene in the Korean War.

~~(S-OO)~~ But minimizing the importance of the Chinese Communists was not confined to COMINT customers. During the endeavor to support the Marshall mission, ASA traffic analysts isolated what they called a "rather extensive network" that possibly served the Communists in north China and Manchuria. The complex passed a great deal of traffic, but ASA could intercept few messages because of the primary need to collect communications of the Communist negotiators. When the links supporting the negotiators disappeared, ASA dropped the radio groups in north China and Manchuria because of pressure to put every possible position on Soviet targets.²⁷

**REDUCED RESOURCES; HIATUS IN [] EXCHANGES,
1947-1949 (U)**

~~(S-OO)~~ Thereafter the COMINT effort on the Chinese Communists suffered not only reduced collection but also cutbacks in analysis. The accompanying chart depicts combined ASA and Navy, and, beginning in November 1949, the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA) people assigned to various problems. Note that Far East targets were the only ones that took significant personnel losses during this period, declining from 261 in June 1946 to 112 in December 1949. Most of the work on the Far East concentrated on Chinese Nationalist targets.²⁸



Personnel allocations, June 1946-Dec 1949

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~~(S-CCO)~~ American anxiety over security obstructed development of Communist military communications as well. In June 1948, the U.S. Communications Intelligence Board (USCIB) decided [redacted] security procedures were too lax to trust the [redacted] with American COMINT. USCIB ordered ASA and the Navy to stop their exchanges [redacted] It was not until October 1949, and then only at the urging of [redacted] that USCIB began to relax the restriction, first permitting raw traffic to be released, and in March 1950 authorizing technical exchanges. From the site [redacted] was in a good position to obtain comprehensive coverage of Communist military communications in south and central China. Coupled with the lack of U.S. collection and analysis, the hiatus in COMINT exchanges [redacted] delayed reconstruction of the military networks until the Korean War began.³⁰

RENEWED EMPHASIS; PRODUCT REPORTING AND DISTRIBUTION, 1950 (U)

~~(S-CCO)~~ When Communist armies destroyed Nationalist forces in Manchuria and pushed into central and south China in 1948 and 1949, [redacted] American customers began pressing for better COMINT coverage of the Communists. In those days most U.S. intelligence officers believed the Soviet Union controlled Communist movements wherever located. The agencies estimated Moscow was preparing for war with the West and would be ready for a showdown sometime in 1950. Before then the Soviets would start local conflicts. When the People's Republic of China (PRC) was formally established on 1 October 1949, the intelligence agencies regarded the new state as an extension of Soviet power.³¹

~~(TSC)~~ In March 1950, USCIB stressed that increasing the COMINT effort on the PRC was of "extraordinary importance." Because AFSA had only enough resources for a token search and development of military communications, USCIB authorized more people, more collection positions, and a new site [redacted] all to be dedicated solely to the PRC problem. But even though the resources came rapidly after that, and AFSA shifted people to the PRC from other targets, it would not be until 1952 that traffic analysts could detect from military communications when PRC units entered and left Korea. [redacted]

~~(S-CCO)~~ Yet AFSA [redacted] did produce predictive COMINT on the PRC intervention in the Korean War. That achievement was due to uninterrupted work on foreign [redacted] targets and Chinese plaintext civil communications by a few linguists and reporters - five to six at ASA and then AFSA during the late 40s, eight to twelve when the Korean War began, including Mr. Norman Wild,³³ Mr. Robert E. Drake,³⁴ and Mr. Milton Zaslow,³⁵ who was the chief of the section.

~~(S-CCO)~~ ASA [redacted] collected Chinese civil communications after World War II and continued to do so after the Communists seized power. The messages were numerous, ranging from personal greetings and announcements of family events to official

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Milton Zaslow



Robert Drake

government reports. Mr. Zaslow established a system in which the best linguists scanned the messages first, then assigned them to subject-matter translators and reporters. The section also obtained machine support for translation. The effort yielded intelligence on the PRC economy, transportation and logistics, and the positions of military units.³⁶

~~(S-CCO)~~ Reporting departed from custom. Zaslow recently recalled:

AFSA was considered to be a technical agency responsible for [redacted] translating bits of information. Only 'professional intelligence officers' in customer organizations were supposed to be qualified to evaluate the information and discuss it with commanders and policymakers.³⁷

Notwithstanding this conception, Zaslow and his associates knew the agencies could not always discern what was occurring by reading individual translations. On occasion they thus covered complex developments by writing reports based on many messages.

~~(S-CCO)~~ AFSA transmitted its product [redacted] electrically to customers in Washington as well as overseas.³⁸ The standard recipients of Chinese Communist product were the State Department's Special Projects Staff, CIA, Navy, the Army G-2, Air Force, GCHQ, the British Liaison Office, and ASA Pacific HQ, located in Tokyo. The latter and the Army's G-2 distributed the reports to MacArthur's staff. The intelligence agencies republished the COMINT in their own summaries, and two groups responsible for assessing international events - the Watch Committee chaired by CIA and the Joint Intelligence Indications Committee chaired by the Army's G-2 - gisted the COMINT product as well. Agencies relied on COMINT and credited it with statements such as "communications intelligence reported" this or "a message stated that. . ." They frequently referred to collateral as "unconfirmed information." The agencies distributed both COMINT and non-COMINT versions of their summaries and estimates. For example, CIA produced intelligence memoranda and National Intelligence Estimates at the Secret

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level as well as a Top Secret Codeword Situation Summary that contained all-source intelligence. The Joint Intelligence Indications Committee published both codeword and noncodeword reports of its weekly deliberations. The agencies and committees distributed their publications to the president, the secretaries of state, defense, and military departments, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and major headquarters including General MacArthur's Far East Command in Tokyo.³⁹

(U) Intelligence assessments on developments in the Far East of that time portended a general war with the Soviet Union: the proclamation of the PRC in October 1949, the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance in February 1950, Beijing's apparent determination to attack Taiwan, and China's advancement of Viet Minh aspirations against French colonial rule in Indo-China constituted Moscow's opening moves toward a critical confrontation with the West. As a result, COMINT professionals began to notice major changes in the dispositions of PRC main force units in the spring of 1950.

**COMINT DETECTS FORCES MOVING TO KOREAN BORDER,
MARCH-OCTOBER 1950 (S-~~OOO~~)**

~~(S)~~ As shown on Map 3, AFSA reported in May and June that some 70,000 PRC troops from two army groups were moving down the Yangtze River in ships toward Wuhan.⁴⁰

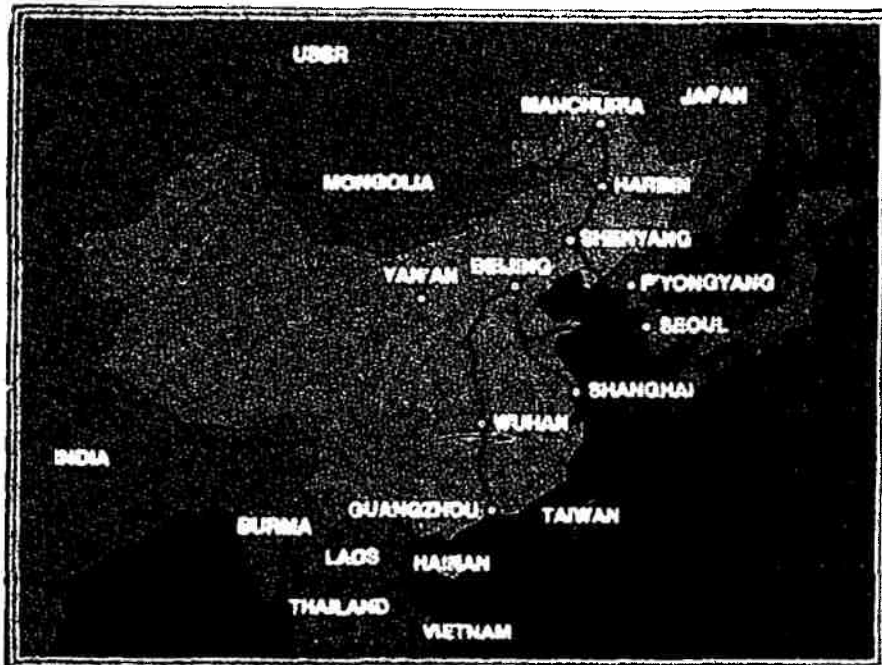
~~(S)~~ On 17 July, based on thirty-five civil messages, AFSA reported that the Fourth Field Army, which the Army G-2 at the Pentagon considered China's best combat force,⁴¹ might be preparing for an operation against Taiwan or be moving to Manchuria. Some of the units had moved east, but others deployed northward just before the North Korean invasion on 25 June. An element of the 40th Army relocated from Guangxi in south China to north-central Manchuria between 17 April and 12 June. On 31 May, an element of another army, the 39th, was addressed north of Wuhan on the rail line leading to Manchuria.⁴² (Map 4)

~~(S)~~ The Army G-2 believed AFSA's 17 July report meant the Fourth Field Army was going to invade Taiwan. The Watch Committee expressed the opinion that the "concentration of Chinese Communist troops in Manchuria might be intended for use in Korea," although "there was no indication as to when or under what circumstances they might be committed."⁴³

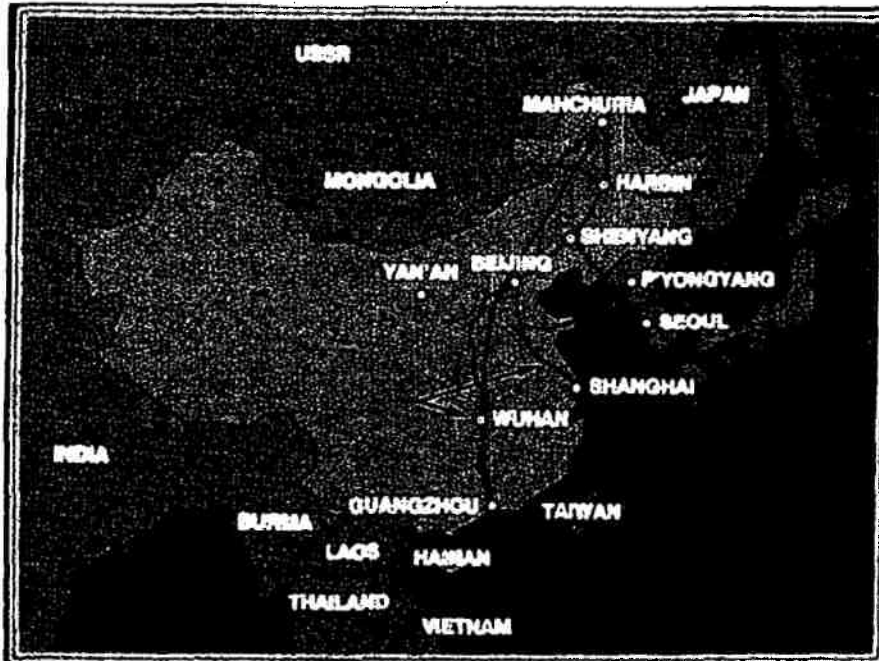
~~(S)~~ On 1 September, AFSA published a follow-up based on forty-one more messages. Beijing had continued to transfer main force units to Manchuria after the North Korean invasion. A major command HQ, the 13th Army Group, relocated from Guangzhou in the south to Dandong on the Sino-Korean border between 19 and 26 August; an element of an additional army, the 42nd, deployed to northwestern Manchuria by 24 July; and units belonging to still another army, the 38th, were addressed north of Wuhan on the rail line

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Map 3 - March and April: PLA army groups moving

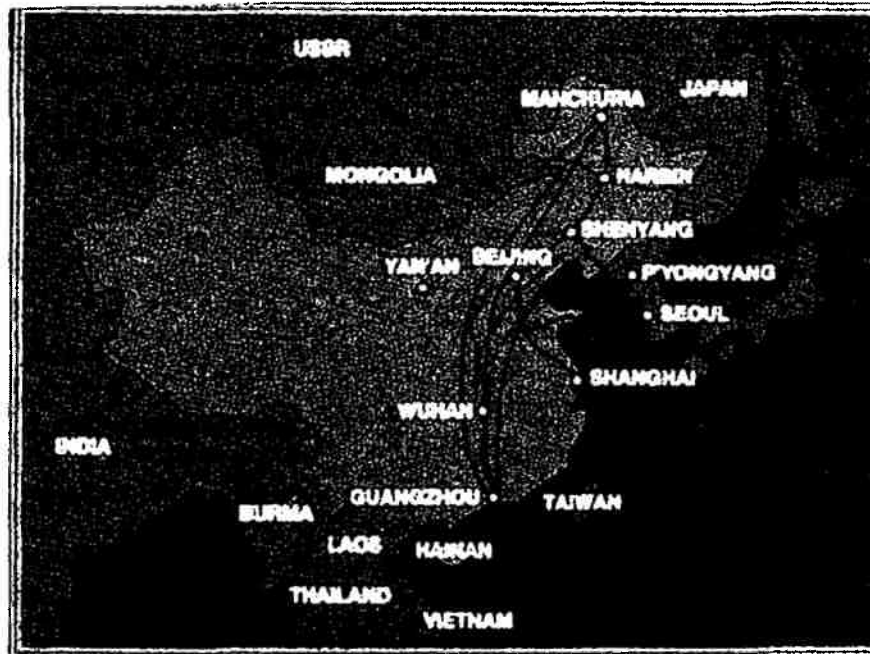
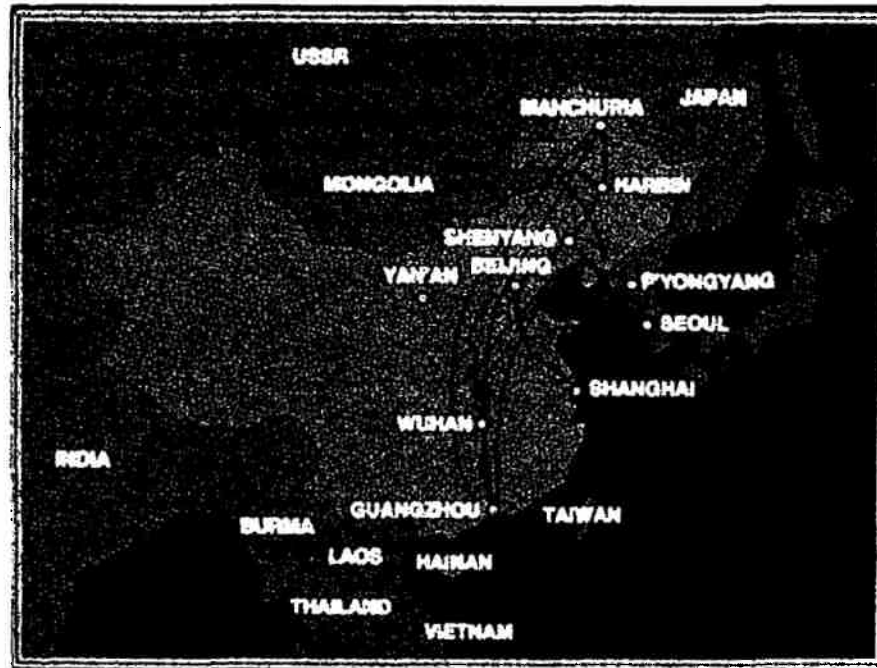


Map 4 - 17 July: 4th field army operation intended in Taiwan or Manchuria

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Map 6 - 2-4, 21 October: PIA massing on border; 3rd Field Army sending units

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to Manchuria in late June and late July.⁴⁴ As represented by the dotted lines on Map 5, the G-2 and CIA concluded that both the 38th and 39th Armies were en route to Manchuria when COMINT detected them at stations along the railroad.⁴⁵

~~(S)~~ The 1 September report also stated that a new artillery division had been referenced on the same rail line north of Wuhan on 24 August. And in Manchuria, messages referred in June and August to new combat formations south and east of Shenyang - the 55th and 57th Armies, which CIA believed to be former local defense forces that the People's Liberation Army had upgraded to main force units.⁴⁶

~~(S)~~ The intelligence agencies decided in September that the PRC had postponed the invasion of Taiwan and intended to give some form of armed assistance to the North Koreans in the immediate future. On 22 September, the Watch Committee agreed that the PRC could move into Korea "with little advance notice."⁴⁷

~~(S)~~ During the first three weeks of October, COMINT revealed that the deployments had changed. Units that had deployed to central and western Manchuria or to rail centers from which they could advance quickly to Manchuria, now moved up to join the 13th Army Group HQ on the Sino-Korean border. As shown on Map 6, the 39th Army - last seen north of Wuhan - was referenced on 6 September at Liaoyang, about 100 miles from the border. By 28 September, an element of the 42nd Army, last noted in northwest Manchuria, moved to Tonghua, within fifty miles of the frontier. Moreover, the 118th Infantry Division, 40th Army, had been addressed at Dandong on the 5th. On 23 October, AFSA reported the entire army might have moved to Dandong. The agencies, however, did not carry the relocation of the 40th Army until early November.⁴⁸

~~(S)~~ A massive new deployment was also under way. AFSA published a 21 October [redacted] that twenty troop trains were heading toward Manchuria from Shanghai in the Third Field Army's area of responsibility.⁴⁹

MORE WARNING BEFORE THE 25 OCTOBER "FIRST PHASE OFFENSIVE" (U)

~~(S)~~ Other COMINT gave dimension and purpose to the military deployments. In an intercepted message, [redacted] in Beijing informed [redacted] on 25 September that, based on a conversation he had had with Zhou Enlai, he believed the PRC would intervene if the UN crossed the 38th parallel into North Korea.⁵⁰ Collateral confirmed Zhou Enlai had warned the Dutch and Indian envoys on 3 October that the PRC would send troops into Korea if U.S. forces entered territory above the 38th parallel.⁵¹ PRC civil communications from 10 September to 15 October revealed the military had taken over railroads to the extent that goods could not be shipped to consumers between Shanghai and Manchuria.⁵² North Korean military communications mentioned a "regiment that came from China" on 27 September.⁵³ Furthermore, a 6 October message stated that a shipload of medical supplies had been sent to Dalian and Dandong near the Sino-Korean border.⁵⁴

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~~(TSC)~~ But when the UN landed successfully at Inchon on 15 September and drove the North Koreans across the 38th parallel without interference from the PRC, the agencies supposed that Beijing had missed the opportunity to intervene. Intelligence officers backed away from their earlier warning. They overlooked the new pattern of military deployments to the Sino-Korean frontier, and minimized or found alternative explanations for other indicators. Although CIA believed the railroad tie-ups in East China signified "considerable northward military movement," the Joint Intelligence Indications Committee attributed the congestion to a wreck farther up the line.⁵⁵ The agencies were inclined to think the soldiers observed in trains bound for the north were not from the Third Field Army as the [redacted] had reported, but rather were Fourth Field Army troops whose units had already moved to Manchuria.⁵⁶ Moreover, the "regiment that came from China" might have been North Koreans from Manchuria.⁵⁷ As for Zhou Enlai's warnings, Zhou could have been using [redacted] as conduits to discourage the UN from entering North Korea.⁵⁸ The medical supplies might not have been intended for Chinese Communist troops in Manchuria, but for the North Koreans or even the Soviets.⁵⁹ Finally, the agencies bickered over the strength of the PRC units, with CIA analysts tending to think that a COMINT reference to an army element meant the army had moved intact⁶⁰ and military intelligence officers beginning to doubt that entire armies had relocated. COMINT had not furnished "irrefutable evidence that all components of these various army groups are in Manchuria, but only portions of them are," the Joint Intelligence Indications Committee argued on 4 October.⁶¹ The G-2 concluded on 4 October that although China's entry was not "wholly to be discounted," the evidence was insufficient to indicate such a development was "either highly probable or imminent." On 5 October, the Watch Committee ventured that even though the PRC did have a large force on the border, intervention was "less likely" than previously because Beijing's propaganda supporting North Korea had diminished and the PRC leadership probably did not want to expose China to retaliatory U.S. air strikes.⁶²

(U) President Truman was still concerned. In his later account of events preceding the PRC intervention, he wrote that Zhou Enlai's threats motivated him to meet with MacArthur. "I wanted to get the benefit of his firsthand information and judgement," President Truman explained.⁶⁴ When he and MacArthur convened on Wake Island on 15 October, the president repeatedly voiced his apprehension that the Chinese might intervene. "I have been worried about that," he was quoted as saying.⁶⁵ "What are the chances for Chinese . . . interference?" the president asked MacArthur. "Very little," MacArthur replied. "Had they intervened in the first or



President Truman

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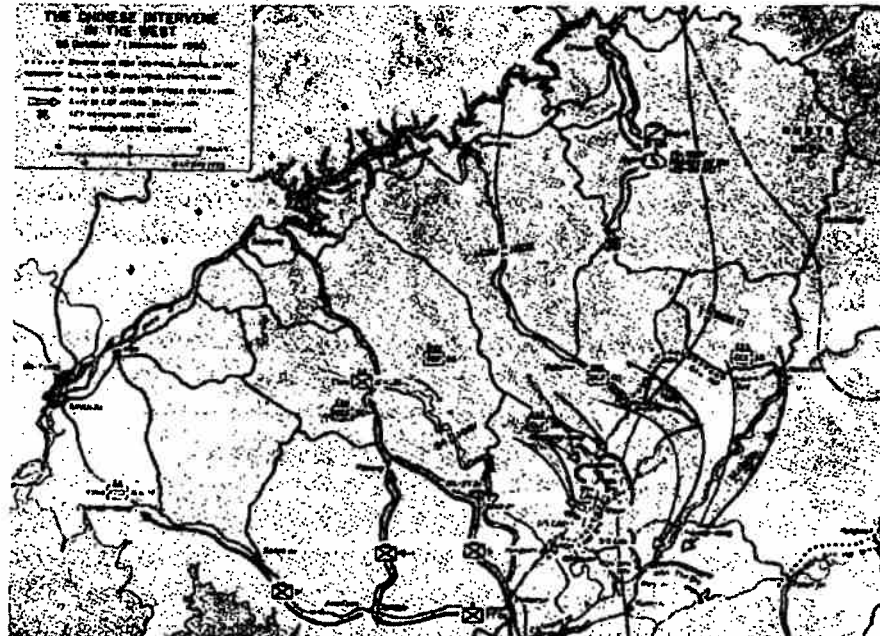
second months it would have been decisive. We are no longer fearful of their intervention.⁶⁶

(U) None of the other participants - W. Averell Harriman, the presidential adviser; Philip C. Jessup, ambassador at large; Dean Rusk, assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern Affairs; John Muccio, U.S. ambassador to South Korea; Frank Pace, secretary of the army; General Omar Bradley, chairman of the JCS; Admiral Arthur W. Radford, CINCPACFLT - apparently questioned the General's assessment.⁶⁷

~~(SC)~~ Yet after the Wake Island conference, COMINT detected increased activity in PRC air communications and new Soviet air patrols along the Korean border. PHOTINT showed seventy-five to one hundred fighters at Dandong airfield, and a HUMINT source reported PRC leaders had decided to take military action in North Korea. The Watch Committee now assessed that the Chinese might indeed intervene soon, but only for a defensive purpose such as occupation of a strip of territory along the Yalu to protect hydro-electric facilities.⁶⁸

THE "FIRST PHASE" ATTACKS (U)

(U) On 25 October, the armies that AFSA [redacted] had reported moving to Manchuria struck UN forces advancing toward the Yalu. The U.S. Marines consolidated their positions in eastern North Korea, and the Eighth Army pulled back to the Ch'ong'chon River in the west (see Map 7).⁶⁹



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~~(S)~~ On 6 November, the Chinese broke off this First Phase Offensive and withdrew into the mountains facing the UN positions.⁷⁰ During a meeting of the Joint Indications Intelligence Committee on 15 November, agency representatives puzzled over the "lack of aggressiveness" on the part of the PRC forces.⁷¹ The intelligence officers who thought only elements of armies had deployed to Manchuria now used the same reasoning to estimate how many troops took part in the First Phase Offensive. Actually about 120,000 had attacked in four armies; but the Watch Committee believed the Chinese had made only "piecemeal commitments of small forces . . . from various divisions of three different armies." The committee reasoned the PRC wanted to promote "the fiction of volunteer forces but also . . . to create the impression of greater strength than was actually present." Major General Charles Willoughby, MacArthur's G-2, thought only battalion-size elements had intervened. Asked why the Chinese had been able to destroy a U.S. regiment in late October, Willoughby said the unit had not taken precautions against a night attack.⁷²

COMINT INDICATORS OF MASSIVE INTERVENTION ~~(S)~~

~~(S)~~ During the month between the PRC First Phase attacks on 25 October and the Second Phase Offensive that began 26 November, AFSA reported Beijing was moving three more armies to the Korean border and making extensive preparations for war. On 6 November, a North Korean message mentioned that a PRC "55th Force" had been nearby during the recent battle with U.S. elements.⁷³ As already told, the PRC 55th Army was created from local defense forces in Manchuria during the previous summer. In addition, two more armies from central and eastern China joined the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 42nd Armies that had engaged UN forces in the First Phase Offensive. The 50th Army was in the process of moving from Wuhan to Liaoyuan in mid-October, and the 66th Army relocated from Shanghai to Dandong by 26 November (see Map 8).⁷⁴

~~(TS)~~ The troops [redacted] had observed heading for Manchuria on 21 October had not yet been committed to action in Korea. In partial confirmation of the [redacted] message, CIA on 24 November cited collateral indicating an army group headquarters and two armies from the Third Field Army had arrived in Manchuria.⁷⁵

~~(TS)~~ [redacted] AFSA reported that these new deployments were attended by preparations for war. The Fourth Field Army and the PRC Air Force moved rear services headquarters to Manchuria on 28 October and 5 November, respectively.⁷⁶ [redacted]

[redacted] - now the Chinese and Soviets received [redacted] at the same time.⁷⁷ [redacted] communications revealed during the first three weeks of November that Beijing was in a state of emergency, with authorities sponsoring mass demonstrations demanding intervention, imposing more stringent censorship, improving air defense, and

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Map 8

1, 6, 10, 26 November: PLA "55th Force" in Korea; three more armies on border

commanding that any soldier or officer could volunteer to serve in Korea.⁷⁸ On 22 November, the medical HQ of the Fourth Field Army urgently ordered PRC troops in Manchuria to receive immunizations for diseases that were prevalent in North Korea - smallpox, cholera, and typhoid fever.⁷⁹

~~(S)~~ Furthermore, coincident with a North Korean message stating that PRC reinforcements were expected in northeast North Korea, PRC civil communications between 9 and 22 November disclosed an organization in Shanghai sending a total of 30,000 maps of Korea to cities on the Sino-Korean border. The first of the messages stated that Shanghai was sending at least 10,000 maps to Shenyang. The Army G-2 reacted to this report with an estimate that the PRC might allocate about 1,000 maps to a division. The G-2 granted that the 10,000 maps might have been for ten divisions but thought it more likely the maps were intended for the 75,000 Chinese "volunteers" General Willoughby's staff thought to be in North Korea. But on 18 November, Shanghai stated that 20,000 maps of Korea had been sent to Shenyang. And on the 22nd, a message disclosed 30,000 were on the way.⁸⁰ According to the original G-2 calculation, 30,000 maps would be enough for thirty divisions. On 26 November, the PRC launched the Second Phase Offensive with thirty divisions.

~~(S)~~ The agencies now began to accept the COMINT evidence that the Chinese were preparing to strike a heavy blow. The Watch Committee judged on 2 November that the Chinese might raise the scale of their involvement, but it still believed the preparations

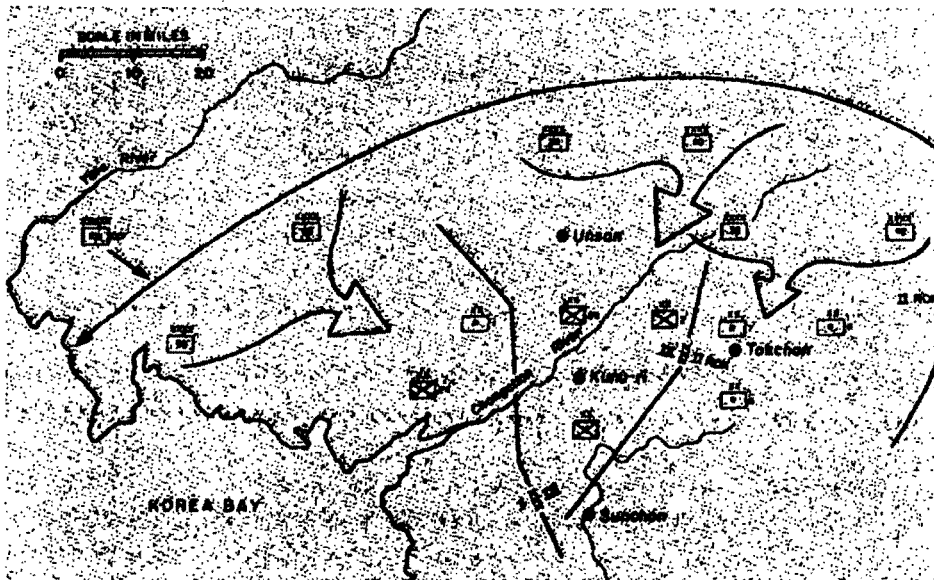
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had primarily defensive purposes such as preventing North Korea's resistance from collapsing, controlling installations on the border, preserving a base of operations for Korean guerrillas, and tying down UN forces that otherwise might be deployed to deal with crises elsewhere in the world. After more COMINT accumulated, the Watch Committee warned on 18 November that the PRC intended "to expand the scale of intervention." On 22 November, the Joint Intelligence Indications Committee estimated that the PRC planned to take "extensive action of some sort . . . over a period of time."⁸¹

~~(TSC)~~ On 24 November, MacArthur's command resumed the advance to the Yalu in the western sector only to be thrown back by six PRC armies (Map 9). Three more armies attacked the First Marine Division and an Army regimental combat team in the area around the Chosin Reservoir. Those forces were from the area where [redacted] had seen troop trains moving to Manchuria on 21 October. As Map 10 shows, collateral later reported that one of these armies, the 20th, crossed over into Korea with four divisions at Ji'an, China. COMINT had detected that 5,000 maps of Korea were sent to Ji'an a week before the massive offensive.⁸²



Map 9
The CCF XIII Army Group's deployment against Eighth Army, 24 November 1950

LEGACIES (U)

~~(S-CCO)~~ COMINT provided timely and specific intelligence before the PRC intervention. We must praise AFSA [redacted] for establishing that analysis is not the exclusive province of customers. We must also commend operational managers for retaining

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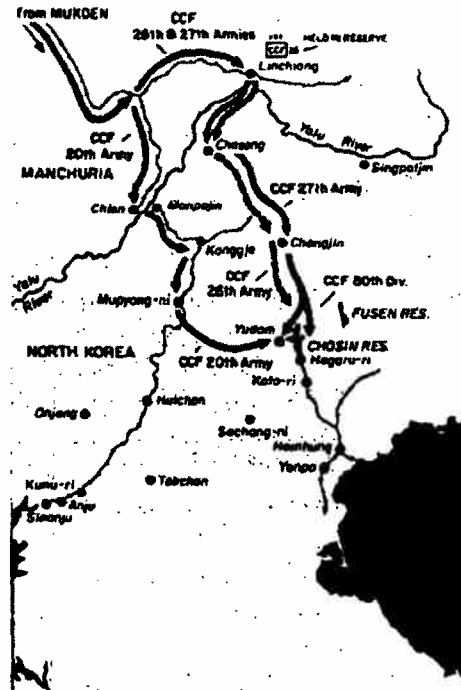
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coverage of [redacted] and China's civil network despite pressure to work on Soviet targets.



Map 10

~~(S-CCC)~~ Yet ASA should not have dropped Chinese Communist military communications in 1946. As a result, net reconstruction was delayed. It is of course easier to make this observation than it would have been for ASA to obtain the resources for such a large effort in 1946. Nevertheless, ASA's 1946 failure to continue targeting the communications of a target of such rising importance as the Chinese Communist movement was an example of what to avoid in the future.

~~(S-CCC)~~ As for the intelligence agencies, their analysts were too prone to transfer western political-military presuppositions into the minds of the planners in Beijing. Even so, they did pay attention to COMINT and warned, however tentatively, that the Chinese would intervene.

(U) Why then did American leaders sanction the advance to the Yalu?

(U) According to recently available material from the PRC, Mao Zedong was convinced MacArthur was too arrogant and complacent to make an objective assessment of the intelligence he received. Mao reportedly thought the PRC could surprise MacArthur

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because MacArthur would miscalculate Beijing's intentions. Mao allegedly also knew MacArthur had underestimated the PRC units opposing the UN. According to the recent information, Mao told the commander of the Thirteenth Army Group on 18 November that MacArthur believed there were only 60,000 to 70,000 PRC troops in North Korea. By then there were actually 280,000. Mao is said to have commented that this misconception would help the PRC destroy "tens of thousands" in MacArthur's army.⁸³

(U) MacArthur was not the only official who miscalculated. Dean Rusk would state forty years later that "the real failure at the Wake Island meeting was in our assessment of Chinese intentions and of our ability to handle Chinese forces if they actually intervened. On this one MacArthur and the rest of us were all wrong."⁸⁴

~~(S-000)~~ But faulty estimates of the PRC and the UN do not fully explain what occurred. For all Mr. Rusk's remorse, the president and his advisers had decided to use force in Korea because they perceived the war as a Soviet test of Western resolve.⁸⁵ Their mistake was not that they decided to respond militarily but that they put MacArthur in charge.

(U) Surely having in mind the COMINT reports of armies deploying to Manchuria, they ordered him in late September to "continue to make special efforts to determine whether there is a Chinese Communist or Soviet threat."⁸⁶ But during the Second World War MacArthur had disregarded COMINT that contradicted his plans.⁸⁷ Although we lack evidence that he personally read the reports of PRC preparations, it is clear that his headquarters in Tokyo received the information. MacArthur's zeal to pursue "betrayal," "appeasement," and "international lawlessness" to the Yalu probably caused him to minimize the COMINT indicators of massive PRC intervention, just as he had earlier minimized "inconvenient" COMINT reports about the Japanese. He thus drove his command to great defeat in Korea. Beijing's measure of the man had been terribly accurate, Washington's terribly flawed.

Notes

1. (U) Roy E. Appleman, *Disaster in Korea: The Chinese Confront MacArthur* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, c. 1989), 19-21.
2. (U) Army Chief of Staff J. Lawton Collins to MacArthur, 24 November 1950; MacArthur to JCS, 25 November 1950, *Foreign Relations of the United States: 1950*, Vol. VII, *Korea* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1976), 1222-1224 and 1231-1233. Cited hereafter as *FRUS 1950, Korea*.
3. (U) Appleman, *Disaster in Korea*, 44-45, and *East of Chosin: Entrapment and Breakout in Korea, 1950* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, c. 1987), 50-56.
4. (U) Appleman, *East of Chosin*, 105.
5. (U) *FRUS 1950, Korea*, 1237.

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6. (U) U.S. Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department, "Magic" Diplomatic Summary Nr. 1021, 10 January 1945, B5-B6. Accession 39C CBLJ35 G11-0306, NSA/CSS Archives.
7. (U) Herbert Feis, *The China Tangle: The American Effort in China from Pearl Harbor to the Marshall Mission* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1953), 140, 180-181.
8. (U) Herbert Hoover appointed Hurley, a Republican, secretary of war. Hurley later supported the New Deal, and President Roosevelt sent him on trouble-shooting missions to New Zealand and the Middle East as well as China. William Henry Stueck, Jr., *The Road to Confrontation: American Policy toward China and Korea, 1947-1950* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, c. 1981), 13-14.
9. (U) Quoted in Charles B. McLane, *Soviet Policy and Chinese Communists, 1931-1946* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958) 3n.
10. (U) *FRUS 1950, Korea*, 1369.
11. (U) General Marshall was not unacquainted with China. He had been assigned there in the Army in the 1920s and participated in U.S. policy decisions regarding China as Army Chief of Staff during World War II. President Truman recalled he telephoned General Marshall on 27 November 1945 in Leesburg, Virginia, where the Marshalls were unpacking from their move from Washington. "Without any preparation I told him: 'General, I want you to go to China for me.'" Marshall replied, "Yes, Mr. President," and rang off. He later told the president he ended the call quickly because he needed to explain to Mrs. Marshall why he was re-entering active government service so soon after retirement; but within minutes the radio was broadcasting news of the Marshall mission. General Marshall told the president, "There was the devil to pay" when Mrs. Marshall heard the report. Harry S. Truman, *Memoirs*, Vol. II, *Years of Trial and Hope* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, Inc. 1956), 66-67.
12. ~~(S-CCC)~~ AFSA paper entitled "The Chinese Communist Production Problem," dated 20 February 1951, with a notation by RADM J.W. Wenger, deputy director, AFSA, that the first U.S. COMINT effort against the Chinese Communists occurred in response to General Marshall's request. Accession 9139 CBIB26 QAC, NSA Archives. See also ASA Pacific, "Annual Report for FY 1946." Accession 2896 CBN112 AAP, NSA/CSS Archives.
13. ~~(S-CCC)~~ Undated ASA paper entitled "Status of Chinese Communist Problems," written between 15 March 1946 and the end of August 1947, the lifetime of the Top Secret Codeword, CREAM, that was stamped on the paper. Accession I9237 CBNH66 QAC, NSA/CSS Archives.
14. (U) NSA Center for Cryptologic History (CCH) Oral History 13-82, 14 July 1982. Later a Brigadier General, Collins served in the Signal Corps (1943-1945) and ASA HQ (1949-1951) and was Chief ASAPAC, based in Tokyo, from November 1945 to December 1947. He retired in 1956.
15. ~~(S-CCC)~~ Mr. Kenneth T. Young, Chief Far East Section, State Department Special Projects Staff (SPS), memorandum to Mr. T. Achilles Polyzoides, deputy director SPS, "Chinese Communist Message," 5 February 1947, Accession 9670X CBDB38 EAA, NSA/CSS Archives.
16. ~~(S-CCC)~~ Selected ASA translations of Chinese Communist and diplomatic messages from this period are on microfilm reel E-103, box 12, NSA/CSS Archives. Copies of the message cited and selected translations are also filed in CCH Series IV.R.4.2.
17. (U) Stueck, *Road to Confrontation*, 15.
18. (U) Department of State, *United States Relations with China, with Special Reference to the Period 1944-1949* (Washington: State Department Division of Publications, 1949), x1.
19. (U) The chief Communist negotiator, Zhou Enlai, left Nanking for Yan'an in November 1946. Stueck, *Road to Confrontation*, 43.

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20. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Joint Processing and Analysis Group (JPAG), "Report on Chinese Communist Circuits," Interim Report 816 section CH-169, 12 March 1947, Accession 42465 H10-010-7, Folder 19, NSA/CSS Archives.

21. ~~(S-CCO)~~ [redacted] newsletters to the Deputy Coordinator for Liaison of the U.S. State-Army-Navy Communications Intelligence Board (STANCIB), 10 June and 1 August 1946, Accession 759 CBPB65 JAC, NSA/CSS Archives;

[redacted] CCH Series IV.MM.6.1; Department of State, *United States Relations with China*, xi.

22. ~~(S-CCO)~~ [redacted] newsletter to the Deputy Coordinator for Liaison, STANCIB, 1 August 1946, Accession 759 CBPV65 JAC, NSA/CSS Archives.

23. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Mr. Kenneth T. Young, memorandum to Mr. T. Achilles Polyzoides, "Special Report on Relations between the Chinese Communist Party and Comintern Headquarters in Moscow," 21 April 1947, Accession 9670X CBDB38 EAA, NSA/CSS Archives.

24. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Yan'an, to Moscow, 27 September 1945, published 21 November 1945, CCH Series IV.MM.6.3; Feis, *China Tangle*, 361-363.

25. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Yan'an to Moscow, 3-6 October 1945, published 21 November 1945, CCH Series IV.MM.6.3.

26. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Yan'an to Moscow, 3-6 October 1945, published 21 November 1945, CCH Series IV.MM.6.3. The numbers given by Mao Zedong are in O. Edmund Clubb, *20th Century China* (New York: Columbia University Press, c. 1964), 285. The Army's estimate is in Department of State, *U.S. Relations with China*, 313. State's calculation is in Arthur R. Ringwalt, Chief Chinese Affairs Division, to Brigadier General Marshall S. Carter, special assistant to the secretary of state, 21 August 1947, FRUS 1947, *The Far East: China*, Vol. VII, 260. Carter was to be director, NSA, from 1 June 1965 to 31 July 1969.

27. ~~(S-CCO)~~ "Special Report on Chinese Communist Circuits," JPAG Interim Report 293 Section CH-041, 29 October 1946, Accession 42465 H10-10-4, Folder 7, NSA/CSS Archives; "Summary Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1947," ASA Pacific, Accession 14744 CBNJ13, NSA/CSS Archives.

28. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Resources allocated to the various targets are listed in JPAG monthly status reports filed in the NSA/CSS Archives under Accession 4266 H10-0100-1 through H10-0106-6 JAC.

29. [redacted]

30. ~~(S-CCO)~~ [redacted]

31. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Joint Intelligence Committee, "Evidence of Soviet Military Preparedness," report to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 25 May 1950; [redacted] CIA Situation Summary, 10 August 1950;

[redacted] Copies of these documents from the Truman Library are on file in CCH Series XVI.C.3.1.

32. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Folder entitled "Proposed Army Intercept Site [redacted] Feb-Mar 50," Accession 9139 CBIB26; Folder entitled "AFSA Field Operations Far East - Chicom, Korean COMINT Problem, Accession 9139 CBIB26.

33. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Mr. Wild graduated from Columbia University with an M.A. degree in Chinese and Japanese in 1943 and spent the war at Arlington Hall as an Army officer. He converted to civilian status in 1946 and translated intercepted Chinese Nationalist and Communist communications during the Marshall mission. In the shift of resources from China to other targets in 1947, Mr. Wild was assigned to the Soviet problem and received Russian language training. ASA returned him to the China section in November 1948. As he told representatives of the NSA Crypto-Linguistic Association on 17 December 1987, "the Chinese Communists marked up Manchuria [and] someone decided that China was important again." Mr. Wild transitioned from ASA to AFSA and thence to NSA

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where he became a senior technical expert in foreign languages and continued as a consultant following his retirement. An account of Mr. Wild's remarks is on file in the CCH Oral History collection.

34. ~~(S)~~ Mr. Drake, a pilot during World War II, received a B.A. in history and international relations from Carleton College in 1948, and entered on duty with the Navy as a COMINT analyst in 1949. He served as an analyst and reporter at AFSA and NSA (1949-53), NSA representative at the Defense Department (1954), and Operations Officer at NCEUR (1959-62); attended the National War College (1963-64); and, after a tour as Deputy Chief NCR Defense in 1964-65, was successively chief B Group (1965-67), deputy chief NCPAC (1967-70), chief A Group (1970-73), ADDO (1973-75), DDO (1975-78), and DDIR (1978-80). Mr. Drake retired in 1980.

36. (U) Interviews of Mr. Robert E. Drake, 5 December 1985, and Mr. Milton Zaslow, 14 May 1993, OH 18-85 and OH 17-93, CCH Oral History collection.

37. (U) Oral History interview 17-93, 14 May 1993, Center for Cryptologic History.

38. (U) Interviews of Mr. Robert E. Drake, 5 December 1985, and Mr. Milton Zaslow, 14 May 1993, OH 18-85 and OH 17-93, CCH Oral History collection.

39. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ Ms. Carolyn Fox, AFSA, "Reports of Intelligence Indications Committees Concerning the Far East - March-December 1950," 3 January 1954, CCH Series V.M.1.5. The document prepared by Ms. Fox was intended to be published as an appendix of an official history of the role of COMINT in the Korean War. Ms. Fox, who had participated in writing the history of British COMINT during World War II, extracted from the reports of the Watch Committee and the Joint Intelligence Indications Committee. Washington intelligence agencies apparently were represented on both committees. Ms. Fox's extracts of committee reports are cited below by date and committee name.

40. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ AFSA-234/34-50 [] 17 July 1950, Accession 29749 CBSK43 JSAA, NSA/CSS Archives.

41. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ Special Research Branch, G-2, Department of the Army, Military Digest (MD) 50-40, 4 October 1950. This MD and those cited hereafter constitute Appendix A of a compilation by the G-2 in late 1950 or early 1951 entitled "Indications of Large-Scale Chinese Intervention in Korea between the Outbreak of Korean War on 25 June 1950 and Launching of the Chinese Communist Offensive on 27 November 1950," file CCH Series V.M.7.5.

42. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ AFSA-234/34-50 [] 17 July 1950.

43. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ MD 50-29, 19 July 1950; Watch Committee report, 8 August 1950.

44. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ AFSA-234/39-50 [] 1 September 1950, Accession 29749 CBSK43 JAA, NSA/CSS Archives.

45. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ MD 50-36, 6 September 1950; CIA Situation Summary for 1 September 1950. The CIA Situation Summaries (hereafter Sitsums) were published weekly and are in President Truman's papers in Independence, Missouri. Selected copies are in CCH Series XVI.C.3.1.

46. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ Sitsums for 8 and 15 September.

47. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ Watch Committee report, 22 September; Sitsum for 29 September.

48. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ Chinese Communist Internal Analysis Report (CCNIAR) Nr. 27, AFSA-234/50-50/CMM, 16 October 1950, Accession Number 29748, location CBSK43 G16-0308-1, NSA/CSS Archives; MD 50-44, 1 November.

49. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ T/ACH/C113, 6 October 1950; MD 50-40, 4 October, and 50-44, 1 November; Sitsum for 27 October.

50. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ AFSA D-25446/50, 05140Z October, CCH Series V.M.7.3.

51. (U) *FRUS 1950, Korea*, 839, 858.

52. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ JIIC report, 25 October; Sitsum for 27 October.

53. ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~ Watch Committee special report, 29 September; Interim Sitsum, 30 September; MD 50-40, 4 October.

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54. ~~(S-CCO)~~ JIIC report, 11 October.
55. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Sitsum for 27 October; JIIC report, 25 October.
56. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Sitsum for 27 October; MD 50-44, 1 November.
57. ~~(S-CCO)~~ MD 50-40, 4 October.
58. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Watch Committee report, 5 October.
59. ~~(S-CCO)~~ JIIC report, 11 October.
60. Comparison of CIA numerical estimates of PRC forces in Manchuria reported in Situation Summaries for 15 September and 6 October suggest CIA was at first skeptical that complete armies were relocating to Manchuria but changed that view by early October.
61. ~~(S-CCO)~~ JIIC report, 4 October.
62. ~~(S-CCO)~~ MD 50-40, 4 October.
63. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Watch Committee report, 5 October.
64. (U) Truman, *Years of Trial and Hope*, 361-366.
65. (U) David McCullough, *Truman* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992), 802.
66. (U) *Frus 1950, Korea*, 953.
67. (U) Notes of the proceedings taken by various representatives from Washington are in *FRUS 1950, Korea*, 948-962.
68. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Watch Committee reports, 19 and 20 October; Joint Chiefs of Staff, message to CINC Far East, 21 October, transmitting an estimate that CIA had given the president on 20 October, in Army G-2 compilation, "Indications of Large-Scale Chinese Intervention in Korea," CCH Series V.M.7.5.
69. ~~(S-CCO)~~ MD 50-44, 1 November; Appleman, *Disaster in Korea*, 19-21.
70. (U) Appleman, *Disaster in Korea*, 21.
71. ~~(S-CCO)~~ JIIC report, 15 November.
72. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Watch Committee report, 2 November; on Willoughby's estimate, see Appleman, *East of Chosin*, 4-5.
73. ~~(S-CCO)~~ MD 50-45, 8 November.
74. ~~(S-CCO)~~ MD 50-46, 15 November; Special Research Branch, G-2, Department of the Army, message to CINC Far East, 26 November, in "Indications of Large-Scale Chinese Intervention in Korea," CCH Series V.M.7.5.
75. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Sitsum for 24 November.
76. ~~(S-CCO)~~ JIIC report, 8 November; MD 50-44, 1 November and MD 50-45, 8 November.
77. ~~(S-CCO)~~ WACH/C134, 13 November; JIIC report, 15 November.
78. ~~(S-CCO)~~ JIIC reports, 15 and 22 November; CIA Sitsum for 24 November;
 Accession 2003N CBQ143 MAC, NSA/CSS Archives.
79. ~~(S-CCO)~~ JIIC report, 29 November.
80. ~~(S-CCO)~~ MD 50-46, 14 November; JIIC reports, 15 and 22 November; CIA Sitsum for 24 November.
81. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Watch Committee reports, 2 and 16 November; JIIC reports, 15 and 22 November; CIA Sitsum for 24 November.

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82. ~~(S)~~ CIA Sitsum for 24 November; Appleman, *Disaster in Korea*, 44-55, and *East of Chosin*, 50-56.
83. ~~(S)~~ Hao Yufan and Zhai Zhihai, "China's Decision to Enter the Korean War: History Revisited," *The China Quarterly*, Number 121 (March 1990), 112-113; Thomas J. Christensen, "Threats, Assurances, and the Last Chance for Peace: The Lessons of Mao's Korean War Telegrams," *International Security*, Vol XVII, Number 1 (Summer 1992), 141.
84. ~~(S)~~ Dean Rusk, *As I Saw It* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1990), 167-169. Mr. Rusk served on General Joseph Stilwell's staff in the China-Burma-India theater during World War II and joined the State Department after the war. He was appointed deputy undersecretary in February 1949, then assistant secretary for Far Eastern Affairs in March 1950. He served as secretary of state from 1961-1969.
85. Stueck, *Road to Confrontation*, 7-8.
86. ~~(S)~~ The order was included in the message authorizing MacArthur to cross the 38th parallel into North Korea. It was drafted by the JCS, concurred by Secretary of Defense Marshall and Secretary of State Acheson, and approved by President Truman. The JCS transmitted the order to MacArthur on 27 September. *FRUS 1950, Korea*, 781, 785, 793.
87. (U) Edward J. Drea, *MacArthur's Ultra: Codebreaking and the War against Japan, 1942-1945* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, c. 1992), has concluded that although MacArthur considered COMINT during some operations, notably the so-called "Leap to Hollandia" in 1944, he "consistently dismissed Ultra evidence that failed to accord with his preconceived strategic vision" (230). When planning to invade the Philippine islands, he "disregarded timely and accurate Ultra" revealing the Japanese were reinforcing their garrisons (231). He also "dismissed Ultra's accurate revelations of a massive Japanese buildup on Kyushu in July 1945" after preparing the attack on the Japanese home islands (234).

According to General Bradley's aide, the JCS concurred with the president's subsequent decision to recall MacArthur in part because he resumed the march to the Yalu in November 1950 without obtaining adequate intelligence on the opposing Chinese forces. McCullough, *Truman*, 840.

(U) Mr. Vanderpool entered on duty at NSA in 1960 after military service in the Army's Counterintelligence Corps. He retired in 1995 and is currently living in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Vanderpool has a B.A. from Harding University and an M.A. from George Washington University. Professionalized as a Security Officer and an Intelligence Research Analyst, he held investigative, analytic, and managerial positions in the Office of Security and the Operations Directorate. He was a member of the Intelligence Research Career Panel and a number of interagency committees. Mr. Vanderpool received the Agency's Meritorious Civilian Service Award. He performed research for this article during an assignment in the Center for Cryptologic History.

~~Derived from: NSA/CSSM 123-2,
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