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12 June 1956

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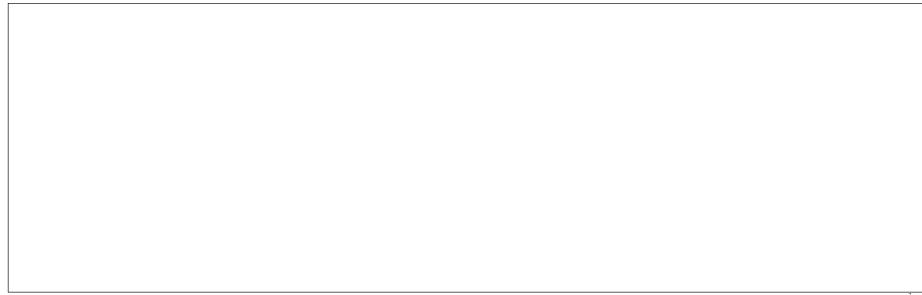
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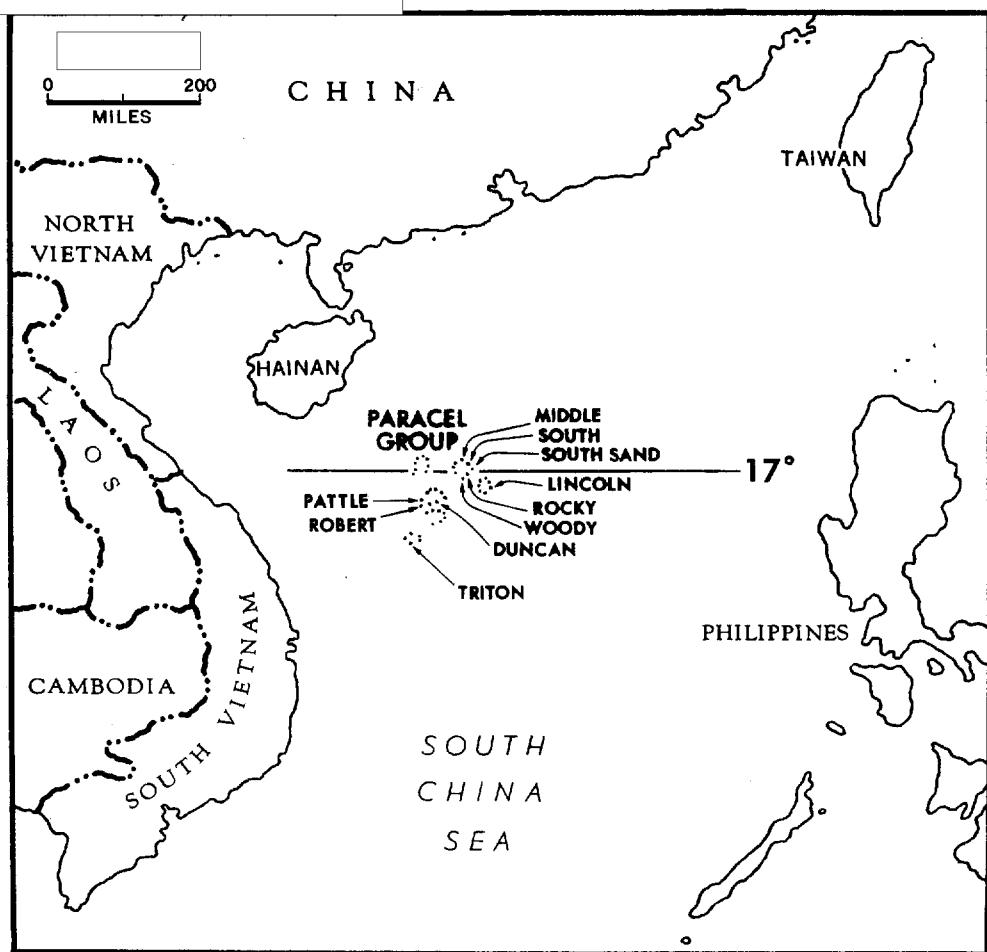
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1. AIR RECONNAISSANCE FINDS NO CHINESE COMMUNIST TROOPS ON PARACELS

Contrary to earlier Vietnamese reports of Chinese Communist troops on Robert Island in the Paracel group, aerial reconnaissance of 9 and 10 June revealed no Communist military activity in the area.

Some 75 persons were spotted on Robert on 9 June gathering guano. Since the Chinese Communists are

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carrying out similar work on Woody Island to the north, these individuals are presumed to be Communist civilians. Their visit to Robert was apparently temporary. No activity or personnel was seen there on 10 June.

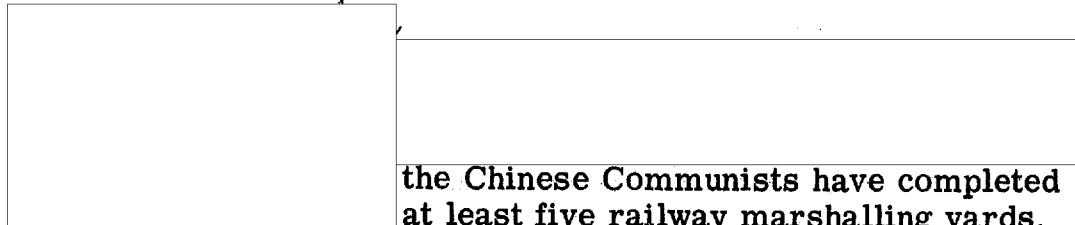
The arrival of the guano gatherers on Robert apparently panicked the Vietnamese army unit on nearby Pattle Island, which still insists the move was a troop landing. The unit originally asked Saigon for permission to withdraw from Pattle.

According to late word from Taipei, the two Nationalist destroyer escorts now operating in the Spratly group, several hundred miles south, will not proceed to the Paracels as previously indicated. [redacted]

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2. CONSTRUCTION ON EAST CHINA RAILROAD MOVES TOWARD COMPLETION

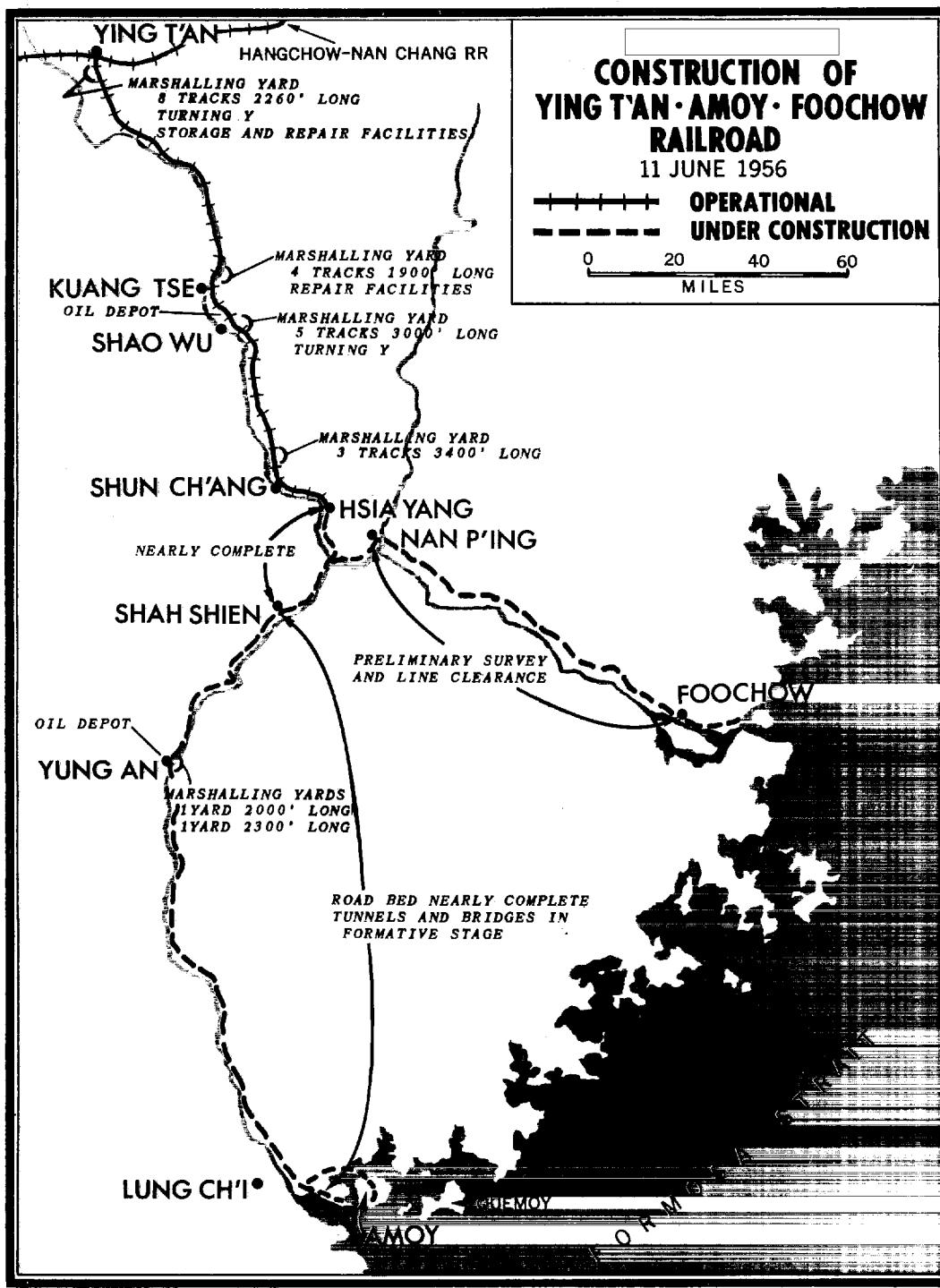


the Chinese Communists have completed at least five railway marshalling yards, four of which are on the northern third of the line. (See map, page 6.) The railroad now appears operational from Yingtan to Hsiayang, a distance of 165 miles. Bridging is nearly finished on the next 40-mile section from Hsiayang to Shahshien, while from the latter point south to Amoy the roadbed is well developed. Bridges and tunnels on this section, however, are incomplete. [redacted]

Comment

The line will probably be completely operational late this year. The Chinese Communists have announced that they plan to reopen the major deep-water port of Amoy, and earlier photography shows that the line will extend to the Amoy dock area. The previous estimates of the line's capacity--4,000-4,800 tons each way per day--are supported by the photographic evidence of four important railway marshalling and passing yards on the northern third of the line. If this pattern of development continues, the line will be able to serve both the future commercial ocean shipping activity at Amoy and the military-economic requirements of the East China area. [redacted] (Prepared by ORR)

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3. AIR SUPPLY OF ALGERIAN REBELS

Comment on:

Egypt is pressing preparations for the early establishment of an air supply system to the Algerian rebels.

Cairo has been informed that the operation is considered feasible, presumably by Libyan and Algerian accomplices.

The pilots and Algerians to be trained in air-dropping should be sent to Egypt."

Libyan premier Ben Naim had refused an Algerian nationalist request for landing rights to refuel two Cairo-based planes from which arms and ammunition were to be dropped by parachute over "Algeria and French West Africa."

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4. MALENKOV REPORTEDLY INVITED TO PARIS

The head of the Eastern European section of the French Foreign Ministry informed American representatives in Paris on 8 June that he is preparing, at the request of Foreign Minister Pineau, an invitation for eight or nine Soviet state planning officials to visit France. He thinks former premier Georgi Malenkov may be invited along with this group.

According to a semiofficial French Press Agency report of 7 June, Malenkov, who is now minister of Electric Power Stations, will soon go to Paris in response to an invitation extended by the French Economic Council delegation which visited the USSR last September. The report said his visit would precede that of Khrushchev and Bulganin.

Comment

Premier Mollet and Pineau have insisted on the importance of increased personal contacts between East and West. No date has been mentioned for the visit either of Malenkov or of the other Soviet leaders.

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**THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 11 June)**

Nothing of significance to report.

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