

Secret Tunnel Under Panmunjom

**North Korea's Third
Invasion Passage Discovered**

Secret Tunnel Under Panmunjom

**North Korea's Third
Invasion Passage Discovered**

Published by
Korean Overseas
Information Service
Seoul, Korea
October 1978

Secret Tunnel

Under Panmunjom

North Korea's Third
Invasion Passage Discovered

Cover:

Inside the latest discovered north
Korean-dug tunnel under the
Demilitarized Zone near Panmunjom.

I Introduction

It has been said that Korea's Demilitarized Zone is a great misnomer. It is now established as a fact that it remains one of the world's most heavily fortified borders.

Across the zone which meanders for 155 miles from east to west, over the Korean peninsula's narrow waist, two half-a-million strong armies, armed to the teeth, stand poised against each other.

And the zone, which is only 4 kilometers wide, is itself cut through by a Military Demarcation Line, which serves as an ultimate borderline dividing Korea into north and south.

It is on this slim line that Korea's peace is balanced. It is a precarious peace, for north Korea, under its durable but unpredictable ruler Kim Il-sung, has chosen to turn it into one of the most dangerous spots in the world.

Defying the 1953 Armistice Agreement which prohibits introduction of any weapons or offensive installations in the area, the Communist side has so far built 225 permanent fortifications along the line.

Behind that line is deployed a formidable array of weapons, from field artillery to Frog-type missiles. Airfields have been advanced toward it; tanks remain ready to roar to the south.

It has now been established that the zone is not only pock-marked by these horrendous weapons; it is also catacombed by an unknown number of secret underground tunnels dug by north Korea to infiltrate men and weapons to the south. Evidently, they were built with the intention of mounting a surprise attack on the Republic of Korea.

Within a span of five months between November 1974 and March 1975, two of these tunnels were discovered and neutralized by the United Nations Command. Now, a third one has been found.

The first tunnel, located under the western sector of the zone, extends 3.5 kilometers from north Korea into the sector controlled by south Korea. Its size, measuring 122 centimeters in height and 90 centimeters in width, is capable of letting pass a regiment of troops an hour.

Equipped with a narrow-gauge railway, the tunnel had penetrated 1.2 kilometers south of the Military Demarcation Line.

In terms of scale and sophistication, however, the second tunnel, discovered in the central sector of the Demilitarized Zone north of Chorwon, was even more ominous and offensive.

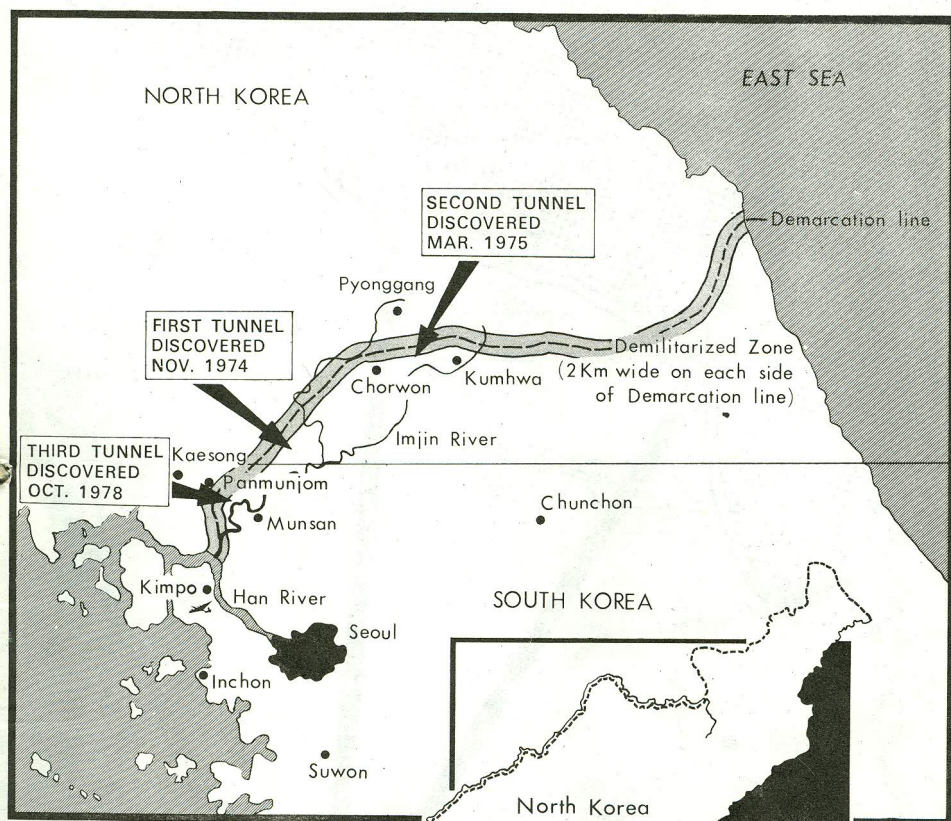
Arc-shaped and measuring 2 meters high and 2 meters wide, it had penetrated 800 meters into the Republic of Korea territory from the north. Stretching 3.5 kilometers, military experts who examined it said it was capable of letting pass a division of armed men an hour. It was also built to handle the passage of small armored vehicles.

Discovery of these two tunnels appalled the south Korean government and United Nations Command, which together are helping to maintain peace in Korea. Their discovery quickly led to an extensive effort to detect more tunnels beneath the misnamed Demilitarized Zone.

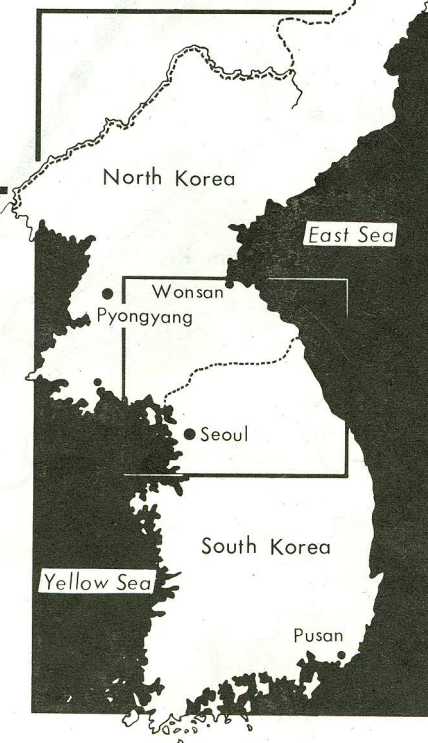
A combination of luck and hard work has now resulted in the discovery of a third tunnel. A team of south Korean engineers dug an interception tunnel, and on October 17, 1978, it successfully broke into the Communist underground passage at a depth of 73 meters.

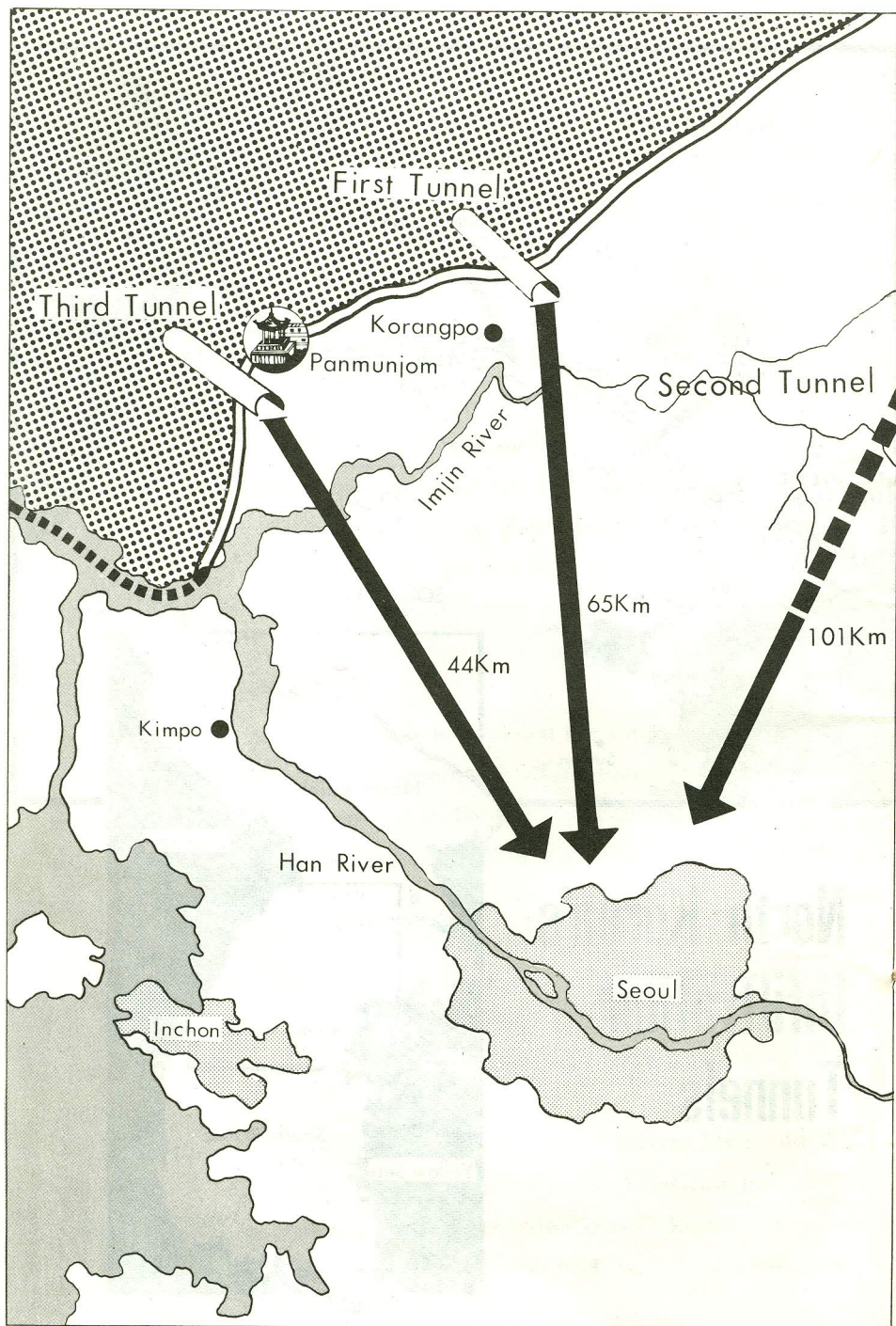
Like the second tunnel, its passage was 2 meters high and 2 meters wide, but unlike the previous two, an American military officer at the scene said that it reflected "improved" skills.

Even more surprising than the tunnel itself was the realization



North Korea's Infiltration Tunnels







The World Learns Of Another North Korean Tunnel

At the 391st meeting of the Military Armistice Commission on Oct. 27, 1978 at the truce village of Panmunjom, the United Nations Command presented to the world irrefutable evidence of the discovery of yet

another north Korean invasion tunnel (the third). The latest tunnel uncovered extended directly underneath a UNC guard post in the Panmunjom area, undermining the truce village itself.

that the north Koreans were digging tunnels even as recently as June 10. Their seeming intrepidity to continue digging tunnels has shocked all south Korean citizens.

The third tunnel is suspected to lie about 1.2 kilometers west of the Military Demarcation Line, and had penetrated 435 meters into south Korean territory.

North Korea was promptly accused of a "serious" violation of the Armistice Agreement, and the U.S.-led United Nations Command termed it "an act of aggression" by the north against the south.

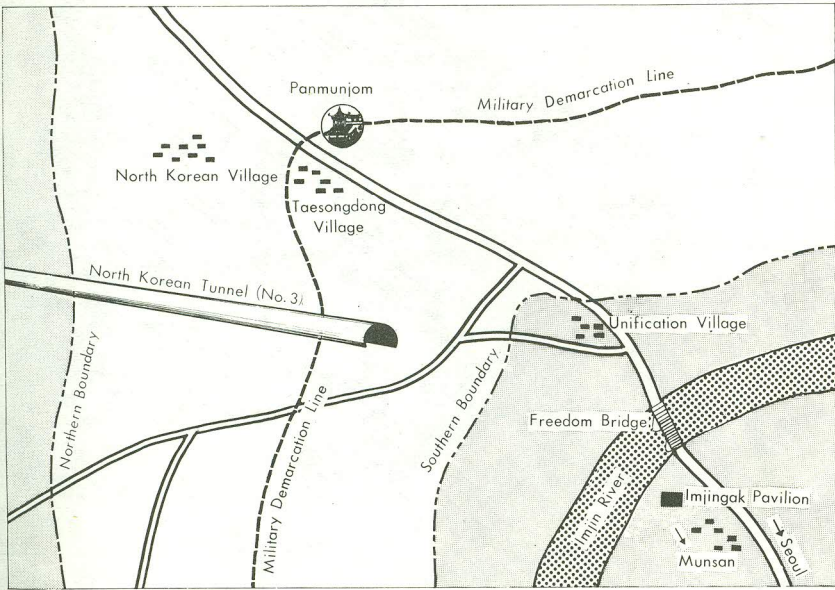
Defense Minister Roh Jae-hyun declared that it was a tunnel for aggression, and that it was proof that North Korea had not abandoned its policy of seeking reunification through war.

Military experts said that the third tunnel's location and direction indicated that it was designed for use to attack Seoul, the south Korean capital. Located 2 kilometers southwest of Camp Kittyhawk, an advance camp for UNC personnel supporting the Military Armistice Commission talks, it was only 4 kilometers removed from the truce village of Panmunjom itself.

The tunnel opens in the direction of the Munsan corridor, which leads to Seoul, a route which north Korea had used in 1950 when it sprang its surprise invasion. South Korean authorities said that the route could be blocked by troops infiltrating through the tunnel, who could then quickly go on to attack Seoul which lies only 25 miles from the front.

These, then, are no ordinary tunnels that could simply be explained away as indications of the north's intention. They deserve to be seriously studied and analyzed for their tactical as well as strategic worth.

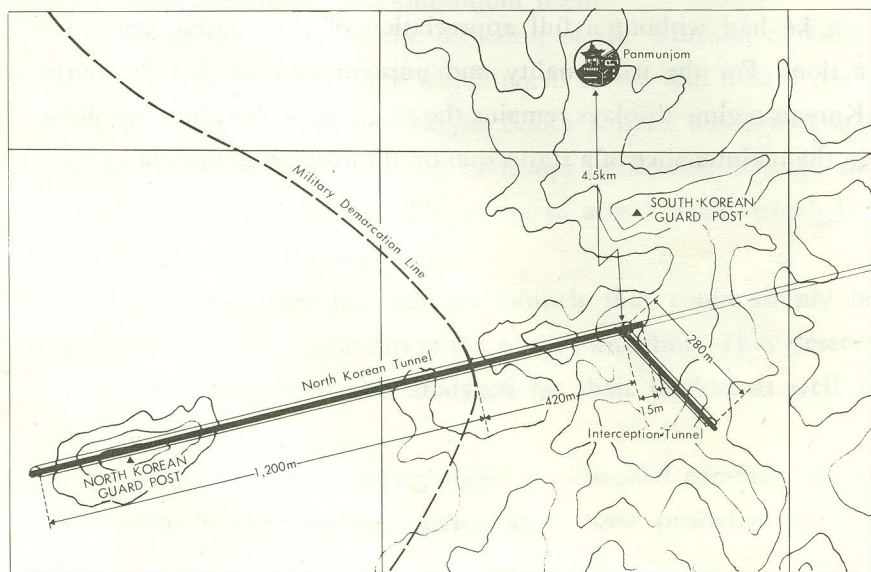
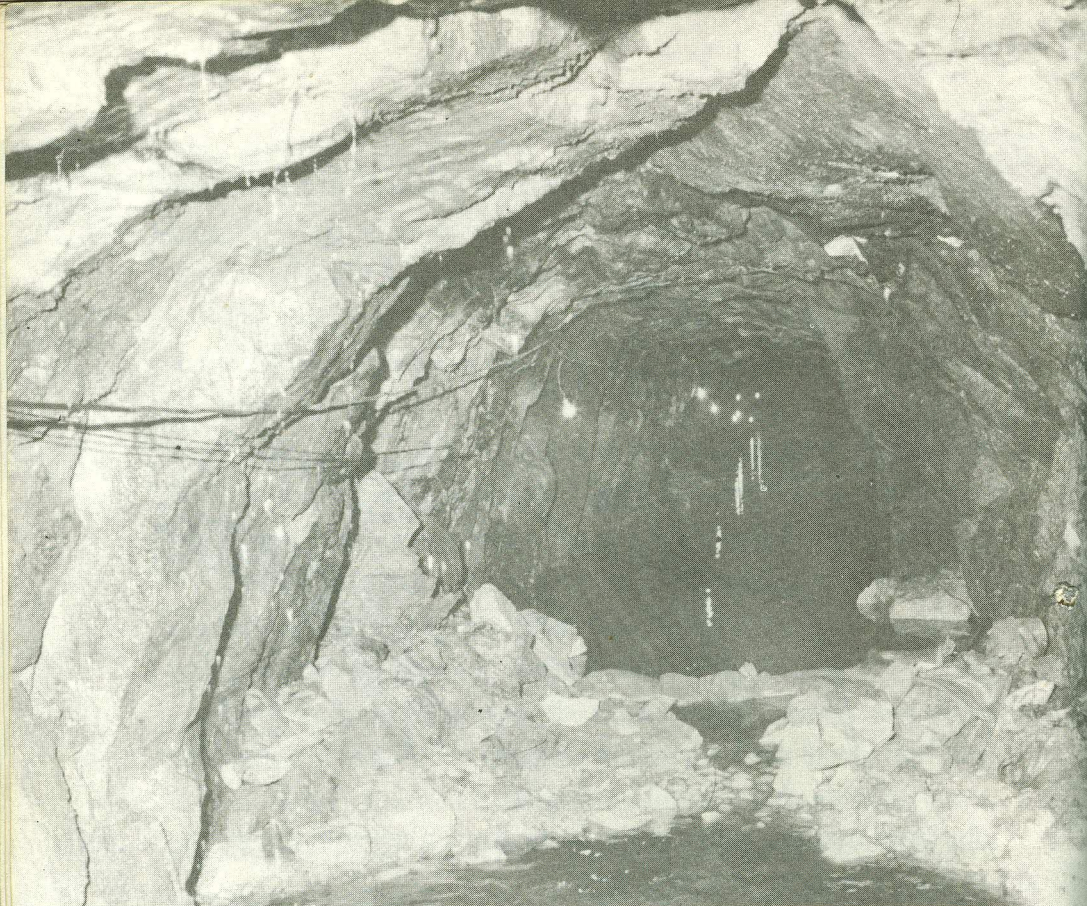
Presented in the following pages are detailed commentary on these tunnels, their military significance, their probable political

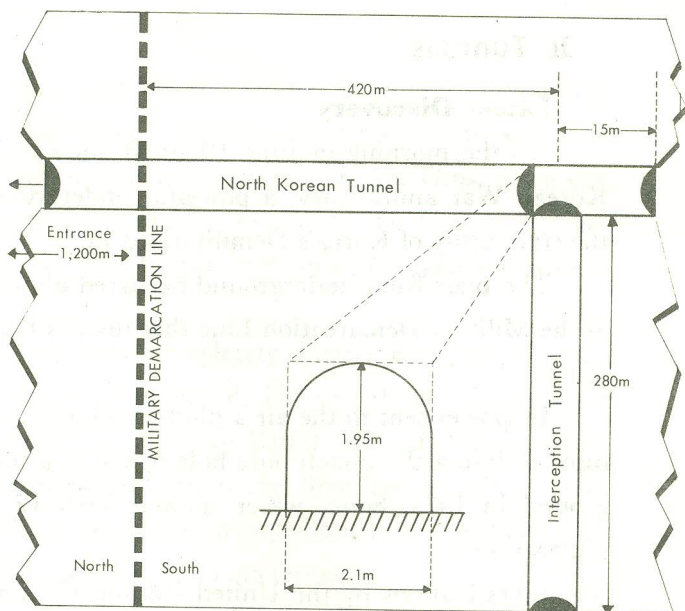


objectives and the policy of the south Korean government to cope with the emergency posed by them.

Any sensible awareness of danger that north Korea poses could not be had without a full appreciation of these latest aggressive actions. For the irrationality and unpredictability that the north Korean regime displays remains the single most destabilizing factor in the maintenance of a status quo on the Korean peninsula.

대한민국정부의 통일정책





Extensive Search Nets Another Tunnel

The most recently discovered north Korean-dug tunnel under the Demilitarized Zone lies in solid rock some 73 meters below the surface. It is located 4km south of the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom and extends 435 meters east (south Korea) of the DMZ and is believed to stretch 1,200 meters to the west (north Korea). Military experts say that 30,000 armed troops per hour could pass through the tunnel which measures 2 meters in both height and width and that it can accommodate military vehicles, field guns and tanks.

The tunnel was discovered as the result of information given by a north Korean who worked on the tunnel some four months be-

fore defecting to the south in 1974. He did not know the exact location but provided enough information for stepped-up surveillance and exploratory drilling by ROK Army teams.

In February 1978 underground explosions were heard in the area and drilling was immediately intensified. On the morning of June 10 an underground explosion was heard south of the DMZ and a few seconds later the same explosion was heard coming from behind a hill on the north Korean side of the zone. A casing from one of the old exploratory holes was blown 12 meters into the air followed by a gush of water under high pressure. The searchers knew they had found something.

II Tunnels

Latest Discovery

On the morning of June 10, 1978, only two weeks before the Korean War anniversary, a powerful underground noise shattered the tranquility of Korea's Demilitarized Zone.

The blast from underground occurred about 400 meters south of the Military Demarcation Line that divides Korea into north and south.

Its power sent to the air a plastic casing lining which had been inserted into a three-inch bore hole which had been drilled into the ground in 1975. Soon, water spewed forth 12 meters high from underground.

Investigations by the United Nations Command revealed that the blast was touched off by a team of north Korean workers burrowing beneath the Demilitarized Zone. They had inadvertently intersected the bore hole which had been drilled just for such purposes.

On October 17, after 102 days of digging at an angle of 14° , a south Korean engineering team broke into the north Korean tunnel at a depth of 73 meters.

It was the third such north Korean tunnel discovered beneath the Demilitarized Zone since November 1974. According to the United Nations Command which supervised the operation, it had penetrated 400 meters into the southern portion of the Military Demarcation Line toward the east. Its entrance in north Korea was understood to lie about 1.2 kilometers west of the line.

First hints of this particular tunnel began to surface in September 1975 when a north Korean engineer named Kim Pu-song fled south. Kim supplied the vital intelligence that he had himself engaged in tunnel surveying and designing operations in that area

since 1972.

Kim's information had led the United Nations Command to bore a large number of holes in 1975 below the southern portion of the zone. A huge drilling machine had been set up. Thus, when one of the bore holes erupted at 6:15 a.m. inside the United Nations Command territory on June 10, the defector's intelligence had been confirmed.

When the tunnel was completely intercepted, the Korean government was even more surprised. For one thing, it was found just 2 kilometers southwest of Camp Kittyhawk, an American advance unit which is helping to guard the Demilitarized Zone itself. From the truce village of Panmunjom where talks are held with the Communist side, it was only 4 kilometers away.

Its direction and location were different from previously found tunnels. It was squarely intended for mounting an attack against Seoul, which is south Korea's heart. The Imjin River flows near the tunnel's projected exit point, leading military experts to believe that it was meant to pin down allied troops in the event of an attack.

That could expose the Munsan corridor and endanger Seoul's security. It was the classic route of invasion, and south Korean military experts surmised the tunnel could let pass at least 30,000 fully armed men an hour marching through it three or four abreast.

Had north Korean troops successfully used it, they could have posed an immediate threat to Seoul which contains 20 percent of the nation's population, half of its industries, and all of the government.

From its depth of 73 meters, men and weapons passing through are protected from aerial bombings. Because of its distance of only 44 kilometers from the capital city, the Communist troops could have descended on the government in an hour's time.

U.S. Vice Admiral Warren C. Hamm Jr., the chief UNC delegate at Panmunjom, declared:

“There can be no other reason for such tunnels other than to infiltrate your troops into the Republic of Korea, and this can only be construed as an aggressive act.”

To which the chief north Korean delegate, Major General Han Ju -kyong, retorted:

“No one in his right frame of mind can be expected to dig a long tunnel to fight a modern war.”

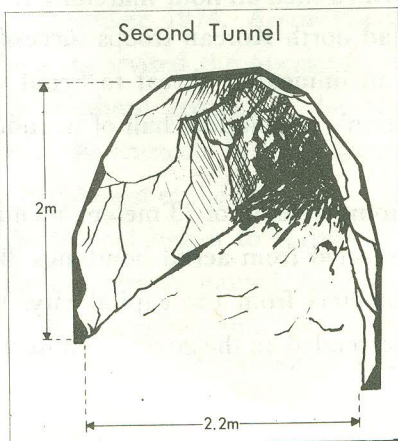
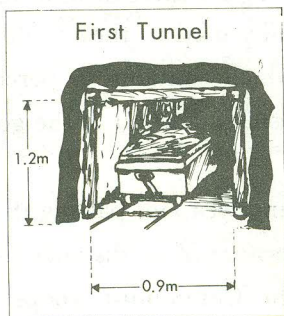
It was a cleverly devised argument, except that it was posed to the wrong side. He should have had the guts to tell it to Kim Il-sung, who had ordered the tunnels dug in the first place.

Admiral Hamm, however, drove his point:

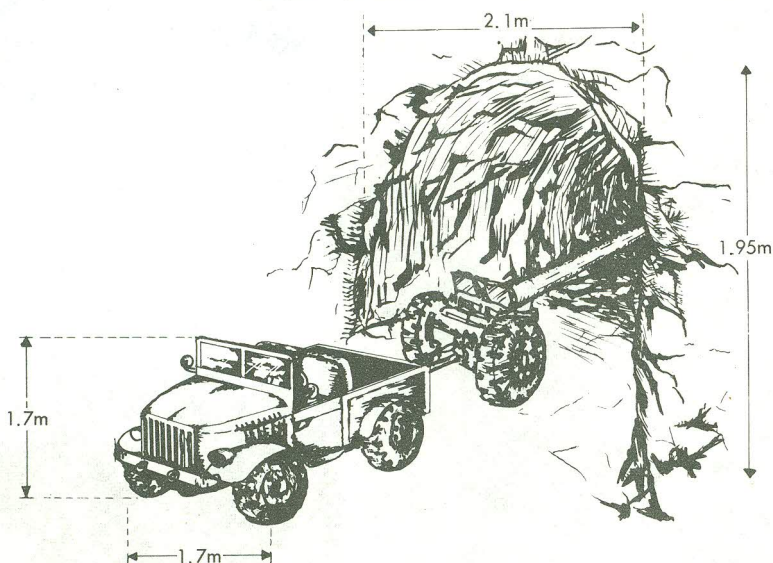
“The magnitude of your efforts and the planning involved prove hard evidence of aggressive and deceitful intentions which are far different from the ‘nation’s salvation’ proposals your side has publicized.”

“Let us go right now to the tunnel site,” Admiral Hamm proposed, “I have vehicles standing by. You and the rest of the world can see the truth of what I have said,”

The invitation was brusquely turned down.

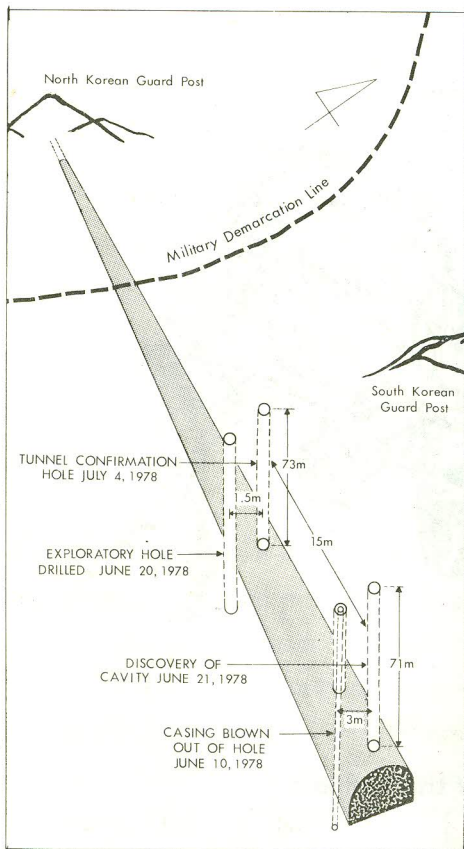


Third Tunnel



A Comparison of the Tunnels

	1st Tunnel	2nd Tunnel	3rd Tunnel
<i>Date of Discovery</i>	<i>Nov. 15, 1974</i>	<i>Mar. 19, 1975</i>	<i>Oct. 17, 1978</i>
<i>Location</i>	<i>8km northeast of Korangpo</i>	<i>13km north of Chorwon</i>	<i>4km south of Panmunjom</i>
<i>Size</i>	<i>Height 1.2m Width 90 cm</i>	<i>Height 2m Width 2m</i>	<i>Height 1.95m Width 2.1m</i>
<i>Depth from Surface</i>	<i>45cm</i>	<i>50-160m</i>	<i>73m</i>
<i>Total Length</i>	<i>3.5km</i>	<i>3.5km</i>	<i>1,635m</i>
<i>Length South of MDL</i>	<i>1,000m</i>	<i>1,100m</i>	<i>435m</i>
<i>Tunnel Lining</i>	<i>Concrete</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Capacity (per hour)</i>	<i>1 Regiment</i>	<i>30,000 Armed Troops Plus Heavy Guns and Equipment</i>	
<i>Projected Invasion Route</i>	<i>Korangpo-Uijongbu Seoul (Total 65km)</i>	<i>Chorwon-Pochon- Seoul (Total 101km)</i>	<i>Munsan-Seoul (Total 44km)</i>



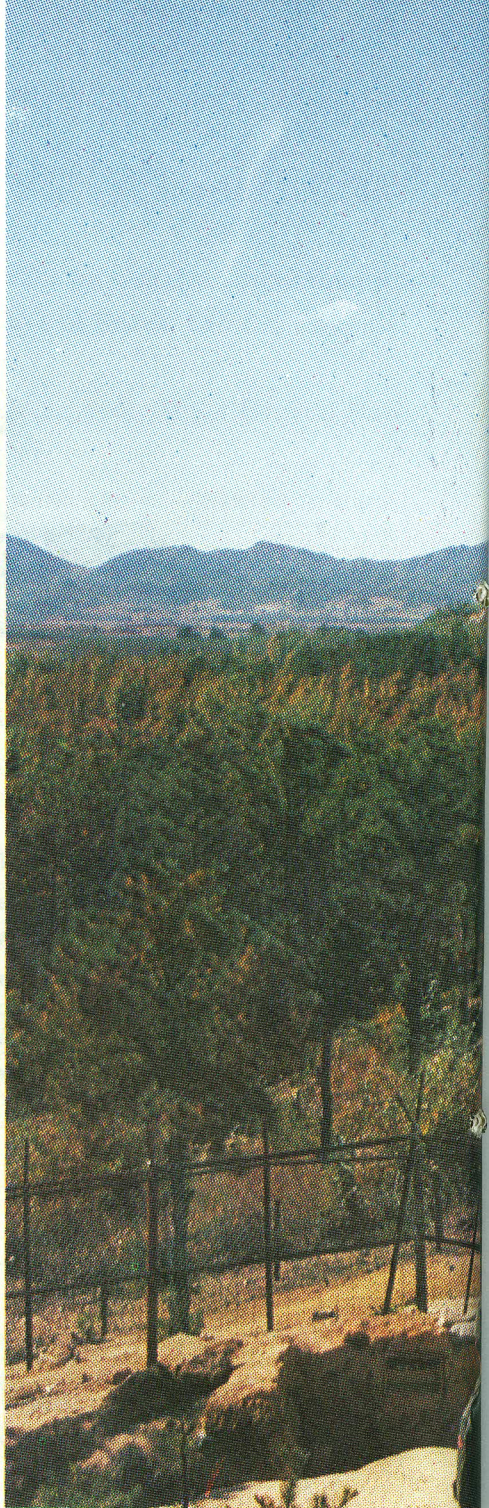
Discovery, Diffusion

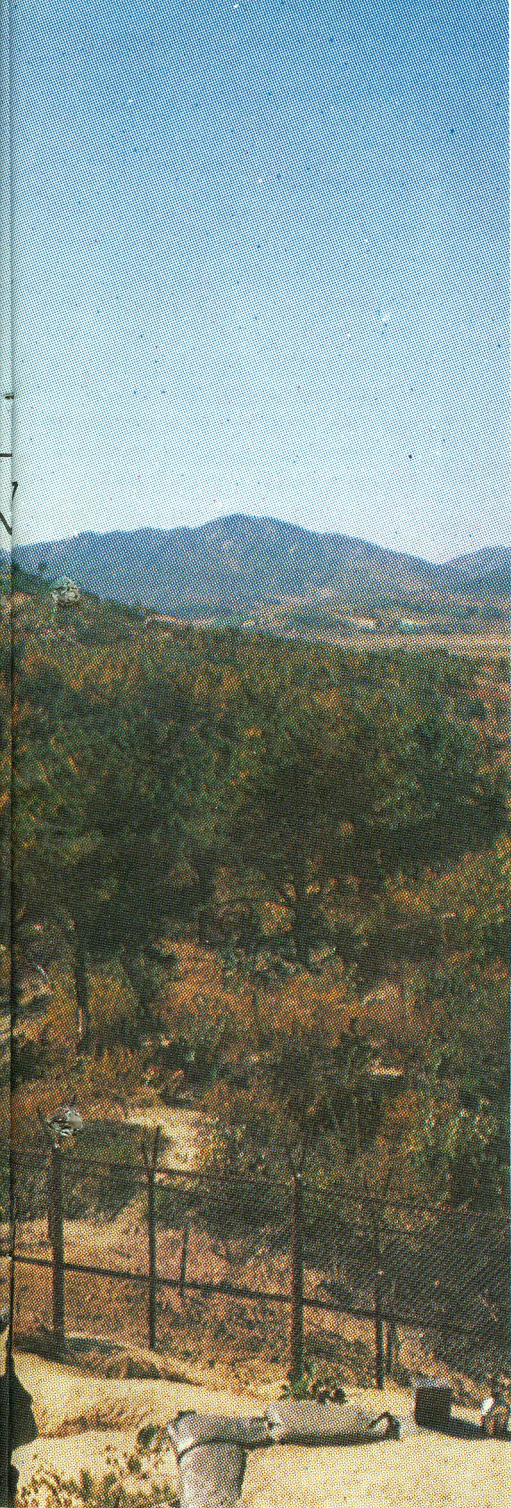
Diagram (above) shows starting point of Tunnel No. 3 and location of probes that led to its discovery.

(Photo — center)—The tunnel extends from its entrance behind north Korean guard post (arrow), under Military Demarcation Line (fence) and UNC guard post (foreground).

The interception tunnel (entrance, top right) broke into the north Korean tunnel 73m below the surface

The invasion tunnel was dug in solid granite which has since been blackened (right, bottom) by numerous explosions



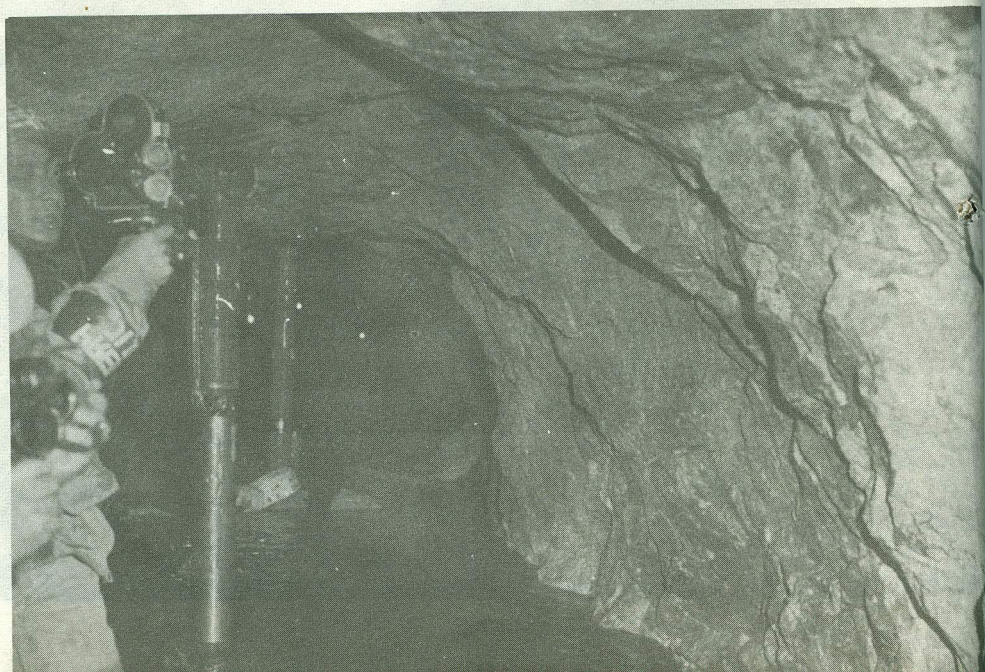




Interception

A UNC spokesman (left) explains to the press how an underground explosion on June 10, 1978 blew the casing out of an exploration hole drilled by the Republic of Korea Army in 1975 and blew the lid off of another Korean-dug tunnel. Another casing was fitted into the hole and at a point 73 meters underground penetrated the north Korean tunnel (below)

When the tunnel was broken into and investigated on Oct. 17, many dynamite holes were found with charges still inside—a clear indication that the Communist diggers had to beat a hasty retreat (top right).

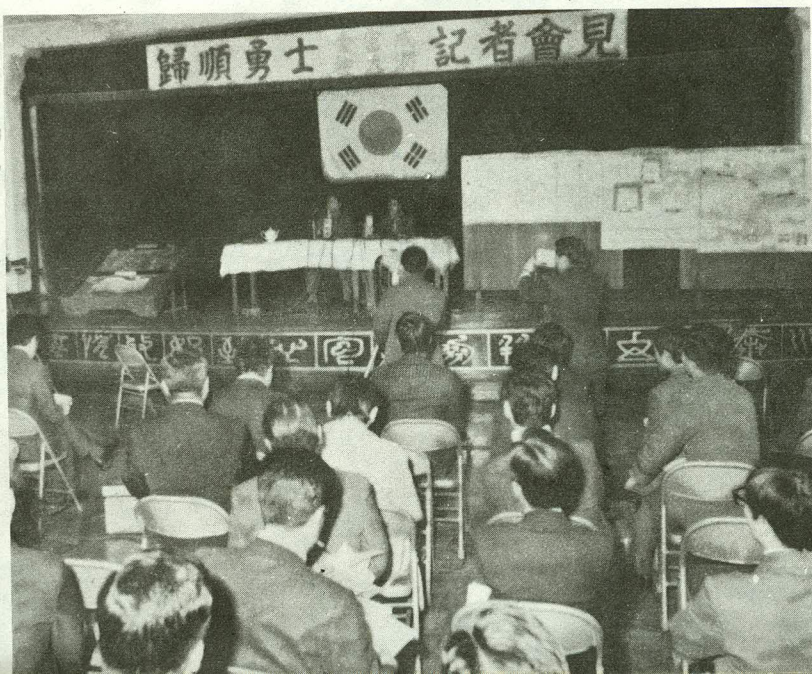


"I Saw Nine Tunnels"

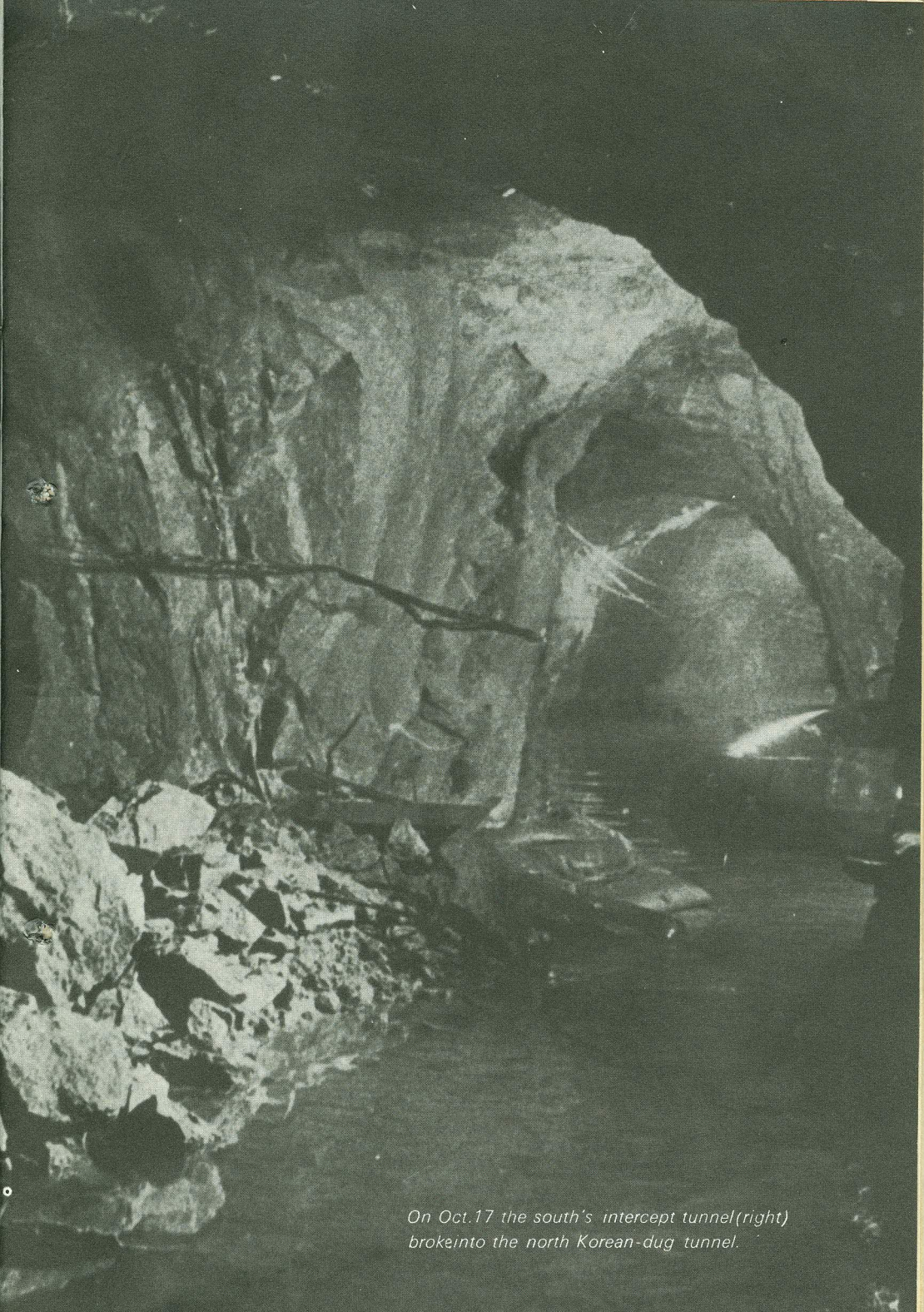
North Korean defectors, Kim Pu-song and Yu Tae-yon, gave a press conference in March 1975 (below), shortly after coming over to the Republic of Korea.

At a rally on Oct.31,1978(see p.23)Kim disclosed that the order to dig the tunnels came down from the north Korean Worker's (Communist) party in September 1971 just 12 days after north Korea had agreed to hold south-north Red Cross meetings on dispersed family members. Kim said that he had worked as surveyor-designer on the tunnel just discovered, and had witnessed at least 8 others being dug: one in Kaesung, two in the Korangpo area, two between Korangpo and Pyongyang, and three in the middle eastern front sector.

He said north Korea chieftain Kim Il-sung ordered them to complete the tunnels in 3-4 years while they pretend to engage in a south-north dialogue.







On Oct. 17 the south's intercept tunnel(right) broke into the north Korean-dug tunnel.





"Peace Talks Not War"

Nearly two million Seoulites took to the streets Tuesday to angrily denounce the continued tunneling of the north Korean Communists. In a display of unity at Seoul's May 16 Plaza the demonstrators adopted a four-point resolution demanding that north Korea abandon its tunneling war tactics and return to the conference table. The four points in the resolution are:

1) The discovery of a third north Korean-dug tunnel confirms that north Korea has not changed its scheme to communize the peninsula by force;

2) We reaffirm our commitment to step up national security realizing this is the only way to achieve peaceful unification;

3) We pledge to devote our lives, with unity to insuring national security; and

4) We demand that north Korea abandon its scheme to communize the south by force, and return to the conference table. 23

Old Tunnels

It was certainly not the first tunnel that north Korea, which professes peace, had dug beneath the Demilitarized Zone. The first one, uncovered near Korangpo in the western sector of the zone in 1974, was discovered purely by a stroke of luck.

On the morning of November 15 that year, a nine-member south Korean patrol was passing inside the southern sector of the zone when it saw vapor rising from the ground. Digging, they came face to face with a concealed hatch of an underground tunnel stretching for 1.2 kilometers into the Republic of Korea territory, and reinforced by concrete beams.

As soon as the squad began digging, it was fired upon by north Korean snipers hiding on the other side of the zone. In the ensuing hour-long exchange of fire, it became clear that north Korean snipers were intent on stopping further detection of their tunnel.

Measuring 122 centimeters in height and 90 centimeters in width, it was supported by reinforced concrete pillars, and lit by electric illumination, complete with a narrow-gauge railway with switching system.

The United Nations Command investigators also found some of the equipment used by north Koreans in their burrowing operations. In addition to six boxes of dynamite and a large number of claymore mines—whose containers bore the ironic slogan of “Down with American Imperialist Aggressors”—there were half-eaten bowls of rice.

It was a clear indication that the north Koreans had left in haste.

Military experts who examined it said later that with the narrow-gauge railway, a regiment of troops could be moved an hour. The tunnel's mouth was also ideally concealed to hide agents infil-

trating into the south.

About four months later, the United Nations Command announced the finding of a yet another tunnel, this one located in the central sector of the Demilitarized Zone, not far from Chorwon in the hilly province of Kangwon. It had been discovered by a special tunnel detection team which began to drill in the suspect area, upon hearing numerous small and large underground explosions.

At the end of 800 meters of an interception tunnel, at a depth of 50 meters from the surface, the second Communist underground passage was broken into on March 24, 1975.

Measuring 2 meters high and 2 meters wide, it was an arc-shaped passage capable of accommodating 30,000 fully armed men an hour. Military experts declared that field artillery and even small vehicles could pass through it.

"The successful penetration (of this tunnel) serves as indisputable evidence that north Korea has constructed a tunnel inside the southern sector of the buffer zone," said a United Nations Command spokesman.

With a total length of 3.5 kilometers, it was so designed to come out 500 meters south of the Demilitarized Zone's southern boundary. Its terminal had several mouths, however, so that many people could exit at one time.

III Why Tunnels?

One of the central questions raised by these underground tunnels is why—why have they been built, or are being burrowed now, even at a great risk of being discovered by the south?

Apparently, Kim Il-sung believes that the risk is worth taking if it could lead to a surprise attack on the south.

There is not a shadow of doubt that they are the product of a paranoid man, Kim Il-sung, whose lifelong ambition is to conquer the south and unify the country under communism.

Two north Korean soldiers who were responsible for surveying and designing tunnels have defected to the south, bringing with them valuable information that has substantiated allied suspicions.

One of them, Kim Pu-song, said the tunnel-digging was ordered by the highest echelon of the North Korean Workers' Party sometime in late 1972, the year when representatives of the south and north began talking peace.

While digging one of the tunnels, Kim said, he and other workers were visited by high party dignitaries, including Kim Chung-rin, the party secretary in charge of espionage activities, and general O Chin-u, the north Korean army chief of staff.

In their pep talks to the workers, they made no secret of their intention to use the tunnels for aggressive purposes against the south. Kim was told that the tunnels were meant to send troops and weapons for a surprise attack against the south when the "decisive" moment was announced. That moment, he said, was understood to be October 10, 1975, the 30th anniversary of the party's founding.

To keep the operation under tight secrecy, no members of the tunnel team were allowed to return home during the progress of digging. Several teams, each composed of 15 to 20 workers, toiled 24 hours a day in three shifts.

The work site was concealed with heavy bushes and other camouflage material. Each tunnel was dug in zigzag fashion to help drain underground water.

Continuous underground explosions of TNT caused rumblings along the Demilitarized Zone, but no one ever dreamed that the north Koreans would be digging underground passages. Both the south Korean government and the United Nations Command now are convinced that the entire area of the Demilitarized Zone has been catacombed.

It is significant that the north Koreans were resorting to this kind of hostile action while they were talking peace with the south. Through a joint communique signed in 1972, both sides had agreed to give up hostile confrontation in favor of peaceful dialogues. Delegations from the south as well as the north were exchanging visits, and the Korean people were gripped in a euphoria of peace.

It is also significant that north Korea is still digging tunnels even after two of them have been discovered. They are the evidence that it is not abandoning its policy of war as a means of reunifying Korea.

South Korean military experts believe the tunnels have the following tactical and strategic meanings:

They can be used for swift transportation of men and weapons without detection;

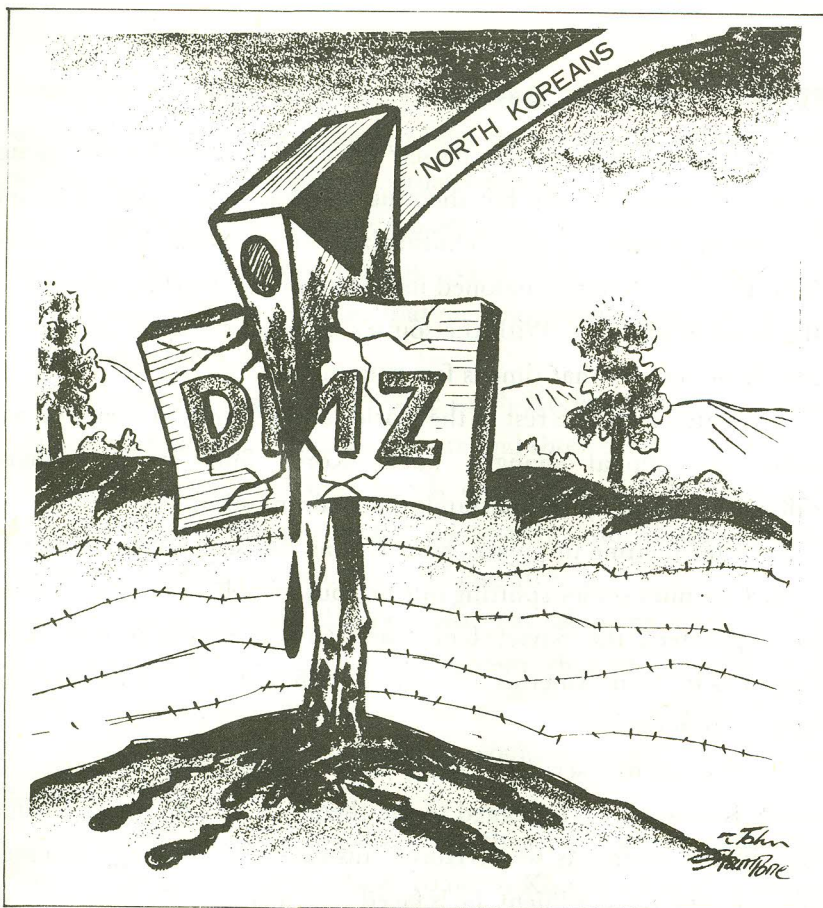
Dug in granite rock at a depth of 50 to 70 meters, they are safe from aerial bombardment in time of war;

They are ideal for sending down guerrilla elements for hit-and-run operations in the south which the north Korean regime can describe as being of "southern origin," and the south's own "local insurgents";

Judging by its location and direction, the third tunnel, in partic-

ular, is designed for a surprise attack against Seoul, south Korea's capital. It can be used for a massive, surprise offensive against the United Nations and south Korean troops from behind their line or it can be used to hit the Munsan-Seoul corridor which then would enable north Korean troops to swiftly advance toward Seoul without serious resistance.

Seoul, lying only 25 miles from the front, is vulnerable to this scenario of warfare. Embracing 20 percent of the nation's population, half of its industries, all of the government, capturing Seoul means a quick victory.



By John Stampone

The Army Times

The Demilitarized Zone

The Demilitarized Zone winds 155 miles across the Korean peninsula from the Han River Estuary in the west, to a point just below the 39th Parallel on the east coast. Down the center of the 4,000-meter-wide strip, is the Military Demarcation Line.

In addition to suspending open hostilities, the Armistice Agreement, signed in 1953, created the DMZ as a buffer zone and required

withdrawal of all military equipment and forces. It limited entrance in the DMZ to only those authorized by the agreement or approved by the Military Armistice Commission, and established the Military Armistice Commission and other agencies to negotiate any violations and to ensure adherence to the truce terms.

IV North Korea's Design

A quarter century has passed since the guns fell silent along Korea's border, but the hot shooting war has been replaced by an everlasting tension in the Demilitarized Zone. North Korea under Kim Il-sung has not abandoned its obsession of a warlike solution to the Korean problem. With the south's national strength ever growing, Kim believes that time is fast running out.

Isolated from the rest of the world, and refusing to keep abreast with international changes, north Korea finds it increasingly difficult to maintain its Spartan form of communism.

In his lifetime in power, Kim Il-sung has seen the once monolithic Communist bloc splitting into various schools—two of his greatest supporters, the Soviet Union and China, almost at war—and countries in Latin America and Africa settling down to a postrevolutionary pragmatism.

These factors seriously affect Kim Il-sung's grip on power in north Korea, which is pegged to the theory of a Communist revolution in the south. As south Korea, instead of crumbling, becomes stronger and more affluent, he is faced with a choice of easing tension at the expense of his regime's stability or accepting an economic retardation in the race for the hearts and minds of the Korean people.

In his desperate search for a choice, he seems to have fallen on the improbable idea of Vietnamizing Korea. Through skirmishes along the Demilitarized Zone, incursion of guerrillas, the fanning of subversion and terrorism in the south, he is seeking to build the myth of an instable south.

In January 1968, shortly before he seized the USS *Pueblo* on the high seas, he sent south a team of 31 guerrillas with the specific mission of raiding the Presidential mansion and killing the President.

They were stopped only a few paces from their target, but not

before five civilians and one police officer were killed. With the south Korean police reacting quickly, they were driven to the hills where all, except one, were eventually killed.

According to the one survivor, Kim Shin-jo, the guerrillas were told that once they were in Seoul, they would be met by a welcoming south Korean population who would presumably feed and conceal them.

Instead, what they found were south Korean volunteers combing the mountains and hills to capture and shoot them.

Such a grandiose failure hardly deters Kim Il-sung. In August 1974, he successfully penetrated an assassin into Seoul, with the objective of killing President Park Chung Hee.

The assassin missed the President but Madame Park was hit and later died. This particular incident showed north Korea's stubborn refusal to acknowledge the south's basic political fact of life, which is that killing the President would not change its anticommunist outlook.

Meanwhile, along the border, their military provocations continue. In August 1976, about 20 north Korean soldiers, wielding axes and crowbars, suddenly attacked and murdered two American officers for no conceivable reason. That barbaric incident almost led to a new outbreak of war.

Since 1953, the north Korean regime has been credited with no less than 42,000 cases of Armistice Agreement violations, of which it has so far acknowledged only one. Even the Chinese and Russians presumably find such intransigence a bit of a burden.

The recent discovery of a third infiltration tunnel is new evidence that north Korea still persists in refusing to learn a lesson. The worldwide condemnation that its discovery has provoked has not moved them.

Indeed, their 1977 Scandinavian caper, involving north Korean diplomats trading in narcotics and duty free cigarettes and whiskey, is resounding proof of their incredible ignorance of the world.

Instead of frightening and dividing south Korea, for which the underground network of tunnels might have been intended, they have rather helped to close the ranks and strengthen the south Korean people's resolve to pay the necessary price for maintenance of peace.

Instead of confusing them, the tunnels have provided a new insight for the Korean people to see through north Korea's ultimate design.

Soon after discovery of the third invasion tunnel, spontaneous rallies erupted across south Korea, much as the kidnapping of the late Italian premier Aldo Moro had assaulted the basic decency of the Italian people. Average south Korean citizens today remain horrified by the tunnel's implications, and feel revolted by north Korea's irrationality.

At these rallies, people across south Korea passed resolutions urging President Park to deal firmly with the north while denouncing Kim Il-sung. His effigies were burnt in city after city. The nation stood by the government.

In the face of continuing hostility, the south Korean government's policy is to maintain an evenhanded posture. With the United States ground forces scheduled for a phased withdrawal, south Korea is cautiously moving ahead with its policy of strengthening its self-reliant defense and military readiness.

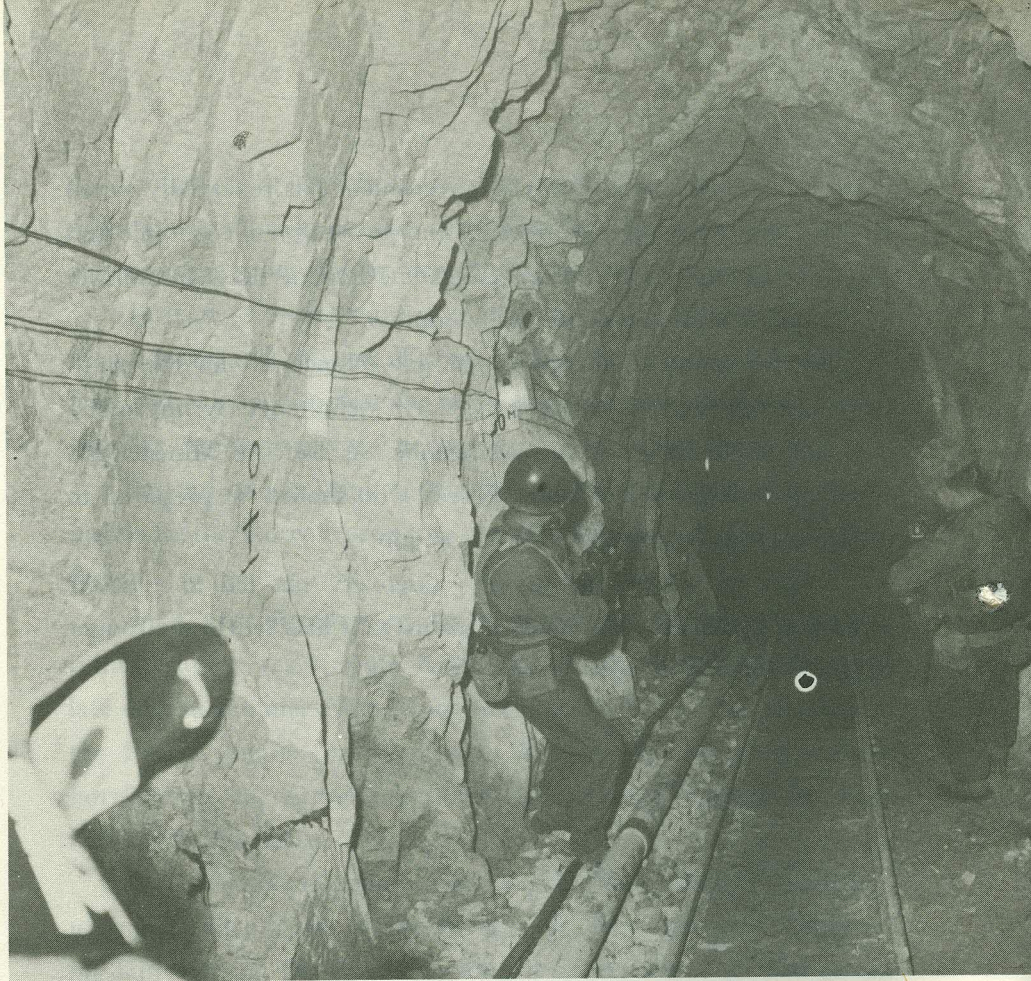
However, this policy hardly ignores the possibility of detente with the north; indeed, it is ready to consider any constructive proposal that would lead to abating of tension.

In addition to calling for the resumption of peaceful dialogues between the two sides, which were unilaterally suspended by the

north in 1973, the south Korean government has repeatedly called for signing of a nonaggression treaty and promotion of economic and cultural exchanges. The north persists in its demand that communism be first made legal and active in the south.

For the moment, therefore, the only choice left for the south Korean government is to meet the north's challenge by improving its readiness to handle any contingency. As Defense Minister Ro Jae-hyun remarked, it is north Korea who should be prepared to assume all consequences of its hostile action.

As for the south, the tunnel's discovery has led to a better awareness of Korea's endangered security; it also led to a stronger political cohesion at home.

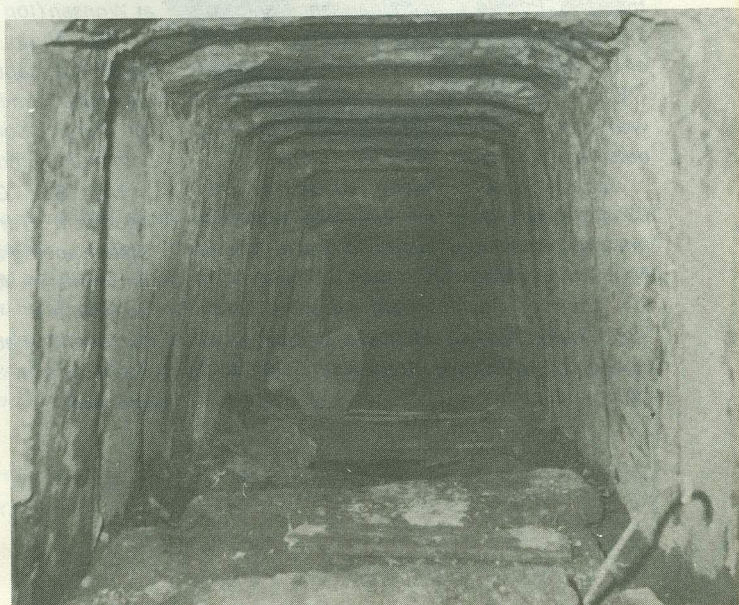


The First Two Tunnels

In December 1974, drilling (top right) was begun to confirm the existence of a second tunnel under the Demilitarized Zone. This tunnel, located about 13km north of Chorwon, Kangwondo Province, was successfully opened and explored (above) in March 1975. Nearly 50 meters below the surface, the tunnel extended approximately 3.5 kilometers and measured roughly 2 meters in height and 2.2 meters in width—large enough to accommodate approximately 30,000 armed

troops an hour with artillery and tanks.

Tunnel No. 1 (right), discovered near Korangpo in the west central part of the Demilitarized Zone, by an alert patrol in November 1974, measured 120 centimeters in height and 90 centimeters in width. Even though the smallest so far uncovered, experts said that with its narrow-gauge railway, one regiment could pass through the tunnel every hour.





The Pueblo Affair— Provocation On the High Seas

In one of the boldest provocations ever against the United States, north Korea seized the USS Pueblo, a reconnaissance ship, off Wonsan port just above the marine extension of the Military Demarcation Line on Jan. 23, 1968. The U.S. intelligence-gathering ship was attacked and seized on the high seas, outside north Korean territorial waters.

Before they were finally released on Dec. 23 of the same year, the men were subject to inhumane treatment, including brutal torture. The United States bore every humiliation in the hope of having them released. Cmdr. Lloyd Mark Bucher, Skipper of the Pueblo, was forced to sign a "confession" (top left) while in captivity.

Eighty-three crewmen of the USS Pueblo, Cmdr. Lloyd Mark Bucher at the head, land at Wonsan (top right) with their hands raised. In this photo, officially released by north Korea, the caption read: "Devils of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship Pueblo captured by the heroic Korean People's Army while committing criminal acts . . ."

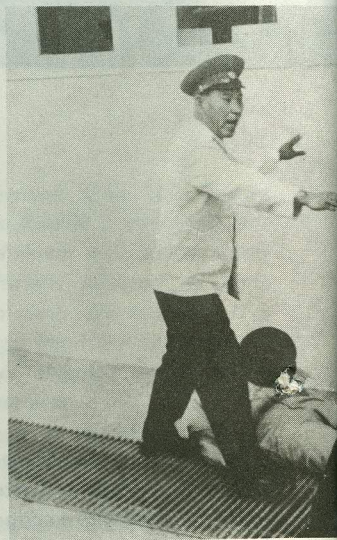
Maj. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward signs a document (far right) in which the United States apologized "for the grave violation of the Armistice Agreement on behalf of the U.S. government." The United States later told the world that it was signed only to have the crewmen released from north Korean captivity.



"Finally, to remain braced against the mental agonies of solitary confinement and physical tortures of beatings and deprivation, it entailed the endurance of acute pain with no prospects of relief—coupled with a corroding uncertainty of what the next day, hour or minute might bring, and thus stirring the imagination into dwelling on the bleakest, bloodiest imagery."

"I caught myself constantly dwelling on wishes for a massive retaliation by the United States against north Korea's act of piracy, including visions of cataclysmic mushroom clouds sweeping the nuclear debris of Wonsan and Pyongyang into the stratosphere. . . ."

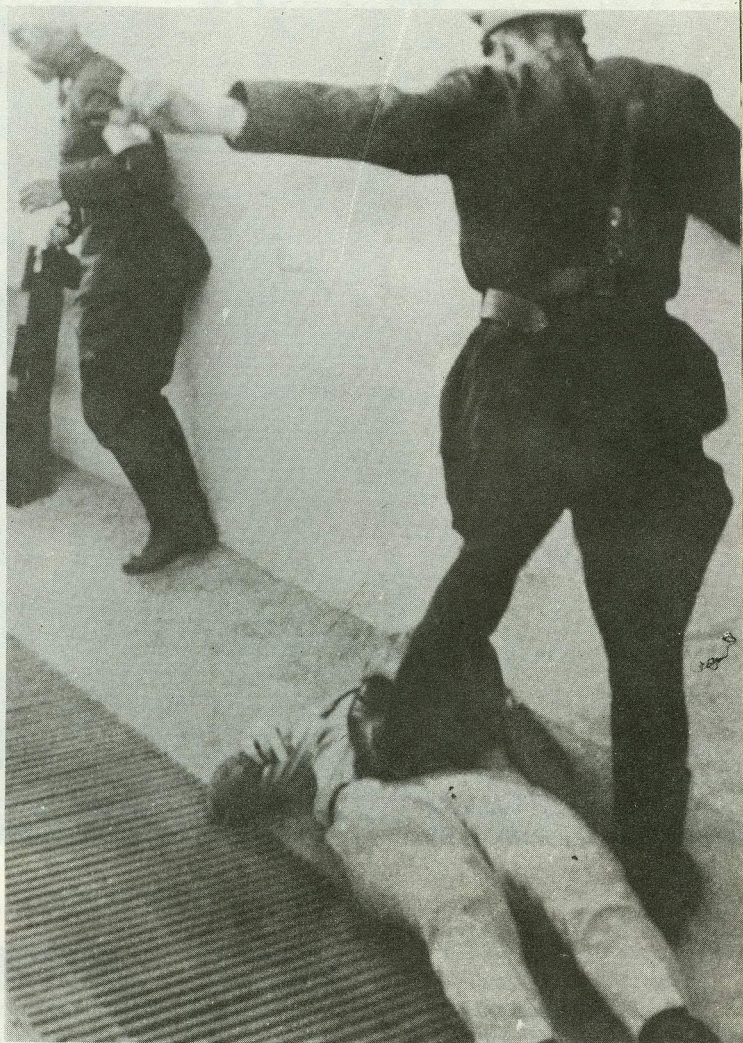
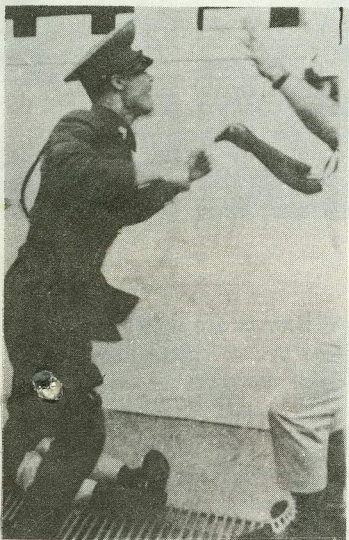
—From *"Bucher: My Story"* by Commander L.M. Bucher, Captain of the *Pueblo* captured in international waters off north Korea.



Assassination Commandoes

Thirty-one armed north Korean commandoes were discovered on the night of January 21, 1968 a mere few hundred meters from the Presidential mansion in the heart of Seoul. The lone survivor, Kim Shin-jo (arrow left top, identifying slain team members),

later went on national television (left bottom) and told the world how his team had been specially trained for the attack on Chong Wa Dae, the Presidential mansion and of their mission to assassinate key south Korean government officials.



Attack at the Truce Village

Maj. William D. Henderson a member of the UNC in the truce village of Panmunjom, was quietly sitting on a bench outside the conference hall on June 30, 1975 when he was abruptly attacked and, after being knocked to the ground, stomped on by a north Korean guard (right, top) who then turned his fists on a UNC guard coming to Maj. Henderson's aid (center).



Axe-Murders at Panmunjom

On August 18, 1976, a work party escorted by UNC guards was trimming a poplar tree in the Joint Security Area of the Demilitarized Zone when they were attacked with axes by north Korean guards in a move that seems to have been premeditated. Two American officers, Army Maj. Arthur G. Bonifas of Newburgh, N.Y. and 1st Lt. Mark T. Barrett of Columbia, S.C., were killed in the melee that followed.

The photos above show the numerically superior north Korean guards attacking the UNC guards. The helmet of one of the slain guards (indicated by arrow in both pictures) has fallen by the left front wheel of the truck.

A north Korean guard with an axe slung over his shoulder (indicated by half circle, above left), is chasing another American who was subsequently caught and slain (indicated by half circle, above right). The illustration (far right) of the area shows how badly the UNC guards were outnumbered.

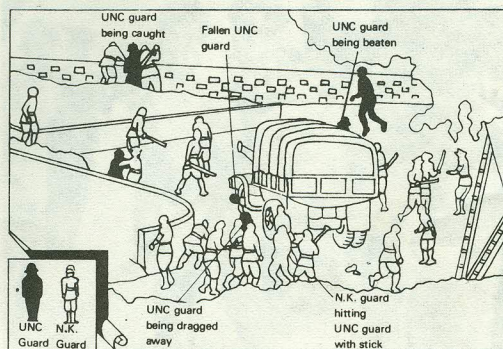
The Joint Security Area is where guards from the U.N. Command and the Communist side are supposed to work together for security. In this area, at the time of the attack, a set number of guards from both sides supposedly had freedom of movement under the provisions of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

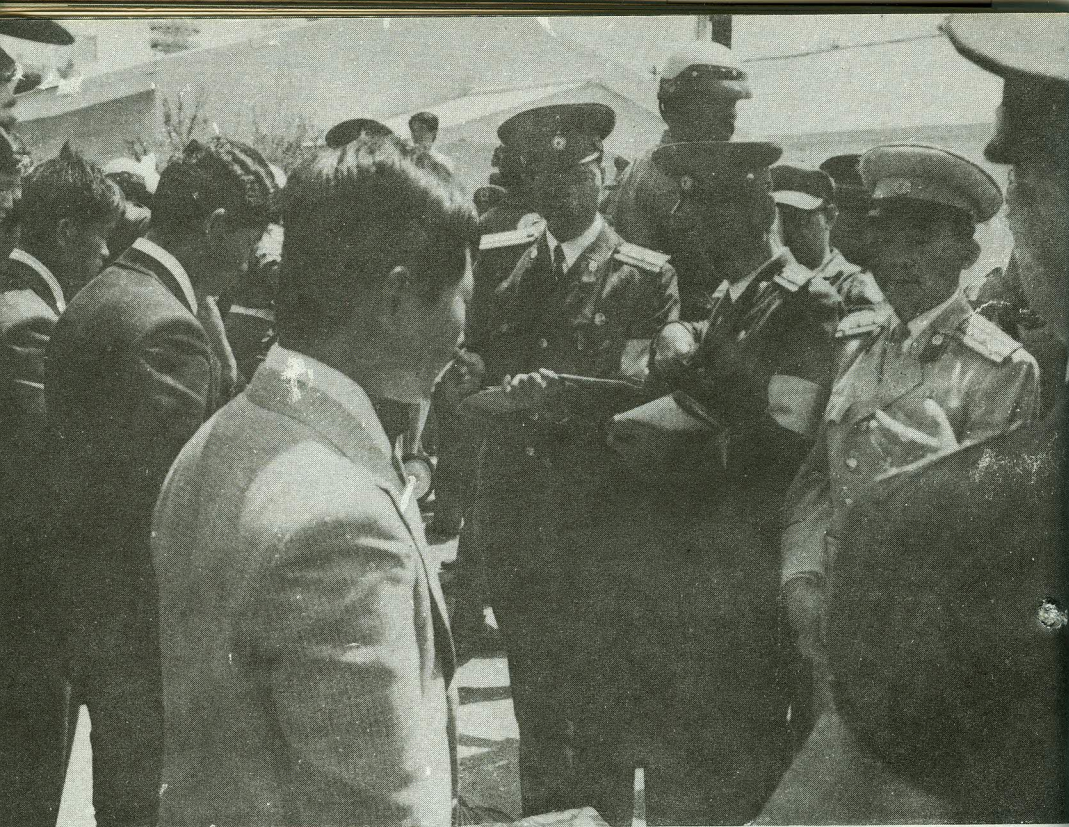


Bonifas



Barrett





A Ridiculous Demonstration Against a Humanitarian Gesture

On May 19, 1978, a north Korean vessel intruded into ROK territorial waters and the crew was subsequently captured by the ROK Navy. In a humanitarian gesture, the government of the Republic gave the eight crew members the option of remaining in the south or being repatriated. Fearing retaliation against their families if they remained in the south, they decided to return to their homes. In a brief meeting on June 13, 1978, the north Korean secretary to the Military Armistice Commission identified the crew (top) who were then released to the north Korean officials. After crossing the border into north Korea, and on instructions of a north Korean official, the eight stripped down to their underwear (left) and threw the clothing and gifts they had received from the south Korean government back across the border.



STATEMENTS

By the Minister of Defense,

United Nations Command

&

U.S. Department of State

Warning on Invasion Schemes

Statement by Gen. Roh Jae-hyun

Minister of Defense (October 27, 1978)

We have recently discovered another large tunnel which the north Korean Communists have dug beneath the truce line into our sector of the Demilitarized Zone. The tunnel, dug through solid rock 73 meters below the surface, measures 2 meters in both height and width, large enough for soldiers in full combat gear to pass through three or four abreast.

The tunnel demands our particular concern and attention.

First, the point where the tunnel was uncovered was located in an area which offers the shortest approach to our capital from anywhere along the truce line. The tunnel, penetrating no less than 435 meters south of the Military Demarcation Line into our sector of the Demilitarized Zone 4 kilometers south of Panmunjom, is barely 4 kilometers northwest of Imjingak and 3.5 kilometers from the Unification Village, a strategic point which represents the northern gateway to Seoul.

Second, the north Koreans had suspended work on the tunnel after Kim Pu-song, who had worked in a tunnel in the area, defected to the Republic of Korea in 1974. However, they were apparently confident the tunnel would not be uncovered after all and resumed the tunneling shortly after the turn of the year.

The north Korean Communists have illegally brought troops and heavy arms into, and built fortifications in, the buffer zone. We have on many occasions urged them to withdraw. They have not only rejected our requests but have gone on to dig invasion tunnels beginning in 1972.

With the uncovering of the first north Korean tunnel north of Korangpo in November 1974 and the second near Chorwon in March 1975, the belligerency of the north Korean Communists has

been revealed to the whole world.

The discovery of yet another tunnel is additional proof that the north Koreans still adhere to the policy of communizing the entire Korean peninsula by force of arms.

From a military point of view the tunnels could be used to infiltrate a large number of troops behind our main defense positions and thereby seize strategic points and major command facilities within a matter of hours.

In addition, they could use the tunnels as infiltration routes through which irregular warfare troops could be sneaked into the south.

Lately, the north Korean Communists have been frantic about strengthening their offensive military power by importing or producing modern weapons as well as building up their surprise attack ability by fortifying forward naval and air force bases and deploying additional weapons while all the time talking about peace.

We have reliable information that in addition to the third tunnel, the north Koreans have been digging many other tunnels in the west-central part of the forward area which provides a direct approach to Seoul, and also in the mountainous area of the eastern sector.

We shall intercept and diffuse these tunnels in joint Korea-U.S. efforts employing the latest scientific equipment. And we are fully prepared to deal with anyone infiltrated by way of these tunnels.

As the Defense Minister of the Republic of Korea, I urge the north Korean Communists to stop making war preparations, stop tunneling into the south, and abandon their invasion scheme.

I once again warn them that our Armed Forces shall not tolerate any act of military adventure. I make it clear that if the north Korean Communists persist in their aggressive acts it will only

result in bringing about their self-destruction, and that they alone will be held responsible for all consequences arising therefrom.

UNC Discovers Third North Korean Tunnel

News Release by *United Nations Command* (October 27, 1978)

A north Korean tunnel under the United Nations Command (UNC) sector of the Demilitarized Zone has been detected, the UNC announced today.

The tunnel, the third discovered since 1974, was positively confirmed on Oct. 17, 1978 following breakthrough of the UNC intercept tunnel. The new tunnel is located about two kilometers south-west of Camp Kittyhawk, the advance camp for UNC personnel who support the Military Armistice Commission talks at the Joint Security Area (JSA), Panmunjom.

The intercept tunnel broke through the illegal north Korean tunnel about 73 meters below the surface. The entrance to the north Korean tunnel is believed to lie about 1,200 meters west of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), in the north Korean zone, and extend at least 435 meters east of that line into the Republic of Korea.

Since discovery of two other north Korean tunnels in 1974 and 1975, extensive efforts have been underway to locate additional tunnels. The location near Panmunjom has been suspect since a north Korean defector, Kim Pu-song, said in September 1974 that he had worked in a tunnel in that area.

Continued search there had been unsuccessful until June 10, 1978, when a possible north Korean underground explosion occurred in, or near, an exploration bore hole drilled by the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) in 1975. The explosion occurred 400 meters south of the MDL and caused the casing lining in the old bore hole to be ejected along with water under high pressure.

The UNC's investigation concluded that the north Koreans, during their underground DMZ tunneling operations, had inadvertently intersected one bore hole.

A UNC spokesman said that the tunnel was another grave violation of the Armistice Agreement and further indication that north Korea continues to seek military advantages which it could use to support offensive forces.

The spokesman stressed that additional details about the illegal tunnel and evidence of north Korea's guilt would be presented to the Military Armistice Commission.

'Clearly a Hostile Action'

U.S. Department of State (October 30, 1978)

Washington, Oct. 30 (OP)—The U.S. State Department Monday condemned the north Korean Communists for digging underground tunnels as a flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement and “clearly a hostile action which is inconsistent with the objective of reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula.”

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter pointed out at his noon briefing that “concerning the implications of the discovery of a third north Korean tunnel under the DMZ, the department agrees with the view expressed by the United Nations Command spokesman at the October 27 Military Armistice Commission meeting.”

Carter reminded that the UNC spokesman pointed out that the tunnel is a flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement, and clearly a hostile action which is inconsistent with the objective of reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula.

WORLD REACTION

Kim Clings to Invasion Plan

South China Morning Post, Hong Kong (Excerpts, October 30, 1978)

Hong Kong (AP)—The recent discovery of a north Korean-built tunnel under the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) clearly shows that north Korean President Kim Il-sung is “bent on bringing south Korea under his heel by force if necessary,” the South China Morning Post said Monday.

The independent English-language daily said in an editorial:

“At the expense of the general welfare of the people in north Korea, he has built up a formidable military machine which in some respects surpasses that of south Korea. The American military presence in the south appears to be the only deterrent that at the moment compels him to exercise restraint.

“The latest discovery of a third tunnel that north Korea has dug under the Demilitarized Zone towards south Korea exposes his long-term objective—to bring the south within his fold by force if necessary. The first and second tunnels were discovered in 1974 and 1975, respectively.

“According to western intelligence assessments, the dimensions of the second and third tunnels can facilitate the movement of fully-equipped division-sized forces through either of the two. Clearly, Marshal Kim has not abandoned his ambition to absorb the south by whatever means he can.

“ . . . Over the years, Pyongyang has repeatedly demonstrated that a peaceful unification is dependent on its own terms being accepted, unconditionally, by Seoul . . . The most encouraging development that promised a peaceful solution to the problem of the divided nation was the mutual accord in the early 1970s when, on the initiative of Seoul, a Joint South-North Communiqué led to the establishment of what is known as the south-north dialogue . . .

“North Korea’s unilateral suspension of the south-north dialogue was clearly the result of its unsuccessful attempts to exploit the talks as a platform to arouse an anti-government movement in south Korea . . .”

In Korea War Goes on—Underground

By James N. Wallace

U.S. News and World Report (November 6, 1978 Issue)

Panmunjom, Korea—American discovery of yet another North Korean tunnel dug beneath the Korean Demilitarized Zone underscores the decades-old determination of the Communist North to take over the South.

The tunnel, almost large enough to drive a jeep through, was located less than 2 and a half miles south of this truce village where the Armistice Agreement was signed more than 25 years ago in July 1953. It was the 3rd Communist tunnel found under the DMZ that separates north and south Korea.

Disclosure that the U.N. Command had detected and broken into the passageway with a counter-tunnel of its own was made here at an Oct. 27 meeting of the Joint Military Armistice Commission.

The chief UNC delegate, U.S. Rear Adm. Warren C. Hamm Jr., accused north Korea of planning to infiltrate troops into the south, and termed it an “aggressive act.” N.K. Gen. Han Ju-kyong denied the charge saying that if the Communists intended to invade, they would not need tunnels.

The newly found tunnel is the deepest and apparently most complex of any discovered so far. At the point where it was entered by south Korean engineers—working under the direction of U.S. Army Major Roland “Skip” Schwoerke of Oklahoma City, Okla. —

it is 246 feet below the surface. Starting from the back slope of a hill on the North Korean side of the DMZ, the tunnel is nearly a mile long. The last 1,400 feet are in south Korea's zone.

Americans believe that the tunnel is only part of a larger system that may have up to 5 branches, some still being dug. They say that it not only is a blatant violation of the truce, but that it points up the ever-present threat of war on the Korean peninsula.

According to military experts, forces of north Korean President Kim Il-sung could have put the tunnel to 2 uses: one as a means to infiltrate spies and saboteurs into South Korea and as an escape route for secret agents carrying information or film out of the south.

Two, as a safe corridor for troops spearheading a new Communist invasion.

American military men say that at least 1,000 fully equipped Communist soldiers could go through the 6 × 6-ft. tunnel in an hour. Supplies of mortars, rocket launchers and light artillery also could be transported easily.

Even a relatively small force of 2,000 armed enemy troops probably uniformed as south Korea's could create havoc. An authority explains: "They could shoot up rear areas, create confusion and spread doubts about whether the guy down the road was on the wrong side. An enemy platoon with rocket launchers might keep an entire battalion at bay for hours." This could be disastrous for Seoul's forward-defense strategy. Under this concept adopted in '73, south Korea forces—plus whatever American soldiers remain in the war zone after withdrawal of US ground troops—are committed to hold positions along the DMZ instead of following conventional tactics of giving ground, reinforcing and counterattacking after an invasion.

No single tunnel could create that much disorder. But no au-

thority in South Korea knows how many exist. Officials suspect that at least a dozen more tunnels are under construction. Others may already be completed except for final exits, which would be opened only as an invasion starts. Discovery of the tunnel was a combination of luck and persistence. Its general location was first reported by a north Korean defector. His information was confirmed by such seismic and physical signs as underground explosions, oddly colored vegetation and suspicious pools of water. But more than 100 bore holes drilled by U.S. and S.K. tunnel-neutralization teams over 18 months failed to locate anything. Finally north Korean engineers gave the game away. Last June 10 they exploded a charge under one of the U.S. bore holes. The blast blew 50 ft. of plastic lining into the air and released a geyser of muddy water. Other borings established the size of the tunnel. A 925-ft. access passage was dug and the north Korean tunnel was broken into Oct. 17. The first tunnel spotted in '74 was dynamited shut and the 2nd was sealed in '75. The 3rd also will be closed and kept under guard. But north Korea continues to dig. Underground blasts still regularly shake the DMZ near Panmunjom, offering firm evidence that Kim has not abandoned his ambition to bring all of the Korean peninsula under Communist control.

Splash of Cold Water on "Non-Existence of Tension"

Asahi Shinbun (Excerpts, October 27, 1978)

The United Nations Command in Korea announced on October 27 that a tunnel, dug by north Korea deep beneath the truce line separating south and north Korea, has been discovered. This was the third tunnel unearthed beneath the truce line.

It is certain that the uncovering will splash cold water on the mood of detente on the Korean peninsula despite the very recent

statement of visiting Chinese Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping that "there is no sign of north Korea planning to launch armed attacks." The discovery of the tunnel further displays the complexity of the south-north confrontation.

It was reported that Chinese Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, while on a tour of Japan, and Prime Japanese Minister Takeo Fukuda agreed that "there is no tension on the Korean peninsula."

Undoubtedly, the discovery of another tunnel will kill this theory.

After Unification Tourist Attraction

Asian Wall Street Journal, Hong Kong (Excerpts, October 30, 1978)

Panmunjom, Korea—The U.S. charged that North Korea has another tunnel under the Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas, making a disclosure that is likely to help Seoul's battle against Pyongyang on the field of world opinion.

The charge was made by U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Warren C. Hamm at a meeting of the bilateral Military Armistice Commission here. He said U.S. and south Korean forces had discovered a third tunnel beneath the DMZ and accused north Korea of digging the tunnel "in blatant violation of the Armistice Agreement" that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Like most of the 390 meetings of the Military Armistice Commission that preceeded it, this meeting ended inconclusively. But for south Korea and the United Nations Command, the meeting represented another small victory.

During the meeting here, a Chinese representative sitting beside the north Korean delegation listened intently as his interpreter translated Adm. Hamm's charges. It seems likely that (Chinese Deputy Premier) Teng Hsiao-ping then still in Japan, may have

been a little embarrassed by the announcement.

In Seoul, south Korean government, military, political party, and civic group officials all have protested north Korea's tunnel construction.

But amid TV newsreels reassuring south Koreans of the country's ability to counter any attack from north Korea, there is also a note of humor in the south Koreans' reaction. One cartoonist has suggested that the tunnels could be used to dispose of noxious factory wastes. And a commentator quipped that after Korea is unified the tunnels will become tourist attractions.

Pentagon Condemns Tunnels

Orient Press (Excerpts, October 27, 1978)

Washington, (OP)—The Pentagon Friday condemned the north Korean regime's illegal construction of tunnels under the Demilitarized Zone as a serious and flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement and as conclusive evidence of north Korea's aggressive intentions.

A Defense Department spokesman said that "We strongly support the statement of the United Nations Command," which charged North Korea does not want a peaceful solution to the Korean question as evidenced in the discovery of another tunnel only 4,000 meters from Panmunjom.

Noting that the north Koreans have continued to dig tunnels even after their first was uncovered in 1974, Pentagon officials pointed out that the discovery of a third tunnel is undeniable evidence of north Korea's intentions for hostile actions at an "appropriate time."

The officials reminded them of the warning of Rear Admiral Warren Hamm Jr., senior member of UNC at the Armistice Com-

mission, who told his north Korean counterpart at the 391st MAC meeting that "if north Korea intended to use the tunnels to commit acts of aggression, that would be a grave miscalculation similar to the one it made in 1950 with its aggression against the Republic of Korea."

Korea's DMZ Catacombed with Tunnels

Los Angeles Herald Examiner (Excerpts, October 30, 1978)

Senior south Korean officials said that discovery of the third tunnel was of "crucial importance" because it was designed to be used for a surprise attack against U.S. and south Korean troops deployed along the Imjin River, at the mouth of the route into Seoul.

American officials who helped to dig the counter-tunnel said they believe "many more" such underground passages exist inside the DMZ.

With the south's government concentraing an enormous amount of money and skill on detecting more such tunnels, the once-tranquil Demilitarized Zone is more and more resembling an oil field. Drilling machinery and manpower come from south Korea, but American technical experts supervise operations.

With officials suspecting that a dozen or so more north Korean tunnels are already completed or still in the burrowing stage, Korea's Demilitarized Zone has been virtually catacombed with offensive passages.

The narrow strip of no man's land, meandering for 155 miles, from east to west, along the Korean peninsula, has a width of only three miles dividing north and south.

More Tunnels

Associated Press & United Press International
(Excerpts, October 27, 1978)

Panmunjom, Korea (AP)—One American geologist officer, connected with the search operation for the third tunnel, said that it's safe to assume the Communists were building more tunnels along the buffer zone separating the north from the south. He said that rumblings have been heard underground at several locations.

Panmunjom, Korea (UPI)—U.S. Rear Admiral Warren Hamm, chief delegate to the Military Armistice Commission, said Friday:

"Although we have only found three tunnels, we have strong indications that there are other tunnels."

Seoul May Open Tunnel

Washington Star (Excerpts, October 28, 1978)

Seoul, South Korea—South Korea plans to make a tourist attraction out of a newly discovered tunnel it says was dug by north Korea under the Demilitarized Zone between the nations.

"We are not going to let the tunnel lie idle there. We will open it to the public and foreign visitors who are bound to realize how real (the north Korean) threat is," one south Korean general said.

Passage for Fully Armed Troops

Baltimore Sun (Excerpts, October 28, 1978)

Panmunjom, Korea (AP)—The United Nations Command accused North Korea yesterday of drilling a tunnel under the demilitarized zone separating north and south Korea that could accommodate a march by three or four columns of fully armed troops.

At the End of the Tunnel, North Korea

Le Matin de Paris (Excerpts, October 28, 1978)

Seventy-three meters below the surface a tunnel has been dug by the north Koreans under the Demilitarized Zone which divides two parties on the Korean peninsula. The UNC had to dig one hundred holes on the surface to detect this infiltration tunnel which was penetrating already 435 meters into south Korean territory, about 40 kilometers from Seoul.

'Great Leader's' Idea

Al Gomhouria, Cairo (October 28, 1978)

It is well-known that the military writings of Kim Il-sung always refer to the importance of tunnels in modern warfare.

It is worth mentioning that is the third time since 1974 that the UNC has found tunnels under the DMZ.

On the Other Tunnels....

Tunnels? What Tunnels?

Sunday Sun, Canada
(Excerpts, February 22, 1976)

There are two "mysterious" tunnels deep inside the rugged mountains which sit astride the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

The south Koreans say there's no mystery about the tunnels, which are illegal under the Korean armistice that for 22 years has kept the two Koreas from slugging it out in a devastating war.

The south Koreans charge that the tunnels were secretly dug by north Korea.

The north Koreans, though apparently caught in the act, deny any knowledge of the tunnels. Their response to south Korean charges might be characterized as: Tunnels? What tunnels?

But they are there, and a visit to one of them in this barren sector of the DMZ shows that someone put a tremendous amount of work into digging them.

The tunnel here at Chorwon, in the middle of the Korean peninsula, measures about six feet by six feet and extends an estimated 3,500 yards from north Korea well into the south Korean area of the DMZ.

The south Koreans estimate that at least a regiment of north Koreans could move through the tunnel within an hour.

The tunnels first came to light in November 1974, when a south Korean patrol observed steam escaping from the ground. Investigating, the patrol came under fire from north Koreans.

Eventually, however, the first tunnel was cleared, and in it was a narrow-gauge railroad track capable of moving carts of troops and supplies beneath the DMZ.

The second tunnel, at Chorwon, was discovered when south

Korean guards began hearing mysterious noises deep inside the ground.

A series of bore holes were drilled, and seven of them found the mark. Thirty thousand gallons of water were poured into the tunnel to discourage further digging.

The south Koreans then built an access tunnel and discovered the north Koreans had indeed halted work on the tunnel, leaving it blocked in several places and well mined. Seven south Korean troops were killed in clearing operations.

The south Koreans maintain a constant guard on the tunnel. At the middle of the DMZ, deep under the ground, they have erected a steel door to discourage use of the tunnel by north Koreans.

South Korean president Park Chung Hee has estimated that there may be as many as 17 tunnels being built under the DMZ. South Korean efforts to find them, however, have been to no avail.

Nonetheless, the south Koreans have built an elaborate monitoring system of sophisticated listening devices along their southern boundary of the DMZ.

Theoretically, if the north Koreans so much as lift a shovel, the south Koreans will know about it.

North Korea Tunnels Reveal Invasion Planning

By W.F.K. Thompson

Daily Telegraph, U.K. (Excerpts, October 4, 1975)

Forward positioning of north Korean forces has given them an increasingly aggressive posture. Whether this has been adopted for psychological reasons, the more likely explanation, or with the possibility of some military adventure, the trend cannot be ignored.

I have visited the second of the north Korean tunnels to be discovered beneath the demilitarized zone between north and south

Korea. The first, near the west coast, was discovered accidentally last November by south Korean military police who were fired on by north Koreans.

The second was finally broken into in March. It is about 4,000 yards long, leads from the north Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone, and would, if completed, have come out in the "iron triangle" area on the south Korean side fiercely contested in the Korean war.

Information from a defector indicates that in all some 17 tunnels were under construction by the north Koreans. They are a major violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement and a clear indication of aggressive intention.

The great effort that has been put into constructing these tunnels has been made since the setting up in July 1972, of a South-North Co-ordinating Committee to discuss peaceful reunification of Korea.

Construction of the second tunnel began to be suspected after a south Korean sergeant heard an explosion in November 1973. More explosion were heard in November and throughout December, followed by a quiet period until July 1974.

Then a great many explosions were heard by means of sound locating apparatus—16,685 explosions at 877 different times.

With rock-drilling apparatus the south Koreans sank 45 holes through solid granite, and the tunnel was penetrated seven times during February and March this year. The tunnel was broken into by means of a shaft on March 19, and the north Koreans blocked it in three places, booby-trapping the block.

Two blocks were south of the demarcation line, and eight south Koreans were killed in clearing the tunnel, through which about 8,000 combat-equipped soldiers an hour could have passed.

The supervisory commission of neutral nations set up after the

Korean war was invited to inspect the tunnels when they were found but refused. Consisting of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland, the commission can act only when all agree, which is a virtually never.

Busy World beneath the Surface

By Don Oberdorfer
Washington Post (Excerpts, May 27, 1975)

In the early morning of Nov. 20, 1973, a sentry on a windswept hill in the southern part of the Demilitarized Zone heard a strange noise somewhere beneath his feet—a faint tapping. The soldier nudged his fellow sentry, also a south Korean Army private, and the two men put their ears to the ground. The noises continued.

Within hours, their report made its way up the military chain of command and in the months to come many human and electronic ears were pressed to the ground. Though precise locations were difficult to pinpoint, listeners became aware of a busy world beneath the earth and rock of the 21/2-mile-wide, 155-mile-long buffer zone.

Hundreds of explosions were heard, many of them recorded by delicate instruments.

For almost a year, the unseen digging and unannounced surveillance continued. Then last Nov. 15, a few days before President Ford paid a visit to Seoul, a nine-man south Korean patrol spotted steam rising from high grass, about a kilometer south of the Demilitarized Zone.

After a few minutes, north Korean troops nearby opened up with automatic weapons, but the patrol held its ground. The discovery of the underground works inside south Korean territory was announced by the U.S.-operated United Nations Command later the same day.

"Tunnel No. 1," as it is now known, is about three feet wide and four feet high, reinforced by prefabricated concrete slabs to make a strong roof only a foot or two beneath the surface of the earth. Electric lines for lighting, a narrow-gauge railway and carts for removing dirt were found inside.

"Tunnel No. 2," the project which had alerted the two sentries, was laboriously located in February, after two months of drilling into granite. In late March, an intercept tunnel was blasted through flinty earth and solid rock to join the main passageway, which by then had been blockaded with mines, booby traps and barrier walls by retreating North Koreans.

In the largest and most impressive tunnel, a 6-foot-tall man is able to stand erect at most points along the 200 yards or so where a visitor is permitted to go. The official south Korean estimate that 20,000 troops an hour could be put through the tunnel is open to doubt, but there was no question that the passage could accommodate many men and weapons.

Brig. Gen. Park Kyong-sok, in charge of the anti-tunnel task force, said the mouth of the tunnel is believed, on the basis of aerial photographs, to be about three-quarters of a mile north of the north-south demarcation line. He said the tunnel was probably planned to disgorge north Korean troops well behind south Korean defense lines.

Gen. Park said that despite public exposure of the underground activity, the north Koreans are continuing to dig. He would give no details. Other south Korean and U.S. officials said at least six additional tunnels are under construction beneath south Korean soil. They are indicated by regular digging noises and underground explosions.

