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9. Communists may take more positive measures against floating mines off North China coast: A Chinese Communist coastal vessel complained to Shanghai that floating mines were making navigation unsafe and that it was annoying to maintain a mine watch. This message stated that the proper authorities should sweep up the mines immediately. In reply, the North Sea District shipping bureau at Dairen indicated that it would ask the "proper parties" to decide upon suitable measures to remove the hazard of mines to coastal shipping. (SUEDE CCS-71, SS Chung 128-Shanghai, 5 Oct 51; CCS-70, Dairen-SS Chung 128, 7 Oct 51)

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 20-Mar-2010

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Comments: Several Chinese Communist shipping messages have reported the appearance of mines off the Shantung coast. Apparently the only action so far taken by the Chinese Communist Main Sea Transport Bureau has been to alert vessels under its jurisdiction to watch out for mines.

The primary responsibility for the considerable number of floating mines in the Yellow Sea must be borne by the North Koreans, who have devoted a considerable effort during the course of the war to laying minefields on both the east and west coasts of the peninsula. Since it has never been definitely proved that the Koreans resorted to "floating" mines without moorings, UN mine sweeping activity and faulty North Korean laying techniques probably account for the majority of these mines.

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11. CHINA/KOREA. Chinese Communists rotate jet combat units: The replacement of the Chinese Communist 4th Air Division at Antung by the 3rd Air Division is indicated by recent messages. On 21 October MIG-15 elements of the 4th Division left Antung for Mukden. On the same day 50 MIG-15 jet fighters flew from Mukden, where the 3rd Air Division has been stationed, to Antung, and on 22 October 24 MIG-15's of the 3rd Air Division departed from Antung "for Korea for combat." (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 225, 23 Oct 51)

Comment: This is the first evidence that the 3rd Air Division is at Antung. Rotation of jet units in Korean combat has seldom been detected but probably occurs periodically.

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There are about 140 MIG-15's, in possibly three divisions, at the Mukden airfields. Units of these fighters could at any time relieve elements of the four combat divisions, with a combined strength of at least 228 MIG-15's, which are believed based in the Antung-Tatungkou combat area.

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