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SECTION 2 (EASTERN)

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3. CHINA/KOREA. Record number of "Soviet" fighters scheduled on night combat mission to Korea: A Chinese Communist message reports that "44 Soviet IA-11" conventional fighters, led by a pilot with a Russian name, were scheduled to fly a combat mission from Antung to Korea on the night of 29-30 November. (SUEDE AFSA-251, 1415Z, 29 Nov 51)

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Comment: This is the largest number of conventional fighters noted in this area. The only "Soviet" conventional aircraft previously noted in the Korean theater were about 20 IA-11's at Anshan, Manchuria, which have made night patrols into Korea since early October. Chinese Communist messages have also referred to these aircraft as "Soviet."

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8. KOREA. Communist attempt to bomb UN-held islands balked: A 29 November Chinese Communist air message from Mukden to Antung reported that nine TU-2 light bombers would proceed to Korea, via Antung, and return on 30 November. The destination in Korea was given as Cholsan.

American press reports of 30 November state that 26 UN F-86's engaged 30 Communist light bombers escorted by 16 MIG-15 jets in an area "just south of the Yalu river" in a 30 minute encounter. The UN aircraft claim that nine bombers and one jet were destroyed and three bombers damaged. (SUEDE AFSA-251 1955Z, 29 Nov; US press ticker, 30 Nov 51)

Comment: It is probable that these Communist bombers were on another mission against UN-held islands in the Sinmi group just west of the Cholsan area. Since the UN claims to have encountered 30 enemy bombers, it is possible that other Communist air units rendezvoused with the nine TU-2's from Antung for this ill-fated raid.

9. Korean-language GCI net controls operational aircraft: More recent analysis of a Korean-language ground-controlled intercept net reveals the existence of two controllers, one located at Uiju airfield and the other at an unidentified airfield. The two stations, believed to control MIG-15 aircraft, are in touch with each other; they may also communicate with the Soviet GCI net or with ground observers.

Of equal interest is the fact that, although the language used is Korean, inter-net transmissions are repeated in Russian. In one instance on 23 November, Korean, Chinese, and Russian-language transmissions were made. (SUEDE AFSS OM IN 56557, 28 Nov 51)

Comment: The Korean border airfield at Uiju, the first Korean field from which MIG-15's are known to be operating, was the destination of a "change of airfield" flight by seven North Korean IA-9 conventional fighters on 27 November.

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Based on the multilingual qualities of this new net, it is possible that the North Korean Air Force may soon assume a more operational mission, possibly including the piloting of MIG's, in cooperation with Chinese and Soviet pilots already active in the Korean air war.

10. Element of North Korean west coast corps moves east: A series of recent North Korean messages indicate that on 26 November the 82nd Regiment of the North Korean 8th Division, I Corps, moved from its west coast security station near Kaesong to a point some 20 miles south of the east coast city of Wonsan. (SUEDE AFSA SIB 398, 27 Nov 51)

Comment: This move may forecast a move of the entire North Korean I Corps to the east coast. Such a transfer would be logical in view of the recent relief of I Corps units engaged in coastal and internal security duties by the elements of the Chinese Communist 40th Army.

A question as to whether the entire regiment made this move is raised by another 26 November message to the 8th Division artillery commander from the 82nd regiment, reporting the positions of the regiment's artillery pieces in the Kaesong area.

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