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4. Realignment of Soviet Far East Air Forces indicated:
Analysis of Soviet Far East Air Force communications since 20 March suggest that a fighter division of the 9th Air Army, located in the Maritime Province and Port Arthur-Dairen area, has been transferred to the Khabarovsk region. Recent messages revealed aircraft from all three regiments of this division to be under 10th Air Army rather than 9th Air Army control.

Transfer of this division, if confirmed, increases fighter strength in the Khabarovsk area to four divisions with 12 regiments and gives the 10th Air Army a total of 23 fighter regiments. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup F6, 2 May 52)

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Comment: The suggested realignment of Soviet Far East air forces is in line with indications of a buildup during the past 15 months of the 10th Air Army, whose zone of operations stretches from the Khabarovsk area to the Chukotsk peninsula and includes Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands. Whereas fighter strength in the 9th Air Army has remained relatively stable since February 1951, the 10th Air Army has received other significant unit reinforcements and has apparently been engaged in jet conversion training at a faster rate than the 9th Air Army.

The transfer of three fighter regiments out of the 9th Air Army may also be related to indications that the buildup of the Chinese Communist and North Korean air forces has reached proportions making possible withdrawal of Soviet units involved in air defense of the Yalu River border.

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7. Personnel from North Korean front line division start training: The chief of staff of an unidentified North Korean regiment reports the arrival of 47 men for training from the North Korean 15th Division, currently in immediate reserve in the North Korean III Corps sector of the eastern front. He states further that "1 May will be a day of rest. . .from 3 May the air. . .project will be done and will be accomplished by 10 May, and from 11 May lectures will start." (SUEDE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, []-3242, 1 May 52)

Comment: It is improbable that the 15th Division would have released these personnel for training if imminent military operations were contemplated. The cryptic reference to an "air. . .project" cannot be evaluated.

8. May Day greetings occupy North Korean units: May Day has in the past inspired many North Korean units to exchange greetings and felicitations.

Notable among the numerous messages was one which stated that "the enemy will never give up the land, so, you should get busy and get better results in combat." Another from the North Korean air training center at Yenchi, Manchuria, sent to Air Headquarters at Sinuiju congratulated: "you who are in combat on May Day." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, []-3241, and []-365, 1 May 52)

9. Small North Korean community on verge of starvation: Fourteen North Korean families, consisting of 63 people, are on the verge of starvation "to the point of existing on roots and bark," according to a 28 April Chinese Communist message. It stated, however, that 37 individuals can work and should be given "materials to grow spring spinach for with their present supplies they cannot live ten days." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-2551, 28 Apr 52)

Comment: Previous intercepts and intelligence reports have revealed isolated cases of starvation existing among the North Korean civilian population. The importation of flour and

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grain from the USSR and the use of troops for farm labor are two of the latest measures adopted by the North Korean regime to alleviate the critical civilian food shortage.

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