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2. Korea - North China - Japan

There is further COMINT evidence that North Korean air operations may be intensified in the imminent future. As has been previously reported, airfield construction and repair and the building of protective revetments and tunnels progresses, and one North Korean air unit was ordered to go into action from Kumsan airfield, 100 miles west of Taegu on the west coast of Korea. A 22 August message mentions plans for reception and operational use of PO-3 aircraft (an obsolete Soviet biplane trainer used in World War II for ground support) at two inland airfields.

North Korean ground forces operations are being hampered by front-line ammunition shortages, although captured material shows evidence that North Korean supplies have been replenished by recently manufactured USSR equipment. Replacements of 12,000 men were ordered to line divisions according to recent reports; North Korean strength is presently estimated at 130,000 men in 13 divisions and 4 independent brigades. There is unconfirmed evidence of 2 additional divisions whose locations are unknown.

The Far East Military District and its air arm, the 10th Air Army, appear to have commenced maneuvers around 20 August. The inclusion of air units would tend to indicate that the maneuvers are part of an advanced state of training.

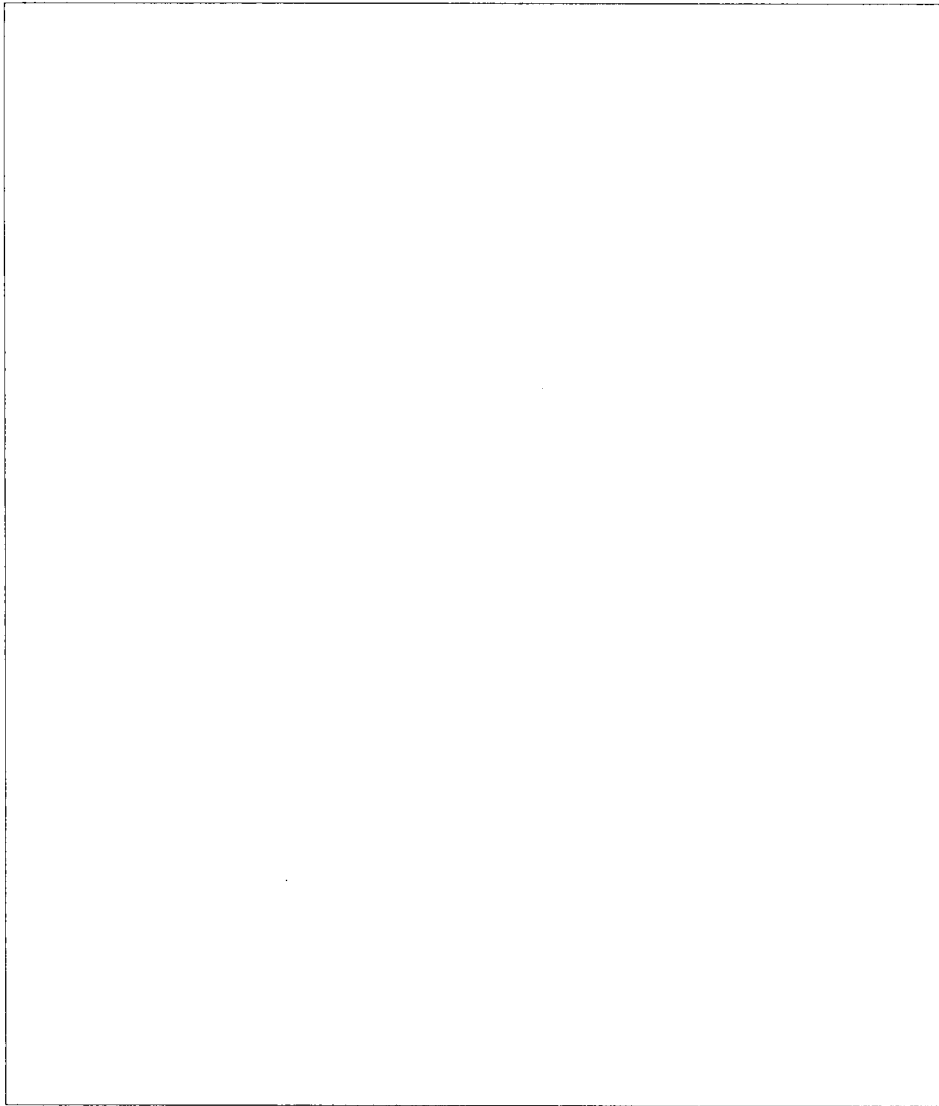
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The completion of links of the Sino-Soviet Civil Aviation Corporation to Canton, Chungking and Tientsin is planned for August, although there is no evidence of activation to date. Since Soviet civil air operations are believed to be under military control, this extension provides further facilities for Soviet military penetration into China.



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