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FAR EAST

30 Mar 51
CIB

1. Russian pilots identified in Korean War:

US Air Force Security
Service 29 Mar 51
ACORN

The US Air Force Security Service reports it now has "positive indication" that Soviet fighter pilots are flying fighter aircraft against UN planes in Korea. This

USSR ✓
KOREAN ✓
~~CHINA~~

conclusion is based on the interception of radio voice communications in excellent Russian between aircraft and Soviet ground radar control stations in Korea. The traffic is of an urgent nature and is in no way similar to ground control intercept training activity. The aircraft and the ground stations are believed to be subordinate to the Soviet 9th Air Army.

Comment: Although it has been suspected for some time, this is the first acceptable evidence identifying Soviet pilots as flying at least some of the enemy planes operating in North Korea. The establishment of a Soviet-controlled net of ground-air radio stations in North Korea and Manchuria was noted in communications intelligence last January. Moreover, an unusually high level of Soviet air activity in the Far East has been maintained for the past ten weeks. Flights in January and February from the Soviet 9th Air Army headquarters near Voroshilov (Maritime Territory, USSR) southward into Manchuria, the increased importance given by the Soviets to their weather messages, and several other measures pointing toward the attainment of an early combat readiness goal, indicate that the USSR may have been planning to take a more active role in Korea. However, there has been no direct evidence that Soviet pilots or Soviet Air Force planes would participate in the expanded Communist air effort in Korea.

The USSR has the capability for large-scale air intervention. Information available at this time tends to indicate that the USSR will limit its intervention to providing protection for Chinese and North Korean supply lines.

- 3 -

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