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8 NOV 51

CIB

FAR EAST

1. Chinese Communist light bomber divisions may enter combat:

US Air Force  
5 Nov 51  
SUEDE

*AF-Review 235 2130Z*

The commanders of the Eighth and Tenth Chinese Communist Air Divisions, which are equipped with TU-2 light bombers, flew to Antung on the Korean-Manchurian border on 29 October. The Air Force comments that these visits suggest a high-level conference at Antung, at which the entry of TU-2's into the Korean war may have been considered.

Comment: Since October the Eighth Air Division and a regiment of the Tenth have been based at Mukden and Liaoyang respectively. The Korean battlefield is well within the operational radius of TU-2's from these fields.

A significant increase in bomber strength and intensity of training was noted in Manchuria during October, when the Chinese concentrated all their known light bomber strength, about 100 TU-2's, in Manchuria by moving several bomber-equipped divisions from China. The Tenth Division bombers at Liaoyang appear to be employing particularly specialized tactics, with one or more bombers equipped with radar.

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