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FAR EAST

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4. Air warning system in North Korea "seemingly infallible":
A United Nations bomber cannot enter North Korea undetected by night, thanks to a "seemingly infallible" early warning system manned by Russian, Chinese and Korean personnel, according to an Air Force field analysis. This system has been steadily improved in the past eight months.

The Chinese and North Korean air warning systems take over where the Russian coverage ends, between the Chongchon and Yalu Rivers. The time loss in reporting to the GCI controller at Antung is negligible, thus giving him ample time in which to alert his airfields, pilots and crews. (CANOE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AFB Japan, SG 387, 30 July; SG 409, 3 Aug 52)

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 18-Mar-2010

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Comment: The enemy early warning system is one of the strongest aspects of the air defense establishment in Manchuria and North Korea.



6. More Chinese and Korean jets noted in training over Korea but few in combat: A field analysis of enemy air operations over Korea, as reflected in messages, reveals that Chinese and Korean MIG-15's are making more flights over Korea, mostly for training purposes. From 1 to 29 July, 353 Chinese and North Korean jets were scheduled to fly from Manchurian bases over Korea, as compared with 64 noted in June.

Interception of UN aircraft is still controlled almost wholly by the Soviet, rather than the Chinese and Korean, GCI network, and at least 95 percent of combat interceptions noted on this network are carried out by Russian-piloted jet fighters. (CANOE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AFB Japan, SG 387, 30 July 52)

Comment: A recent analysis by the Air Force revealed that 85 percent of actual encounters over Korea, as reported by FEAF from March through May, were reflected in Communist GCI communications of the same period. At that time nearly 90 percent of combat encounters reported on all three GCI nets were by Russian-piloted MIG's.

7. Greater Chinese interest in air defense of Korea noted: In late July the Chinese Communist early warning system began passing tracking reports which plot in northeast and southeast Korea, outside its usual area of operations. One of the plots was 85 miles south of the present battle line, the southernmost tracking noted to date. (CANOE Air Force Roundup 149, 4 Aug; 150, 5 Aug 52)

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Comment: On 30 July the Chinese early warning system passed its first nighttime tracking of UN bombers. In the past such tracking had been done by Russian-manned early warning stations.

This increased Chinese early warning activity may presage a greater Chinese role in fighter defense of north-west Korea, now almost wholly a Soviet responsibility. There are six Chinese MIG-15 divisions in Manchuria, with a total strength of about 300, which could be assigned a more active combat mission than heretofore.

8. Chinese Communists indicate satisfactory front-line petroleum supply: The Chinese Communist 7th Artillery Division in a message to its subordinate regiments on 3 August, ordered that its vehicles returning to China from Korea must carry gasoline with them. The units were told that they would be unable to procure gasoline at rear area supply points. (CANOE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea K-4796, 3 Aug 52)

Comment: This new information supports previous messages which have indicated that front-line petroleum supplies in Korea are adequate. The restriction against drawing petroleum supplies from rear area installations is a normal supply control measure, but it would not be rigidly enforced if petroleum at the front were in short supply.

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