

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~21 Nov 52
CIB

FAR EAST

1. USSR-based MIG-15's engage US Navy jets off Korea:Air Force
Security Service
19 Nov 52
CANOE

The MIG-15's engaged on 18 November by US Navy carrier-based jets over the Japan Sea, approximately 65 miles south of Vladivostok, were directed "to give battle" by the Fifth Fleet air defense controller based at Vladivostok. The Soviet aircraft belonged to one of three Fifth Fleet fighter regiments alerted for defense of the Vladivostok Base area when the UN task force was carrying out an attack on the cities of Hoeryong and Najin, in northeastern Korea close to the Soviet border.

Comment: Although Soviet fighters based in the Southern Maritime area have patrolled the Soviet-Korean border during previous UN attacks on targets in northeastern Korea, this is the first combat contact.

The proximity of the engagement to the Soviet border suggests that the USSR has established in this area a line well out to sea beyond any claimed territorial jurisdiction which it will defend against potentially hostile penetrations. The USSR has taken a similar position with regard to the Hokkaido-Kurils demarcation line.

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