

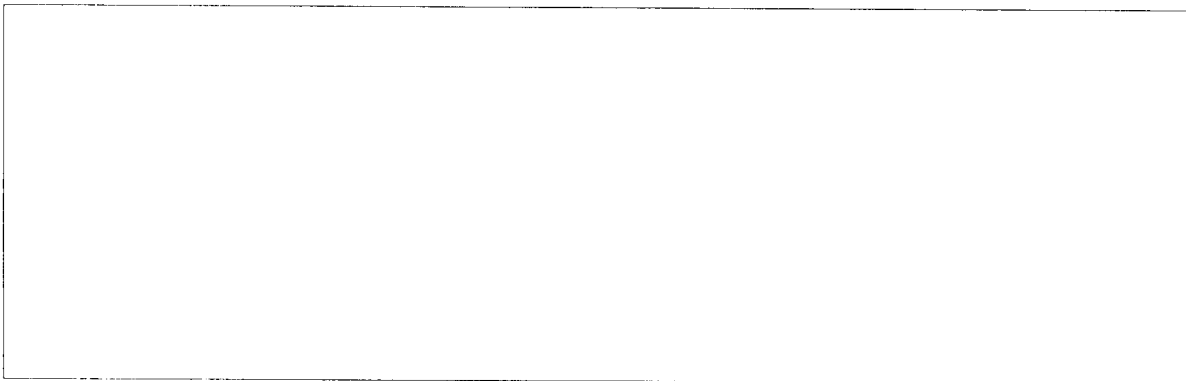
FAR EAST

- 3. North Korean battalion commander given two weeks to strengthen his unit: A 1 April message from an unidentified North Korean "Brigade Commander," possibly located in coastal western Korea, to one of his battalion commanders ordered that "in accordance with the Supreme Commander's order, you are not to rest until you have trained your units and tightened your defense." The message continued that "this duty" is to begin on 3 April and that two weeks will be allowed for its accomplishment. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, 15RSM/9836, 2 Apr 52)

Comment: While no immediate implications can be drawn from this message, behind the sense of urgency there may be an intensified anti-guerrilla drive in western North Korea, coupled with operations against UN-held islands.

- 4. Chinese Communists in Korea prohibited from sending Korean money to China: A 28 March message sent by the Chinese Communist 7th Artillery Division stated that "concerning the regulation which prevents our sending Korean money home to China, main rear headquarters has already proclaimed some decision on the case concerning the Mid-South Army District and their sending Korean currency home...." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Grp Korea, K-1856, 2 Apr 52)

Comment: The meaning of this message is not entirely clear. It may indicate, however, that an attempt is being made to discourage Chinese personnel in Korea from accumulating North Korean won, which can only be used there. All Chinese Communist supply messages have referred to values in terms of Chinese currency.



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8. Additional bombers leave Mukden area for Peiping: Four more TU-2 light bombers of the Chinese Communist 10th Air Division flew from Mukden on 31 March to Peiping's Nanyuan airfield. Two weeks earlier, four TU-2's of this division had flown the same route on an "airfield transfer." The reporting agency commented that possibly only six TU-2's of this division are now in Manchuria.

Messages from Harbin reported TU-2's on training flights on 31 March and 1 April, and unidentified aircraft, believed to be TU-2's, conducted "aerial strafing" there on 31 March. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 64; 6920 Security Grp Johnson AB, AP 268, 1 Apr 52)

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Comment: The recent departure of the bomber-equipped 8th Division from Mukden to Tsitsihar in North Manchuria, and the continuing transfer of 10th Division TU-2's to China proper, leaves few known light bombers within immediate range of the Korean front. The Chinese Communist Air Force is nevertheless estimated to have 240 TU-2's, of which about 70 arrived from the USSR in late 1951.

9. MIG-15 Division may be based at Peiping: A message scheduling 24 MIG-15's on a round-robin flight at Peiping's Nanyuan airfield on 31 March suggests that the Chinese Communist 14th Air Division is now based there. On 11 March 38 MIG-15's of this division left Takushan, a Yalu River base, for Peiping. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 65, 2 Apr 52)

Comment: The final destination of this division, which appears now to be Peiping, was not known when it transferred. This is the only known MIG-15 division in the Peiping-Tientsin area.

The 14th was replaced at Takushan by the 12th Division; it flew there from Shanghai with about 50 MIG's in mid-March. Rotation of Chinese air combat units has occurred frequently since October 1951, when they first appeared in combat over Korea.

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