

11. KOREA. USSR provides some consumer goods to North Korea: A letter of credit in the amount of 250,000 rubles (62,500 dollars) was to be opened on 12 January in favor of a Soviet export trust for "yarn, cotton cloth, and medicines" shipped to North Korea, according to a banking message from Pyongyang to Moscow. (SUEDE FT-4170, Pyongyang-Moscow, 12 Jan 52)

Comment: Principal Soviet exports to North Korea in 1951 were industrial and military materiel. All indications point to a severe shortage of all consumer goods in North Korea.

12. North Korean Air headquarters evinces interest in downed UN plane: The pilot of "one F-86 enemy plane" downed on 26 January near Chinnampo was to be seized and the aircraft taken to Pyongyang, according to a message from the North Korean Air headquarters in Sinuiju to Pyongyang. (SUEDE [] 242, Sinuiju-Pyongyang, 26 Jan 52)

Comment: No F-86 jet fighter was lost over Communist territory during the period 24 through 31 January. Two F-80 and three F-84 jets, however, were lost on 26 January.

It is known that the Communists go to considerable trouble to salvage downed UN aircraft. Furthermore, there is a probability that some lost F-80 jet fighters, and possibly one F-86, have been made operational by the enemy.