

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

7 May 53
CIB

GENERAL

1. Soviet official links Korean and Austrian issues:



In an informal conversation with Western representatives, the Soviet deputy political adviser in Austria flatly stated that a Korean agreement must be concluded before an Austrian treaty could be signed. He said that the USSR would be at a great disadvantage if subsequent to withdrawal of its forces from Austria an extension of the Far East conflict resulted in Soviet involvement in a general war.

He stressed the importance of restoring mutual confidence, adding that an Austrian peace treaty could then be settled easily.

Comment: The USSR may well exploit a Korean stalemate as a convenient excuse for further stalling on an Austrian peace treaty and other major issues.

FAR EAST

2. MIG-15 build-up in Manchuria may be under way:



At a Sino-Soviet air conference at Antung in March, it was reportedly decided to assign 100 additional MIG-15 aircraft to each of six airfields in Manchuria. The rehabilitation of airfields in North Korea was also discussed at the conference, but the ranking Soviet air adviser indicated that the Chinese Communist Air Force could operate "more efficiently from Manchurian bases."

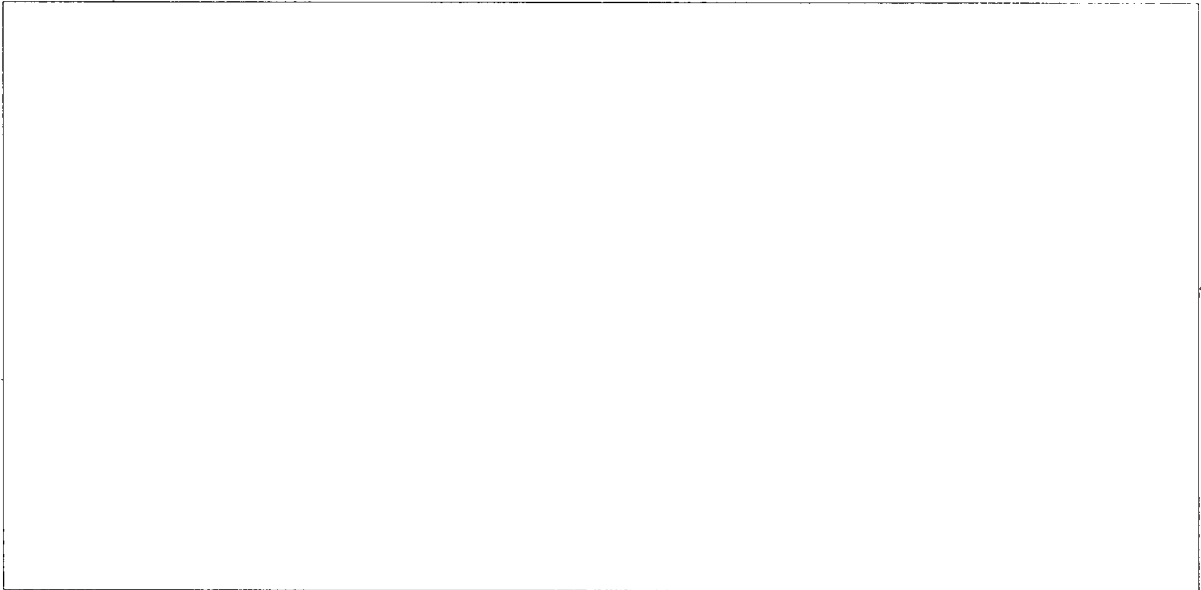
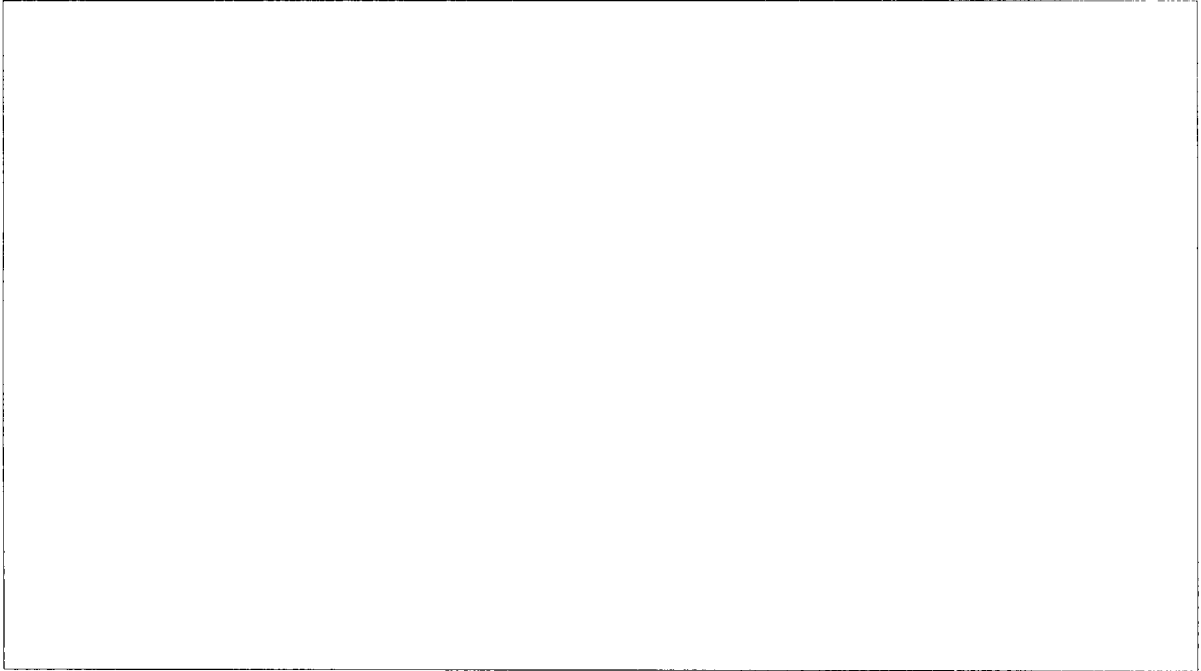
Comment: Intercepted messages confirm that a joint air conference attended by high Soviet, Chinese and North Korean officers was held at Antung in March.

United Nations pilots reported sighting on 22 April an unprecedented 400 to 500 MIG-15 aircraft at Antung airfield and an equal number at Tatungkuo.

- 3 -

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