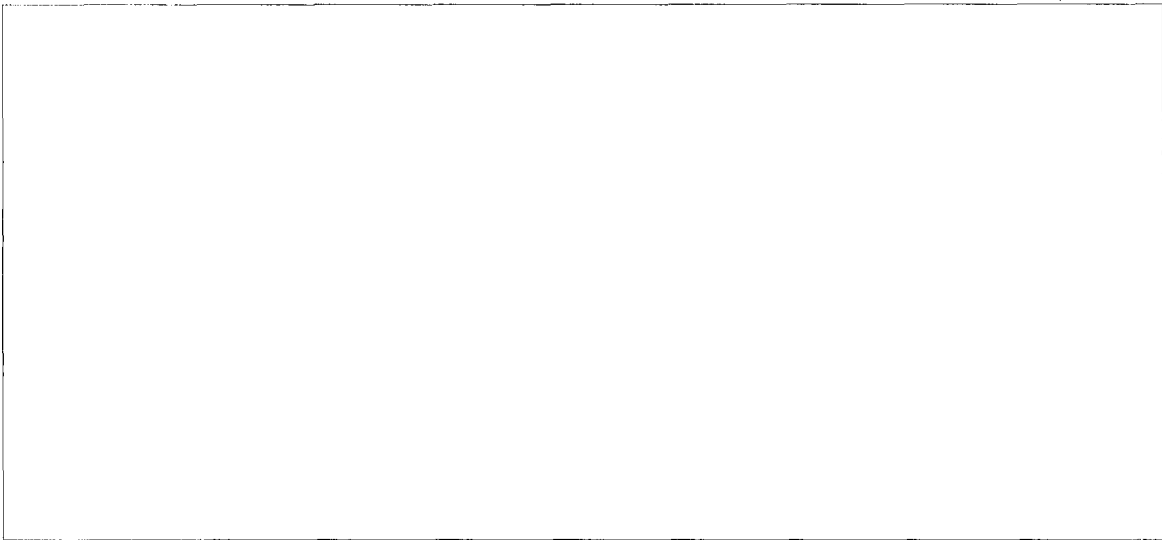


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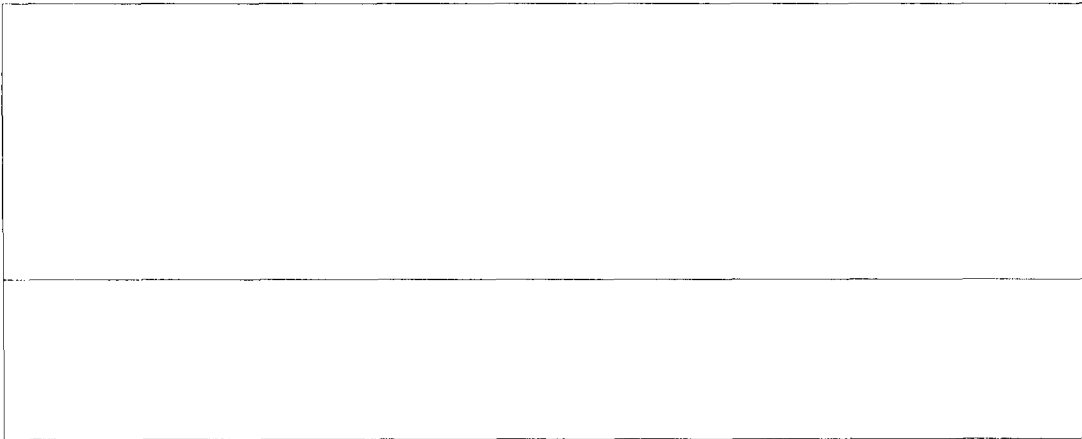
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- 9. Russian bomber pilots return from China: The return to the USSR of Russian pilots who ferried TU-2 light bombers to China is indicated in two messages of 11 January. Accompanied possibly by Chinese Communist personnel, the Soviet pilots traveled in three LI-2 transports which retraced the route followed by the TU-2's. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 9, 2120Z, 22 Jan 52)

Comment: Russian TU-2 flights to China have been a prominent feature of the growing bomber strength in China, now in excess of one hundred and fifty. The return of the Soviet pilots to the USSR in transports would suggest that the Russians are turning over the TU-2's to Chinese Communist Air Force units.

10.



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11. North Korean Army sees discharge of disabled troops as source of discontent: A 6 January message from the North Korean 8th Infantry Division to its nominally subordinate 82nd Regiment in the Kaesong area states that discharge procedure has been set up for "men wounded in action (over 32 years of age) and unqualified men (under 17 years of age)." The addressee is warned, however, that this discharge "must be performed secretly so as not to foment discontent among your soldiers." (SUEDE AS Korea CM IN 1752, 8 Jan 52)

Comment: This message indirectly supports the many reports received of low morale in the North Korean Army. Of equal importance is the fact that the North Korean Army is discharging any men at all. Currently accepted intelligence confirms the North Korean inability fully to replace battle casualties. It is possible that the 82nd Regiment, in view of its special position at Kaesong, is being made a model North Korean unit for prestige purposes.

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