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8. KOREA. Soviet-piloted night fighter activity increases in the Korean area: Night training is being emphasized among Soviet pilots engaged in the Korean air war, according to an analysis of January voice transmissions made by a USAF unit in Japan. In this connection, some of the Soviet night fighters previously based in the Anshan-Mukden area have been moved to Antung airfield.

The reporting agency concludes that this activity will increase Soviet night interceptor capabilities in Korea. (SUEDE 6920 Security Group, Johnson AB, Japan, SG 317, 13 Feb 52)

Comment: Since early October 1951, between 20 and 25 Soviet-piloted high performance conventional fighters, based at Anshan, have been flying combat missions over North Korea with only slight success.

9. New North Korean brigade identified: A 13 February message from an unidentified North Korean unit instructs a subordinate to "get the vehicle from the 22nd Brigade." (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Group Korea, 15 RSM/6470, 17 Feb 52)

Comment: This is the first mention, either in communications or collateral intelligence, of a North Korean 22nd Brigade. While it is possible that the identification is an operator's error for "23rd Brigade," already well identified, it would be feasible for the North Korean army to form additional brigade size units to fulfill the heavy security mission of defense of the coastal areas.

10. North Korean Air Force operates radar station at Pyongyang airfield: The motor of the "radar set" at Mirim, an airfield on the outskirts of Pyongyang, is to be sent for repairs, according to a 14 February North Korean Air Force message. This message and two others of the same date also indicate the arrival of new radio equipment at this location. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Group Korea; 15 RSM/6373, 15 RSM/6374, and 15 RSM/6379, 14 Feb 52)

Comment: This is the second reference in communications intelligence to North Korean operation of a radar installation. It had previously been thought that most radar installations in North Korea were Chinese or Soviet-operated.

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The establishment of a North Korean Air Force communications and radar station at Mirim adds to the growing capability of that force.

11. North Korean coastal unit reports UN bacteriological warfare: "The spies are putting poison into the drinking water" and are distributing "paper" that causes death to anyone "using those papers for the nose," a battalion of the 7th Railroad Security Regiment reported on 16 February. This battalion, stationed somewhere in the Wonsan-Hamhung area, also noted that "Chinese units" captured a downed US pilot northeast of Hamhung. (SUEDE 501st Comm Recon Group Korea, 15 RSM/6456, 16 Feb 52)

Comment: Communist messages such as this, accusing the UN of employing Japanese and Chinese Nationalist troops and of engaging in bacteriological and chemical warfare, have frequently forecast a new propaganda outburst of charges of UN atrocities in Korea.

The Chinese Communist units in northeastern Korea are probably elements of the 3rd Division mentioned in earlier messages as being in that area on a railway security and construction mission.

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