

~~TOP SECRET ACORN~~

21 Jun 51
CIB

FAR EAST

1. USSR may have operational control of North Korean Airforce:

US Air Force
Security Service
19 June 51
ACORN

Three North Korean messages intercepted on June 19 give further indications that the USSR may have operational control of the North Korean Air Force, and that some MIG 15's in the area are under Russian tactical control.

US Far East
Command Tokyo
20 June 51
SECRET

The messages -- which dealt with strikes on June 20 by ground attack planes against "enemy forces," presumably ROK guerillas, on islands

45 miles southeast of the mouth of the Yalu River -- proposed that a certain Kamarov help the attacking planes with "TA-99 as far as possible." They also requested permission from Petrotsov, head Russian advisor to the North Korean Air Force, to delay a second attack because of aircraft maintenance troubles. One message ordered that four IL-10's be used in attacks in the area.

At 0800 on June 20, according to the Far East Command, a flight of UN fighters engaged six to eight "IL-2's" and "Yaks" at a point 16 miles south of the target area. A short time later, the UN planes were attacked by a group of MIG-15's.

Comment: The IL-2 and IL-10 are single-engined attack bombers and very similar in appearance. It is believed that the UN planes engaged the same North Korean aircraft that had been ordered to attack the two islands. Since MIG-15 cover apparently had been provided, it is believed that the "TA-99" referred to in the North Korean message was that cover. If this is correct, the fact that Kamarov had to be approached to arrange for this cover strengthens the belief that Soviet personnel control the missions of the MIG fighters in the area. The fact that Petrotsov's permission was requested to delay the second attack further suggests that the Soviet "advisers" are in operational control of the activities of North Korean Air Force combat units.

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