TOP SECRET SUEDE

25 Oct 51

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FAR EAST

2. Chinese Communists rotate jet combat units:

US Air Force 23 Oct 51 SUEDE The replacement of the Chinese Communist 4th Air Division at Antung by the 3rd Air Division is indicated by recent messages. On 21 October

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 23-Mar-2010 TOP SECRET SUEDE

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MIG-15 elements of the 4th Division left Antung for Mukden. On the same day 50 MIG-15 jet fighters flew from Mukden, where the 3rd Air Division has been stationed, to Antung, and on 22 October 24 MIG-15's of the 3rd Air Division departed from Antung "for Korea for combat."

Comment: This is the first evidence that the 3rd Air Division is at Antung. Rotation of jet units in Korean combat has seldom been detected but probably occurs periodically.

There are about 140 MIG-15's, in possibly three divisions, at the Mukden airfields. Units of these fighters could at any time relieve elements of the four combat divisions, with a combined strength of at least 228 MIG-15's which are believed based in the Antung-Tatungkou combat area.

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