


~~TOP SECRET ACORN~~6 Apr 51
CIB

FAR EAST

1. Communist plans for "International Volunteer Army" reported:

at a 6 March meeting in Peiping attended by ranking Chinese Communist military and political leaders and by Soviet advisers, it was decided (a) to place 1400 aircraft under the command of the headquarters of the International Volunteer Army to be used for surprise attacks against the US Far Eastern air bases and against the 7th Fleet; (b) to equip two armies under Peng Te-Huai with Soviet arms, in addition to one other Chinese Communist Army (presumably already being equipped); and (c) to withdraw to defensive positions on the north side of the Yalu River if the "new" Communist ground offensive in Korea fails.

Comment: This is one of several reports received during the past month from a number of independent sources,  asserting that the Soviets are forming an "International Volunteer Army" for use in Korea. Reportedly, the Soviets decided to form such an army after the Chinese Communists invoked a "secret Sino-Soviet pact," and the decision has been the subject of many high-level meetings in Peiping and Moscow. The composition of this alleged force has been variously estimated as "2,000 Mongolians," as "150,000 Soviets, Japanese ex-prisoners of war, Mongolians, and Eastern Europeans," and as 10 divisions of Soviets, Japanese prisoners of war, Mongolians and Czechs. All equipment for this "Volunteer Force or Corps" will be of modern Soviet manufacture and will include tanks. Most reports have indicated that a considerably number of Soviet "volunteer" aircraft (upwards of 1,000) would be committed. Although there are no positive indications that such a "volunteer force" exists, it has recently been discovered that Soviet personnel have been piloting some of the jet aircraft that have been active along the Sino-Korean border.

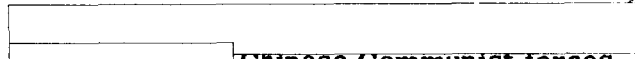
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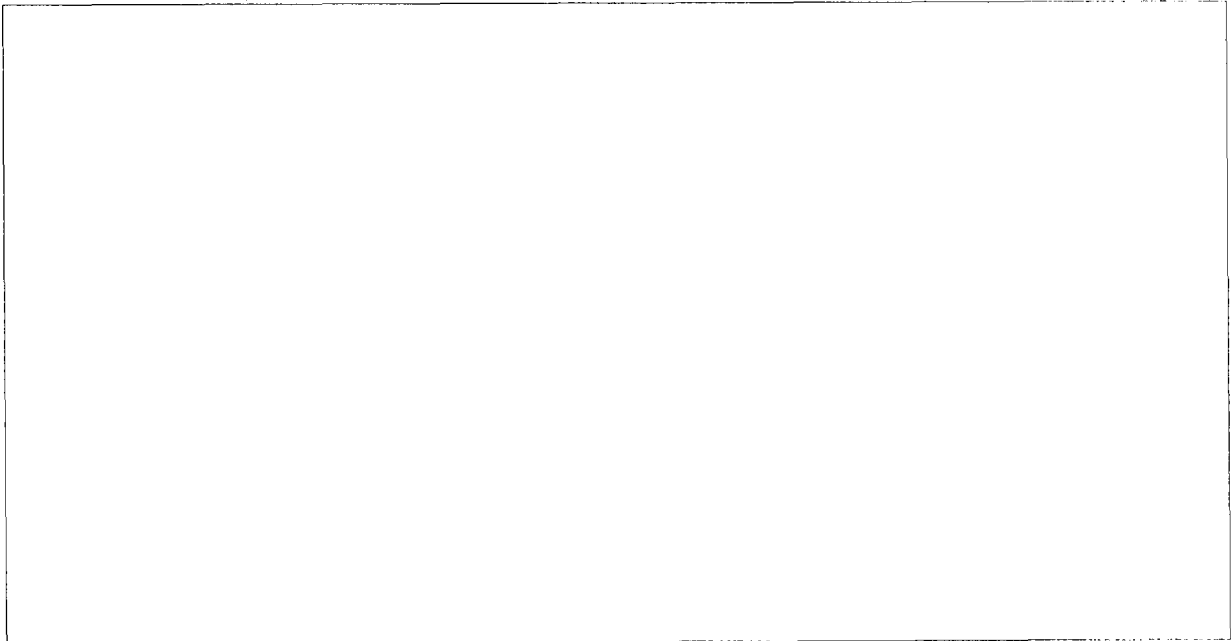
2. Communists may resort to bacteriological warfare in Korea:



Chinese Communist forces are re-grouping in Korea for a large-scale offensive during the coming rainy season and, with the aid of Soviet air and artillery, plan to drop bacterial bombs on the rear areas of UN forces. [redacted] the Chinese Communists may start bacteriological warfare in Korea in June or July.

Comment: The USSR, and probably Communist China, are capable of producing bacteriological warfare agents in sufficient quantities for sabotage or small-scale employment. Furthermore, the USSR, but not Communist China, may have developed satisfactory munitions for disseminating such agents.

Soviet and Chinese Communist propaganda has recently charged that the US has used bacterial weapons in Korea and is preparing to use them more extensively in the future. These charges may have been made in order to blame the US for the disease epidemics that normally occur in the Korean area with the advent of warm weather.



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