

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~24 Oct 51
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FAR EAST

1. Soviet pilots from East Germany arrive in Manchuria for combat:

[redacted] a group of 100 Soviet jet pilots, ranging in rank from captain to lieutenant colonel, arrived in Mukden in late September. These pilots allegedly were drawn from Soviet Air Force units in East Germany and were scheduled to return there after a two-month combat tour in Korea.

The US Far East Air Force comments that "it had been assumed on the basis of fluctuating tactics and markings of aircraft that units were being rotated. . . ."

Comment: The movement of Soviet Air Force personnel from East Germany was reported previously [redacted] stated that a Soviet Air Force major, stationed in the area as a jet pilot, was transferred to the Mukden area to serve as "operations officer" to a Soviet air command charged with air operations over North Korea.

In view of the general lack of information on the identity and unit subordination of the Soviet pilots known to be operating over Korea, it is entirely possible that the Soviet Union is rotating pilot personnel into the theater in order to provide combat training to as large a number as possible.

2. East China air division moves to Manchuria:

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division

The Chinese Communist 2nd Air Division, which two months ago was located at Nanking and Shanghai, has apparently moved to forward bases near Antung and Mukden in Manchuria. This division is equipped with MIG-15's, conventional fighters and light bombers.

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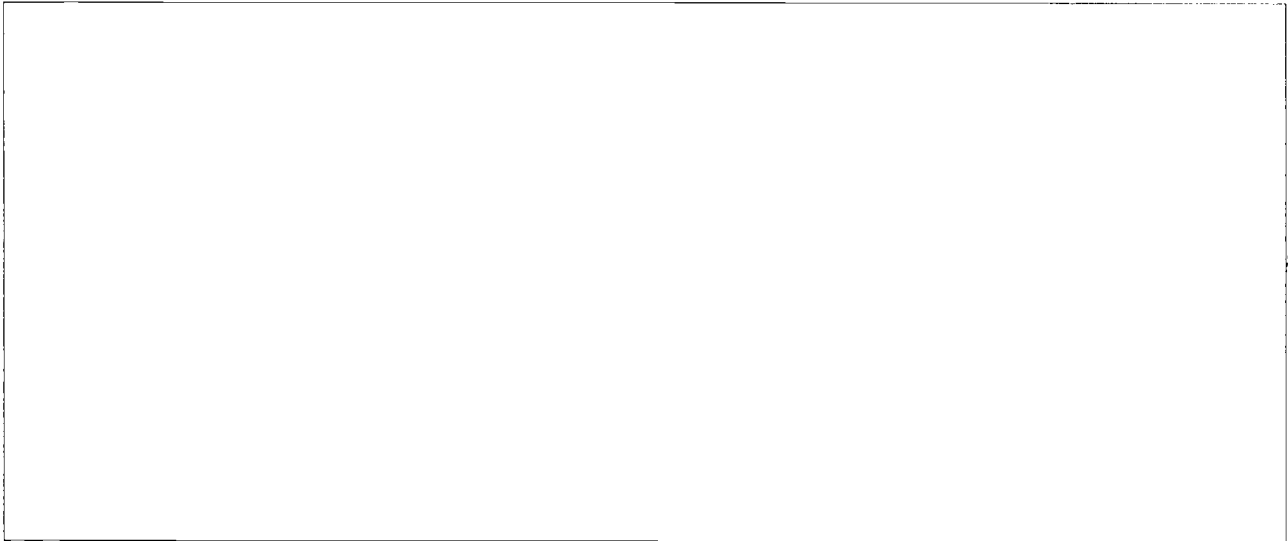
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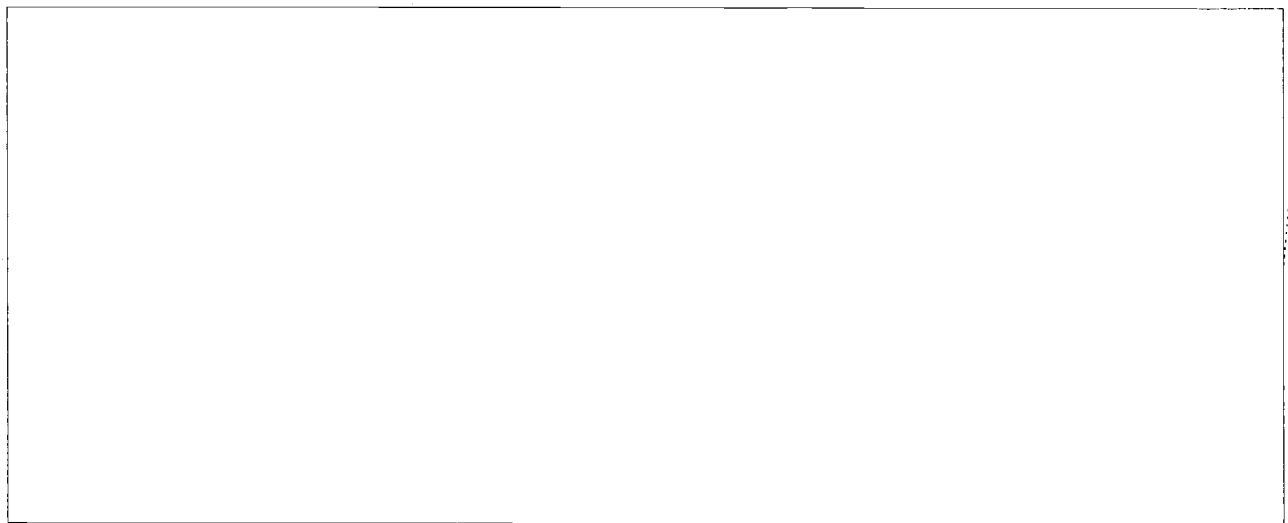
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Comment: Since late September the Chinese Communists have shifted several air regiments from China northward to advanced bases in Manchuria. With the transfer of the 2nd Air Division, the Chinese Communist Air Force is left with little known fighter strength south of Tsingtao.

The 2nd Air Division consists of two regiments; one of them contains probably 37 MIG-15's, and the other at least 28 LA-11 conventional fighters and three TU-2 light bombers.



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