

FAR EAST

1. Tentative identification of Soviet fighter regiments in the Manchuria-Korean area:

Armed Forces Security  
Agency  
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SUEDE

Preliminary analysis of radio-telephone traffic during the period from 19 May to 16 July suggests that two regiments of a Soviet 9th Air Army fighter division have been operating in the Manchuria-Korea border area.

Three aircraft callsign series representing three fighter regiments believed to be located in the southern part of the Maritime Military District disappeared from 9th Air Army communications after mid-May. On 19 May, one of the series reappeared in traffic passed on the Soviet-operated ground-controlled intercept network centered at Antung. Since 11 July the second of these callsign series has been heard in volume on the same ground-controlled intercept network. The third callsign series has not reappeared.

Comment: This information strongly suggests that organized units of the Soviet Air Force are now stationed in the Manchuria-Korea border area, possibly for combat purposes. The type of aircraft is not known, although most fighter aircraft operating in the area are jets or long-range conventional-engine penetration fighters.

Previous information has indicated direct Soviet participation in the expansion of enemy air operations since Chinese entry into the Korean war. All pilots and ground operators heard on the ground-controlled intercept network have been Russian, and communications procedures have shown 9th Air Army characteristics. Chinese Communist flight reports have referred to "Allied" and "Soviet" aircraft, as distinguished from "Chinese" aircraft, and have named Russian flight-leaders.

2. US jet reconnaissance aircraft intercepted at 40,000 feet in darkness:

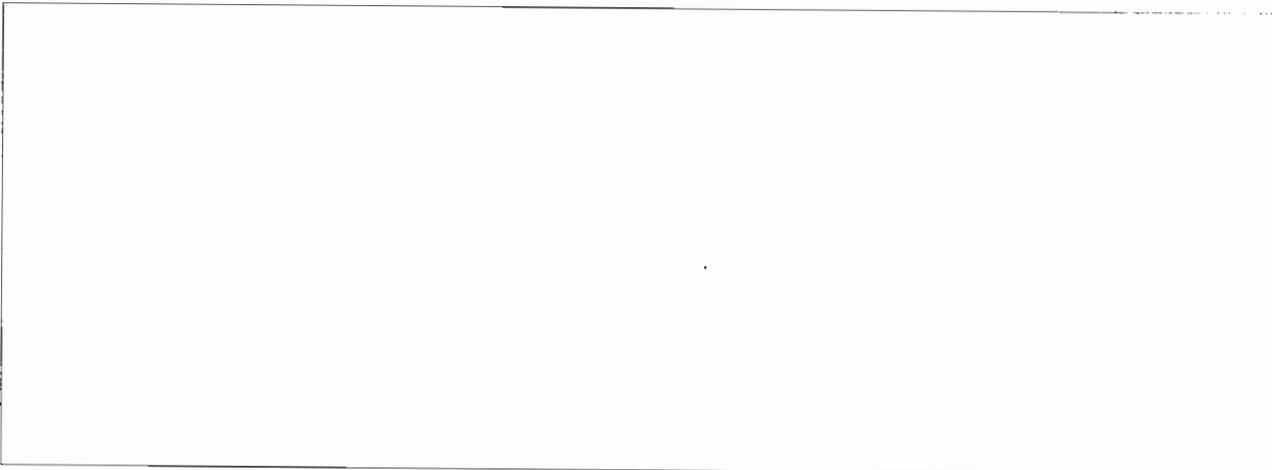


Night interceptions of an RB-45 aircraft by a total of seven enemy jets at altitudes of 35,000 to 40,000 feet have recently been reported over the Korean theater.

Four enemy aircraft maintained formation for a period of 25 to 30 minutes while pursuing the RB-45, which was executing evasive maneuvers. At the same time, single interceptions were occurring, including a firing pass from 1,000 feet above while the RB-45 was at 40,000 feet, and a collision course interception by an aircraft that later altered course and pulled abreast of the RB-45. While being pursued, the RB-45 employed 100 percent power, giving a ground speed of approximately 470 knots.

Comment: These interceptions clearly demonstrate the Communists' ability to accomplish a very difficult mission requiring excellent equipment, highly trained personnel and a high degree of coordination.

These operations described would require an aircraft with a minimum combat radius of approximately 350 nautical miles and a considerable speed advantage over the RB-45, which is the reconnaissance version of the B-45. These attacks could not have been accomplished with the MIG-15 or the Type-15 with the 33-gallon wing tanks currently known to be in use.



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