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7. New Soviet jet units rushed into Korean combat: Two new jet fighter units, probably regiments, aggressively engaged UN aircraft all the way from Antung to Pyongyang in their first appearance on the Soviet GCI net at Antung on 6 August. The reporting Air Force field unit comments that it is highly unusual for new Soviet elements to enter combat without several weeks training on the GCI net, and regards this development as a "frantic" Communist reaction to the UN "get tough" bombing policy. (CANOE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AFB Japan, AP 358, 8 Aug 52)

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Comment: Combat contacts between UN aircraft and Communist jets were unusually high on 6 August. Of 239 MIG-15's observed, 90 made contact and six were destroyed.

8. Chinese MIG's expand role in Korean war: Chinese Communist aircraft continued to be "exceedingly aggressive" between 27 July and 5 August over Korea, according to an Air Force field unit. At least 228 Chinese aircraft were noted on the Chinese voice ground-controlled intercept net, and there were many instances of definite contact with UN aircraft. (CANOE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AFB Japan, AP 331, 6 Aug 52)

Comment: Air defense of northwest Korea continues to be primarily a Soviet responsibility, but this increase in Chinese activity and aggressiveness, coupled with a recent expansion of the Chinese early warning coverage of Korea, suggests that the Chinese Communist Air Force is assuming a larger share of aerial combat.

9. Elements of North Korean 21st Brigade garrison Yonan area: The chief of staff of the 1st Battalion, North Korean 21st Brigade on 4 August reported to the Brigade's operations section that "five women . . . had crossed the border to North Korea (and) were arrested at Yujong-nok." (CANOE ROK Det M, SK-M-108, 6 Aug 52)

Comment: Yujong-nok is on the Yonan Peninsula just west of Kaesong. The location of North Korean 21st Brigade elements in this area is noteworthy in view of the acceptance by the Far East Command of the Chinese 42nd Army in the Yonan area with a coastal security mission.

The 42nd Army has not been mentioned in any messages sent by the North Korean units located in the southern portion of Hwanghae Province.

10. Expansion of Soviet fighter strength in Manchuria may have been planned in May: Significant communications changes were made on the Soviet GCI net in the Antung area on 21 May. The pilot numbering system was changed to permit an unlimited number of regiments to use it. The previous procedures permitted a maximum of ten regiments on the net. This capability to accommodate a greater number could suggest a planned build-up of Soviet air strength in the Yalu area, according to the Armed Forces Security Agency. (CANOE AFSA-251, JCAFE-42, 5 Aug 52)

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Comment: No increase in the number of fighter units active on the Soviet GCI net has occurred since it was raised to nine in April. In fact messages passed on this net in July indicate that two of the nine regiments merged with two others at Antung, leaving only seven units, with the same strength, operating on the net. Soviet MIG-15 strength in Manchuria has been estimated at 320 since April.

11. Chinese 18th Air Division transfer from Canton to Manchuria confirmed: Both the 6th and 18th Air Divisions are definitely in Manchuria, according to traffic analysis

This conclusion is supported by flight messages passed on the navigation network. The location of these MIG-15 units has been uncertain since May. The headquarters of the 6th Division left Takushan, near Antung, for Mukden in mid-July, and the 18th Division headquarters left Canton in early July for Takushan. (CANOE Air Force Roundup 151, 7 Aug 52)

Comment: Elements of both the 6th and 18th Divisions were noted flying both at Canton and in Manchuria in late June, suggesting that the units might be in the process of exchanging locations. However, this was apparently not planned, and the presence of 6th Division aircraft at Canton at that time is still unexplained.

The 18th Division's move raises to seven the number of Chinese Communist MIG-15 divisions in Manchuria, leaving only two divisions and one regiment equipped with MIG-15's in China proper.

12. New Chinese Communist air unit mentioned: A 4 August message from Hsuehou in East China to Nanking stated that "the 64th Regiment completed flights." (CANOE Air Force Roundup 152, 7 Aug 52)

Comment: The 64th Regiment is subordinate to the 22nd Air Division. This message is the first reference to the flight activity and location of this regiment. The highest-numbered air division in China for which activity has been noted was the 20th, although the existence of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd has been established by messages referring to or addressed to them.

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