

~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~21 Dec 52
CIB

GENERAL

1. Soviet attitude toward Korean conflict:

the Kremlin's sensitivity to Soviet defections in World War II is a big factor in the present Communist attitude toward the repatriation of POW's in Korea. however, that the main obstacle to an armistice now is a Soviet estimate that a continuation of the conflict favors the USSR's strategic position and increases Peiping's dependence on Moscow.

Comment: Of the estimated 4,000,000 Soviet personnel captured by the Germans during the first six months of World War II, at least 1,000,000 are considered to have been defectors. The Kremlin may want to convince potential defectors in any future war that repatriation and punishment would be inevitable.

FAR EAST

2. IL-28's reported flying along Yalu River:

A large, straight-winged, twin-jet plane moving at a comparatively low rate of speed was observed on 17 December by an F-86 pilot flying over northwest Korea near the Yalu River. Other UN pilots report having sighted a similar type plane at about the same time on the Manchurian side of the Yalu.

Far East Air Force believes that these aircraft were IL-28 light bombers.

Comment: This is the first reported observation of such planes in the Korean theater.

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