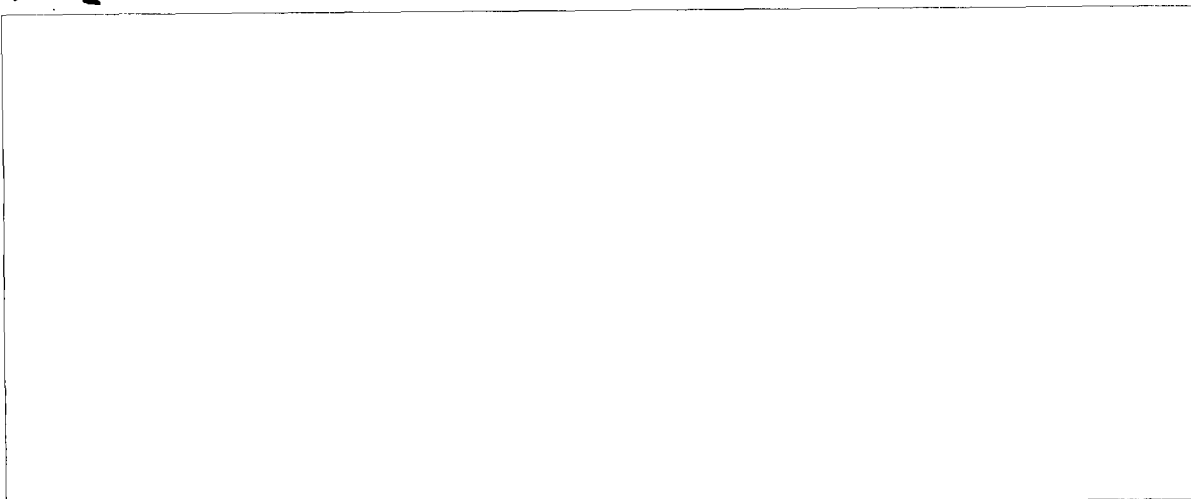


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11. MIG-15 division at Korean border moves to Mukden: Two "transfer flights" totaling 30 MIG-15's, of the Chinese Communist Third Air Division moved from Antung to Mukden on 15 January. (SUEDE US Air Force CM IN 3703, 15 Jan 52)

Comment: The Third Division, equipped with about 50 MIG-15's has had more combat experience than any other Chinese Communist unit.

This decrease in MIG-15 strength at the border may be temporary, since the MIG-15-equipped Fourth Division, now at Mukden, could be scheduled to replace the Third. Such a rotation occurred in mid-October when the Fourth Division, then at Antung, was replaced by the Third.

12. Communist aircraft strength in China-Manchuria-Korea increased to 1700: A US Air Force estimate states that there is sufficient evidence to justify the upward revision of Communist military aircraft strength in the China-Manchuria-Korea area to 1700. It had been carried at 1450 since November. The new figure includes 900 jet fighters and 240 TU-2 light bombers and represents an increase of 100 jet fighters, 80 light bombers, and 50 transport aircraft. Communist air strength in Manchuria is estimated at 1000, including 600 jets and 160 light bombers. (SUEDE US Air Force Indications Review, 16 Jan 52)

Comment: This increase occurred entirely in China proper. Combat aircraft strength in Manchuria has actually declined slightly since November, because of the movement of several units from South Manchuria to the Nanking-Shanghai area.

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The increase of light bombers and transports in China is due to the transfer, since the last estimate, of TU-2's and transports from the USSR to China proper. The upward revision of jet fighter strength is accounted for by the identification in December of two additional jet fighter divisions at Hankow and Peiping.

13. KOREA. North Korean Air Force seen as strengthened: A "major development in strength potential" of the North Korean Air Force is indicated by recent analysis of enemy air messages by the US Air Force. Three air-divisions -- one of which is jet-equipped -- have been mentioned, and three air stations -- two in Korea and one in Manchuria -- are again active in message transmission. (SUEDE Air Force Roundup 11, 2135Z, 15 Jan 52)

Comment: The expansion during the latter half of 1951 from a single conventional aircraft fighter and ground attack division to a three division force, including jets, represents a significant augmentation of North Korean forces.

14. North Korean Navy commander may have been replaced: A 30 December North Korean message from Naval Headquarters in Pyongyang to the Naval Academy in Chongjin felicitated academy personnel on the new year. The message was signed by "Kim Won Mu, Naval Commander." (SUEDE ASAPAC Tokyo CM IN 3769, 16 Jan 52)

Comment: Vice Admiral Han Il Mu has long been accepted as commander of North Korean naval forces and signed messages in such a capacity during 1951. Kim Won Mu was chief of staff of the North Korean Navy.

15. Table of organization of North Korean mechanized artillery brigade reported: A retranslation of a 28 December North Korean message from an unidentified corps (probably the VII) to the 24th Brigade states that a table of organization providing five mechanized artillery battalions and two infantry battalions has been drawn up for the 24th Mechanized Brigade. (SUEDE ASAPAC Tokyo CM IN 3769, 16 Jan 52)

Comment: Mechanized artillery battalions (probably equipped with the Soviet self-propelled 76mm gun) have been previously identified in the 24th Brigade. This message indicates that the entire brigade, currently on coastal security duty in the Wonsan-Hamhung area, will be mechanized.

16. 