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COUNTRY JAPAN

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SUBJECT CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET AIRPORT IN
VLADIVOSTOK AREA

INFO.

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TEXT

"Tokyo, Oct. 17. Reports that the Soviet Union is feverishly rushing to completion a vast, impregnable underground airfield as protection against the atomic bomb were confirmed today by a demobilized Japanese soldier who escaped recently from the Soviet project in the Vladivostok area.

"According to the soldier the underground airfield is located in the wooded country five miles east of Ussuriysk which is located halfway between Vladivostok and Zhabarovsk on the Soviet-Mandchurian border. The Soviets have impressed 50,000 persons on this gigantic undertaking which lies at the eastern end of Pinkiang province and parallels the Ussuri railway. Japanese prisoners, both men and women, have been put to work on the project.

"Last year, a large number of German prisoners were brought to the site, the majority of them being skilled workmen and technicians. The Japanese were employed as day laborers and 16,000 have succumbed in the past six months to the rigors of forced labor.

"The object of the underground airfield is to afford protection against atomic bombs. This fortress is believed to be the first of its type yet undertaken anywhere in the world. Its installations and facilities are many, including various hangars, fuel depots, repair and workshops. The field is able to accommodate 2,400 planes.

"The entire airfield, built so as to allow maximum maneuverability, contains 80 runways. The vastness of the fortress can be imagined by the fact that it takes about 8 hours every day to deliver food to the workmen employed in the project. Workmen were drafted to complete this extensive undertaking. It appears that with the completion of the Uman air fortress Vladivostok will be relegated to secondary importance."

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