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SUBJECT Status of Fighter Units of the 24th Air Army in Early October, 1951

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Transfer of Fighter Units into Areas Outside the Soviet Zone of Germany.

1. Between 1 and 20 October 1951, the flying personnel and part of the aircraft of nine regiments were transferred apparently to the U.S.S.R., according to rail shipments observed. The regiments concerned were previously stationed at the airfields of Finow, Neuruppin, Alt-Loennwitz, Dessau, Grossenhain, and Brandis. The following observations were made:
 - a. In early October, the packing of personal belongings by pilots in Neuruppin, Finow, Alt-Loennwitz, and Grossenhain indicated an imminent transfer of air units.
 - b. Since 8 October, reports have been received to the effect that trains loaded with air force personnel and dependents left the above mentioned fields. Similar reports have been received from Dessau on 1 and 2 October.
 - c. Occupation of airfields:

Field:	Date:	Observation:
<u>Neuruppin:</u>	14 October	all MIG-15s except 6 had left the field
<u>Finow:</u>	8 October	on airfield 1 MIG-15
	15 October	on airfield 5 MIG-15s
	16 October	on airfield 4 MIG-15s
<u>Grossenhain:</u>	15 October	on airfield 9 MIG-15s
	30 October	on airfield 6 MIG-15s
<u>Brandis:</u>	1 November	no aircraft on the field
<u>Alt-Loennwitz:</u>		
	21 October	airfield 5 MIG-15s
	27 October	on airfield 7 MIG-15s

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Field:	Date:	Observation:
	15 November	on airfield 3 MiG-15s
	28 November	on airfield 3 MiG-15s
<u>Dessau:</u>	2 October	no MiG-15 on the field
	5 October	airfield occupied by GA aircraft.

d. Air force shipments observed between 29 September and 20 October included:

Number of Trains	From:	To:	Via:
2 trains	Neuruppin	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/Oder
2 trains	Finow	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/Oder
7 trains	Grossenhain	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/Oger
1 train	Alt-Loennewitz	Brest-Litovsk	Frankfurt/Oder
1 train	Alt-Loennewitz	Angermuende	
1 train	area Halle	Angermuende.	

Some of the trains reportedly coming from Grossenhain may actually have come from Alt-Loennewitz which is on the same railroad line. The shipment-record numbers of the two trains dispatched to Angermuende definitely prove that these trains, which were mostly loaded with crated aircraft, remained in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Most of the trains en route to Brest-Litovsk reportedly carried air force personnel and billeting equipment. Thirty-one freight cars of these trains were reportedly loaded with one aircraft crate each. On the assumption that all flatcars of these trains were loaded with aircraft crates, a total of 77 aircraft may have been shipped on these trains.

It is possible, however, that these trains were included in the transportation operations. *

e. No ground radio stations of the nine regiments which were transferred were observed in operation after 2 October. These stations were observed in operation during November, however.

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g. While all airfields still occupied by fighter units continued to be supplied with fuel, no fuel shipments were observed arriving at the vacated airfields after 2 October 1951.

2. All the pertinent observations made may be evaluated as follows:

- a. The regimental headquarters and the flying personnel of nine fighter regiments, but only some of their aircraft, were moved from the Soviet Zone of Germany.
- b. The fact that the division headquarters and radio installations remained at their previous fields indicates that these fields will be reoccupied soon.

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c.

- d. The transfer of the flying personnel of nine regiments resulted in a 50 percent decrease in the fighter strength in the Soviet Zone of Germany. However, it must be taken into consideration that some of the aircraft left by the transferred nine regiments may be operated by additional pilots of the fighter regiments remaining in Germany, which means that the actual combat strength of the Soviet fighter arm did not decrease by 50 percent. It may be assumed that the nine fighter regiments still stationed in the Soviet Zone of Germany have at their disposal approximately 400 serviceable aircraft and pilots. It remains to be seen how soon the two fighter corps will be brought up to their previous strength. **

Present Status of the Fighter Units in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

3. After 20 October 1951, three fighter divisions with a total of nine regiments were repeatedly confirmed at their previous locations. These units are assigned as follows:
- 1 division in Puetnitz with one regiment each in Puetnitz, Neubrandenburg and Wittstock;
 - 1 division in Laerz with two regiments in Laerz and one regiment in Parchin;
 - 1 division in Zerbst with two regiments in Zerbst and one regiment in Brandenburg.
4. New organization of the fighter regiments.
- a. There is a total of 6 fighter regiments newly activated:
- 2 regiments in Finow,
 - 2 regiments in Koethen,
 - 1 regiment in Brandis,
 - 1 regiment in Alt-Loennewitz.

The type of flying observed indicated that new flying personnel was practicing take-offs and landings in individual local flights with MiG-15s. It is not known whether the new personnel was previously trained for MiG-15s, or whether they were given first training with jet aircraft with the units. Flights in formations of three, six or more aircraft were not observed. There are some indications that the remaining three regiments are being established at Grossenhain and Neuruppin.

- b. Personnel at Koethen arrived by two trains, one on 14 November and the other on 15 November. It was not determined where the personnel gradually arriving in Finow, Brandis, and Alt-Loennewitz had come from.
- c. Aircraft numbers observed with the new units indicated that some of these aircraft were taken over from the unit previously stationed at the fields. According to unconfirmed information, a rail shipment of aircraft crates from the U.S.S.R. went to Grossenhain on 8 November 1951. It could not be determined whether these crates really contained aircraft.
- d. During October and the first half of November, no fuel shipments arrived at the airfield concerned. Now fuel shipments arrived during the second half of November.

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- e. On the basis of previous experience it is assumed that starting with the spring of 1952 these six or nine new regiments will be ready for intensive air combat training which the nine regiments, not affected by the recent shuffle, gained during their stay in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

25X1 * Comment. If half of the railroad cars of these two trains were flatcars, the estimated number of aircraft shipped away has to be increased about 50 to 60, which would result in a total of 120 to 130 aircraft.

25X1 * Comment. The movement of the nine fighter regiments from the Soviet of Germany may be due to the following reasons:

- a. The flying personnel was returned to the U.S.S.R. in order to give new aircraft crews the possibility of familiarizing themselves with conditions in Germany, including terrain and weather features.
 - b. The flying personnel will be retrained with another aircraft type in the U.S.S.R. and will possibly return to the Soviet Zone of Germany with new aircraft and equipment.
 - c. The personnel of the regiments concerned will be employed in Korea or stationed near zones of political tension, such as the Near East. This would indicate that the units concerned were elite units.
 - d. The aircraft crews of the regiments concerned were subjected to Western influences while in the Soviet Zone of Germany and were no longer considered to be absolutely reliable. A report to this effect was once received from Neuruppin; the report, however, never has been confirmed.
- For report,

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