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SECURITY INFORMATION

15 July 1952

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SOVIET UNION

1. Possible allocation of twin-jet bombers to Soviet Northern Fleet:

[Redacted]

Tentative evidence that the Northern Fleet Air Force may have received, or is preparing to receive, twin-jet light bombers [Redacted]

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FAR EAST

2. Chinese Communists suggest new approach to POW issue in Korea:

[Redacted]

Former Indian Ambassador to Peiping, K. M. Panikkar, reportedly states that the Chinese Communists want to avoid appearing as sponsors of any plan involving the neutral rescreening of unwilling POW returnees at Panmunjom. It is inferred, however, that the Communists would consider this approach if it were advanced by UN negotiators.

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Comment: Chinese Communist propaganda adopted a more optimistic line toward developments at Panmunjom earlier in the week, but over the week end it shifted back to vilifying the United Nations.

3. Soviet MIG's in Manchuria move nearer Korean border:

scheduled "airfield transfer" flights of Soviet aircraft between Manchurian airfields.

3.3(h)(2)

Since 6 July, two groups of 32 MIG-15's each were to transfer from Mukden to Antung and from Tungfeng to Fengcheng, a new jet base near Antung. The latter transfer was evidently completed because 26 Soviet MIG's were scheduled for two training flights from Fengcheng on 11 July.

Comment: These transfers represent a considerable, although possibly temporary, increase in enemy air combat strength in the Antung area. Probably five or six of the nine Russian-manned units in Manchuria are now based within 50 miles of Korea.

Approximately 41 MIG-15's of the Chinese 12th Air Division also moved from Takushan to Fengcheng on 12 and 13 July. Of the four jet airbases in the Yalu River area, Fengcheng is the most difficult for American pilots to observe.

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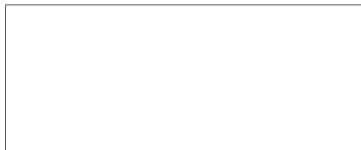
4. Papal delegate in Indochina says Tam government cannot last long:

The American Consul in Hanoi was told by the Apostolic Delegate in Indochina that the government of Nguyen Van Tam is widely unpopular and cannot last long. The Consul comments that the Archbishop is considered "perhaps the most cautious man in Indochina."

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Comment: Conflicting reports have been received on the stability of the Tam government. The consensus of these reports is that, while Tam's close relationship with the French has won him an enduring unpopularity, the attitude of the Vietnamese population has changed somewhat during the first month of his premiership from one of intense hostility to one of watchful waiting.

WESTERN EUROPE

5. French politicians see Pinay's downfall certain this year:

A confidential survey by the US Embassy in Paris shows that spokesmen for the major French political parties are unanimous in the belief that the Pinay government will fall before the end of the year. These politicians expect a similar rightist-dominated coalition to replace the present government when the failure of Pinay's economic policies becomes more apparent.

3.3(h)(2)

They envisage no fundamental change in foreign policy, but agree that Schuman will not head a ministry; Bidault is mentioned either as his successor or as the next premier.

Comment: Although Pinay has so far successfully confounded his critics, his program stops short of the drastic reforms necessary to stabilize the French economy.

Dissatisfaction with Schuman has become increasingly vocal in France during the past few months. Bidault's appointment to the Foreign Office would assure continuity of the program for which he and Schuman have carried the responsibility since 1945, but his failing health makes his political future uncertain.

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