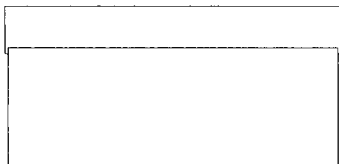


~~TOP SECRET CANOE~~

19 Nov 52
CIB

FAR EAST


1. Communist air force in Korea may be preparing for expanded air war:



The Communist air force may be preparing for an expansion of the Korean air war,



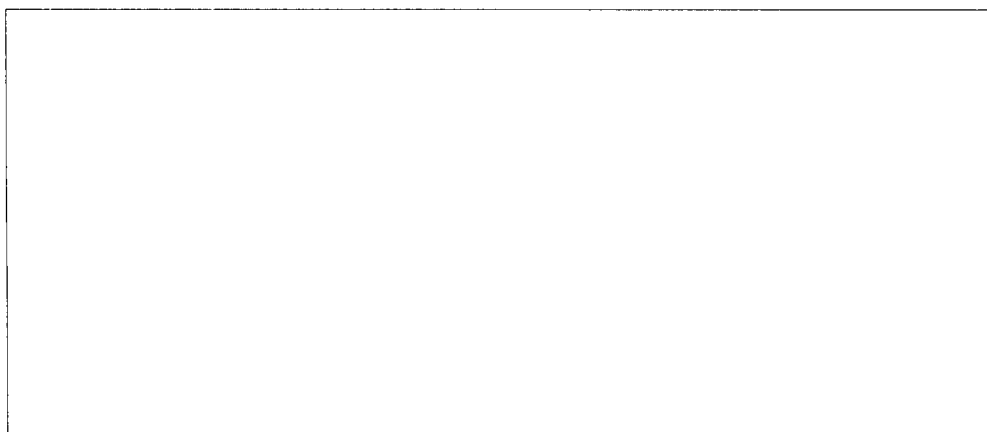
The weekly total of 17 MIG-15 sorties observed from 9 to 16 November is the lowest in 15 months. Visual reconnaissance of the Yalu River combat airfields also shows that the enemy is no longer basing large numbers of aircraft there.

 the withdrawal from combat of a maximum number of interceptors and a reduction of the enemy's vulnerability would be logical moves if the Communists were contemplating an attack with the newly-arrived IL-28 jet light bombers. There are, however, no further indications of an impending offensive.

Comment: The presence of up to 45 jet light bombers in northern Manchuria represents a significant gain in the combat potential of Communist air forces in the area. There is, as yet, no indication of the readiness or availability of these aircraft or their crews for commitment in the Korean air war.

On 17 November 64 MIG-15 flights were observed, of which 31 were encountered.

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