

~~TOP SECRET SUEDE~~

USSR

11 Oct 51

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| [Redacted] | [Redacted] |
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FAR EAST

2. Presence of heavier Soviet-type tanks accepted in Korea:

[Redacted]
10 Oct 51
[Redacted]

On the basis of UN pilot sightings in the Pyongyang area since 1 October, the US Far East Command has accepted the presence in Korea of enemy armor heavier than the now-familiar T-34. Observing that these tanks are probably organic to the Chinese Communist forces, FECOM states

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that they are probably Joseph Stalin I's and II's rather than the new Joseph Stalin III. The possibility that the Joseph Stalin III may be employed for testing is not to be discounted entirely.

Comment: Although the Joseph Stalin I and II tanks --now superseded in the Soviet Army by the Joseph Stalin III-- mount a larger gun than their UN counterparts--122 mm, compared with 90 mm --their underpowered engines and the difficulties of the Korean terrain, will do much to counter their effectiveness. In sufficient number, however, these tanks will form an important addition to the lightly-armored Communist forces in Korea.

3. Caucasian troops again reported in North Korea:

[redacted]
9 Oct 51
[redacted]

[redacted] that 5,000 Caucasian troops (believed Russians) with 80 to 100 T-34 tanks were at Hamhung in late September.

During the same period "10,000 Caucasian mechanized troops equipped with tanks and heavy artillery were between Yangdok and Songchon" across the peninsula in northern Korea. On 28 September "600 European troops in Chinese Communist uniforms were moving from Pyongyang" southward.

Comment: While the figures in this report are probably exaggerated, it is further evidence of the considerable number of Soviet military personnel currently believed to be performing rear area functions in North Korea. These troops may total as many as 20,000.

The "Caucasians" referred to as operating tanks are probably Soviet military personnel delivering armor to the Chinese Communists and North Koreans.

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