

7 Nov 51
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FAR EAST

1. Chinese Communist light bomber divisions may enter combat:

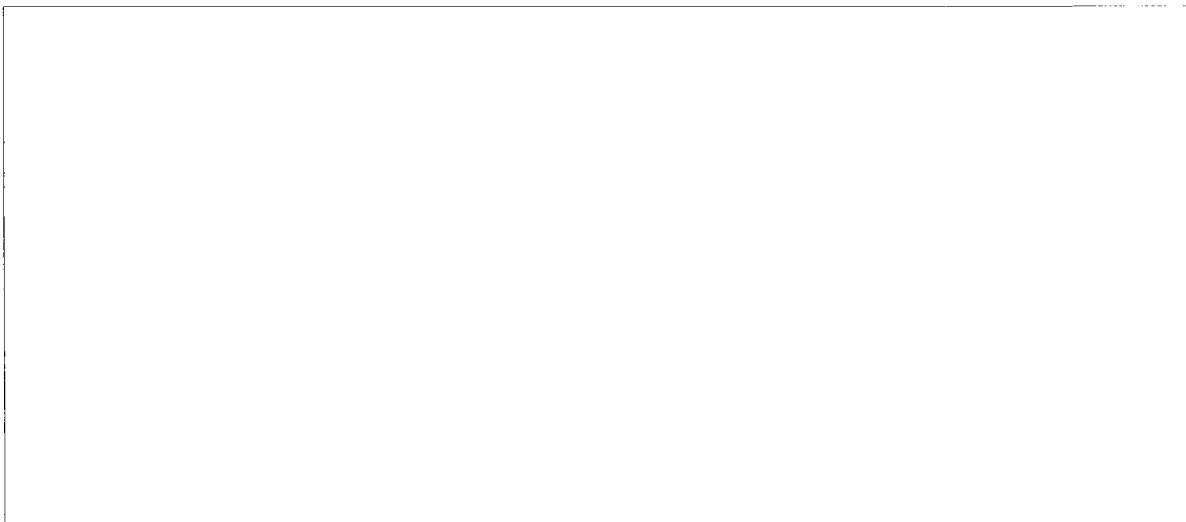
US Air Force
5 Nov 51
SUEDE

AF. Boundary 235 2130Z

The commanders of the Eighth and Tenth Chinese Communist Air Divisions, which are equipped with TU-2 light bombers, flew to Antung on the Korean-Manchurian border on 29 October. The Air Force comments that these visits suggest a high-level conference at Antung, at which the entry of TU-2's into the Korean war may have been considered.

Comment: Since October the Eighth Air Division and a regiment of the Tenth have been based at Mukden and Liaoyang respectively. The Korean battlefield is well within the operational radius of TU-2's from these fields.

A significant increase in bomber strength and intensity of training was noted in Manchuria during October, when the Chinese concentrated all their known light bomber strength, about 100 TU-2's, in Manchuria by moving several bomber-equipped divisions from China. The Tenth Division bombers at Liaoyang appear to be employing particularly specialized tactics, with one or more bombers equipped with radar.



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12. US Military Attache in Hong Kong reports on troop movements: The US Military Attache in Hong Kong comments that the trend of all reports received since mid-October indicates the movement of Chinese Communist Fourth Field Army units away from Kwangtung, either in the direction of Kwangsi or northward. The bulk of the reports indicate a move toward Kwangsi, but to date no reliable information from Kwangsi has reached the reporting officer confirming the arrival of these units.

The Attache believes that the movement of these troops to Kwangsi, if true, indicates that:

- (1) the Chinese Communists intend to put psychological pressure on the French in Tonkin;
- (2) the Chinese Communists intend to participate in Tonkin; or

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- (3) the Second Field Army units are being withdrawn from South China probably for employment in Korea and Manchuria, and the Fourth Field Army is extending to cover the gap. The reporting officer feels that, in view of the presence in Korea of Chen Keng, field commander of the Second Field Army, this is the most likely.

Comment: There have been several recent reports indicating a movement of troops of the Fourth Field Army from Kwangtung to Kwangsi province. However, they all remain unconfirmed and are, therefore, not accepted pending further information.

13. Rail congestion in Manchuria reported: [redacted] the rumor, now current in Harbin, that the rail line from the USSR is increasingly congested. Shipments of consumer goods have been banned during some periods. [redacted] that by January 1952 it will be impossible to ship consumer goods from the USSR to Harbin.

[redacted] whether the volume of war materiel delivered by rail has changed, but [redacted] a change in the composition of freight. Whereas previously the emphasis had been on tanks, crated planes and cannon, there was more recently a greater variety of materiel, including Czech and Russian six-wheeled trucks and a number of rocket-launchers. [redacted]

Comment: The heavy demand for military transport on Manchuria's railways has on several occasions resulted in temporary suspensions of passenger and ordinary commercial freight service. A continuing strain on the rail net is indicated by the shortage of Soviet shipping and by difficulties encountered in chartering Western-flag vessels.

14. [redacted]