

FAR EAST

- 6. Correction to 25 September article on China-Korea air activity: Article 4 in the Special Intelligence Supplement to the Current Intelligence Digest of 25 September, reporting a decline in Communist air activity over China and Korea during the week ending 19 September, was based on communications intelligence alone and did not reflect information from other sources.

According to Far East Air Force, the number of Communist planes actually sighted and engaged by UN pilots over Korea during the period was higher than noted on navigational networks. Although only 21 flights per day were reported on navigational networks in Korea during the week ending 19 September, UN pilots encountered and engaged a daily average of 64 Communist aircraft that week.

- 7. Soviet aircraft active off Hokkaido coast: Radar tracks indicate that on 20 September ten Soviet air flights crossed the demarcation line between the Kuril Islands and Hokkaido, with depths of penetration ranging up to 15 miles. On 24 September a single aircraft flew beyond the line for 56 minutes. American F-84's which intercepted two flights were unable to overtake the intruders.

Far East Air Force believes that the objective of this activity may be either reconnaissance or the testing of US air defenses and radar. (S CINCFE Telecon, 25 Sept 52)

Comment: Since the strait is less than 20 miles wide at its narrowest point, some of these flights must have extended over Japanese territory.

During August there was one Soviet overflight of north-eastern Hokkaido, and one close approach to the coast of central Japan. Both involved pursuit of US reconnaissance aircraft and may have been inadvertent. The concentration of planes in this latest operation and the duration of one of the flights suggest that it was planned. Except for the instances cited, Soviet aircraft have observed the Hokkaido-Kuril demarcation line.



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