NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE AIR DEFENSE OF MANCHURIA

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL

Published 12/4 November 1950

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DISSEMINATION NOTICE

1. This copy of this publication is for the information and use of the recipient designated on the front cover and of individuals under the jurisdiction of the recipient's office who require the information for the performance of their official duties. Further dissemination elsewhere in the department to other offices which require the information for the performance of official duties may be authorized by the following:
   a. Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Intelligence, for the Department of State
   b. Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, for the Department of the Army
   c. Director of Naval Intelligence, for the Department of the Navy
   d. Director of Intelligence, USAF, for the Department of the Air Force
   e. Director of Intelligence, AEC, for the Atomic Energy Commission
   f. Deputy Director for Intelligence, Joint Staff, for the Joint Staff
   g. Assistant Director for Collection and Dissemination, CIA, for any other Department or Agency

2. This copy may be either retained or destroyed by burning in accordance with applicable security regulations, or returned to the Central Intelligence Agency by arrangement with the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA.

DISTRIBUTION (NIE Series):
Office of the President
National Security Council
National Security Resources Board
Department of State
Office of Secretary of Defense
Department of the Army
Department of the Navy
Department of the Air Force
Atomic Energy Commission
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Research and Development Board
Munitions Board
The intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force participated in the preparation of this estimate and concur in it. This paper is based on information available on 21 November 1950.
SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE AIR DEFENSE OF MANCHURIA

THE PROBLEM

1. To estimate whether, in the event of UN air attack on targets in Manchuria, the Soviet Air Force would participate in the defense of such targets.

CONCLUSIONS

2. In the circumstances envisaged in the problem, the USSR would provide aircraft, anti-aircraft artillery, and trained personnel as necessary for the defense of Manchurian targets. Sufficient resources for rendering such aid are available in the Soviet Far East.

3. Soviet participation in the defense of Manchurian targets could take any of the following forms:
   a. Actual participation without identification.
   b. The open participation of ostensibly volunteer units.
   c. The open participation of Soviet units as a limited commitment under the Sino-Soviet treaty.
   d. The open participation of Soviet units as an aspect of a general war forced on the Soviet Union under the Sino-Soviet treaty.

4. At least initially, the most likely form of Soviet participation in the air defense of Manchurian targets would be the first—i.e., actual participation in action without open identification.

5. The open participation of Soviet units would be unlikely unless general war should develop.

6. A substantial risk that the situation may degenerate into a general war already exists. UN air attack on targets in Manchuria, alone, probably would not cause the Soviet rulers to decide to launch a general war, inasmuch as the Kremlin's basic decision for or against war would be based on global considerations. The events likely to follow such attacks, however, would carry with them a greater probability of a general war developing.
DISCUSSION

7. See:
   a. CIA Memorandum for the National Security Council, 9 November 1950.
   b. NIE-3, 15 November 1950.
   c. NIE-2/1, 24 November 1950.