Tentative identification of Soviet fighter regiments in the Manchuria-Korea area. Preliminary analysis of radio-telephone traffic intercepted during the period 19 May-16 July suggests that two regiments of a Soviet 9th Air Army
fighter division have been operating in the Manchuria—Korea border area.

Three aircraft callsign series representing three fighter regiments believed to be located in the southern part of the Maritime Military District disappeared from 9th Air Army communications after mid-May. On 19 May, one of the series reappeared in traffic passed on the Soviet-operated ground-controlled intercept network centered at Antung. Since 11 July the second of these callsign series has been heard in volume on the same ground-controlled intercept network. The third callsign series has not been heard since. (SUEDE, AFSA—242H/RUTIS 906, 9 Aug 51).

Comment: This information strongly suggests that organized units of the Soviet Air Force are now stationed in the Manchuria—Korea border area, possibly for combat purposes. The type of aircraft is not known, although most fighter aircraft operating in the area are jets or long-range conventional-engined, penetration fighters.

Previous information has indicated direct Soviet participation in the expansion of enemy air operations since Chinese entry into the Korean war. All pilots and ground operators heard on the ground-controlled intercept network have been Russian, and communications procedures have shown 9th Air Army characteristics. Chinese Communist flight reports have referred to "allied" and "Soviet" aircraft, as distinguished from "Chinese" aircraft, and have named Russian flight-leaders.
KOREA. Recent North Korean military messages reflect urgency: A 13 August analysis of North Korean military messages indicates a new note of urgency in combat preparations on the eastern front. Primarily concerned with North Korean II, III and V Corps logistical activity, the messages detail the sending of 789 horses to these corps and receipt by the II Corps of mountain artillery battalions. (SUDE, TIK-909, 13 Aug 51).

Comment: Mountain artillery and horses will do much to increase the mobility of these three corps. The eastern sector, in which these corps are currently engaged, is very mountainous and well suited to the use of such equipment.

TOP SECRET SUDE
9. KOREA. Communist signal activity at the Kaesong Conference: A recent analysis of Communist radio activity in Kaesong reveals the existence of three communication links—Kaesong-Pyongyang, Kaesong-Beiping, and Soksan-Pyongyang. The analysis concludes with the observation, "It is interesting to note that traffic volume decreased somewhat on the Kaesong-Pyongyang link with the activation of the Kaesong-Beiping link." (SUEDE, 9, 11 Aug 51).

Comment: While this decrease could be interpreted as supporting the contention that Communist decisions on the cease-fire negotiations are made in Beiping, there is no firm evidence that this is true.