20,000 Soviet troops allegedly arrive in southeastern Manchuria:

20,000 Soviet troops arrived in mid-September at Toutaokou (just southwest of Yanji, in southeastern Manchuria near the Korean border). These troops, which came from Siberia by rail, were stationed in the Toutaokou area as of 15 October.

Comment: For the past year, [redacted] have periodically reported the movement of Soviet combat forces into Manchuria. US Army G-2 accepts the presence in Korea of Soviet anti-aircraft artillery units which presumably passed through Manchuria. However, it does not accept the presence in Manchuria of any Soviet combat units.
believes Peiping desires cease-fire in Korea; the "Ill-concealed desire" of the Chinese Communist press in Shanghai for a resumption of cease-fire negotiations in Korea, and noted an "implied concern" over the breakdown of the talks. As a "possible indication" of Peiping's expectation of an agreement in the talks, a reported "upsurge" of economic "efforts" in Shanghai and in Tientsin.

Comment: It is questionable that the Shanghai press would take an independent line on a major matter; the Peiping press, as presented by Peiping radio, has not indicated such a "desire" except on Communist terms or such a "concern" except for a possible relaxation of Chinese vigilance. The unspecified "upsurge" of economic activity could as well be an indication of an expectation of continued hostilities as of a peaceful settlement.

KOREA. UN fighter pilots' observations of enemy jet aircraft: During the course of an encounter between 80 MIG-15's and 32 F-86's in the Sinju-Sinanju area on the afternoon of 12 October, UN pilots observed the following:

(1) One enemy aircraft in a flight was "a shoulder wing type and was believed to be a Type-15." The UN aircraft passed within 100 feet of the enemy plane and observed the figure "1", but no other markings.

(2) A MIG pilot was "wearing a dark colored, close fitting helmet. The enemy pilot also wore an oxygen mask but no goggles, and appeared.
to be light complexioned."

Comment: While still not confirmed, it is entirely possible that the enemy is employing the Type-15 for combat testing purposes and is attempting to conceal its presence among the more familiar MiG-15's.

It would appear difficult to detect the coloration of an enemy pilot under conditions of high-speed jet combat. It is probable, however, that Soviet personnel are piloting some of the enemy jet aircraft encountered in Korea.

19. Enemy artillery fire direction given in Russian language: On 13 and 14 October, radioed enemy artillery fire directions and corrections given in the Russian language were received on a UN divisional radio set. Although the reception of the enemy's transmission was poor, a competent UN Russian linguist was able to make out references to the "34th zone, the 34th zone and height."

Comment: This is the first known instance of Russian language voice transmission being received on UN ground radio sets. While Soviet military personnel have been frequently reported previously as serving antiaircraft artillery in North Korean rear areas, this transmission would seem to confirm the presence of Soviet military personnel in some ground combat role.

It cannot be established from the limited material available whether field or antiaircraft artillery fire was being directed and corrected by this voice transmission. The word "height" could apply either to altitude in the case of antiaircraft artillery or to elevation in the case of field artillery. Similarly, area designators, such as "zones, sectors, or grids," are common to both field artillery fire direction and to an integrated early-warning antiaircraft defense system.

20. ROK takes action to relieve housing shortage in South Korea: On 14 October the ROK Minister of Social Welfare announced that, in view of excesses committed by landlords, refugees would now be allowed free lodging in any living space they can locate.

Comment: The acute housing shortage in both rural and urban areas of South Korea has further worsened the lot of the estimated four million refugees in the southern provinces (the Chollas and the Kyongsangs). Landlord excesses, such as charging exorbitant rents and turning refugees out for non-payment, have forced the ROK Government into this corrective action.

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