FAR EAST

4. Chinese Communist 42nd Army may have withdrawn from Korea:

The Chinese Communist 42nd Army may have withdrawn from Korea between 17 October and 21 November, according to an analysis of enemy communications. This army was last located north of Pyongyang and appears to have been replaced in that area by the 46th Chinese Army which arrived in Korea in early October. The 42nd Army was one of the first Chinese units to enter the Korean war, and would be the first withdrawn since the spring of 1951.

Comment: The Chinese Communist 23rd and 24th Armies have recently arrived in Korea and may be relieving other Chinese units in the east.

5. IL-28 division in Manchuria practices squadron formation bombing:

On 10 and 12 January the flight schedules of the Chinese Communist 8th Air Division at Tsitsihar in Manchuria included "squadron formation bombing" by IL-28 twin-jet light bombers.

The US Air Force comments that this activity, observed for the first time, is beyond the stage of primary training and may indicate that the progress of the 8th Air Division has been more rapid than was anticipated.

Comment: Some Chinese Communist IL-28 units will probably be ready for combat in Korea by early February, while crews for all of the 100 IL-28's now in Manchuria may be trained by early summer.