FAR EAST

4. Chinese jet bomber unit schedules first night training flight:

US Air Force Japan 13 Mar 53
TWO IL-28 aircraft assigned to the Chinese 8th Air Division were scheduled on 13 March for a night training flight at Tsitsihar in Manchuria. The flight was to be led by a Soviet pilot.

Comment: The most serious threat posed by IL-28 twin-jet bombers in Manchuria is that of a predawn attack on crowded UN fighter bases in South Korea. This scheduled flight, the first IL-28 night training activity noted to date, is the first positive indication that the 8th Air Division is increasing its night flying capabilities.