

Half MIG Pilots Were Russian*Wash Post 9 Aug 1953***Truce Fails to Reduce Flow
Of Soviet Arms to Red China**

By Marguerite Higgins

HONGKONG, Aug. 7 (NYHT). The Soviet Union will continue a steady flow of military and technical assistance to Communist China in spite of the Korean truce, according to information reaching Western intelligence sources.

It can now be disclosed that Soviet citizens, including non-Oriental pilots, constituted at one juncture close to 50 percent of the Communist air force.

Radio intercepts of pilot-to-ground conversations in the Yalu River battle area established that Soviet personnel were actively engaged.

Russian dialects vary considerably, so that a catalogue was made indicating what parts of the Soviet Union various MIG pilots hailed from.

Russians also served as tank drivers, artillery officers and in anti-aircraft battalions. Ordinary ground troops also included persons born and educated in Soviet territory.

Actually, the Soviet Union keeps trained on Soviet soil a kind of foreign legion of various nationalities, including forcibly retained German, Yugoslav and Japanese prisoners taken in World War II.

They are shock troops which the Russians can send to any place where it suits them to pretend that a conflict is a civil war. The German troops, for example, would come in handy if the Russians should decide to initiate a Korea-type civil war between East and West Germany.

There has been no drop since the truce in the tempo of the

Soviet supply build-up to China by rail or by sea.

The Red Chinese air force will be given a new potential by activation of an additional complex of airfields in south and southwest China: MIG forces in the base complex south of Shanghai, as at Ninpo and Hangkew, have been reinforced. Between Shanghai and Canton there now are about 250 MIGs, at a minimum.

The Chinese have activated an important group of airfields in the southwest, near French Indo-China.

A base south of Peiping recently received a force of strategic bombers—the Soviet version of the American B-29 Superfortresses. The presence in central China of Soviet-styled jet bombers also has been reported.

The Russians also have been taking an increasing number of Chinese candidates into their naval training centers at Port Arthur and Dairen. It has been reported persistently that a dozen Soviet submarines have been turned over to Red China.

It is known that Chinese are being trained as submariners and that a number of Chinese ports, including Tsingtao, are capable now of handling submarine traffic.

It has been established that the Russians have in the Far East alone seven times as many submarines as were manned by Adolph Hitler's Germany when the Nazis were launching deadly undersea attacks in World War II.