FAR EAST

2. North Korean Air Force may receive IL-28's:

National Security Agency 8 Dec 52

The possible future use of Soviet IL-28 twin jet bombers in the North Korean Air Force is suggested in a recent National Security Agency summary.

In early November, a North Korean "operation group" established communications facilities at Kungchuling, where 42 IL-28's are now located. In mid-November, two high-ranking North Korean air officers, concerned with training and technical activities, flew to the field. Beginning in late November, North Korean flights in TU-2 conventional light bombers were scheduled from Kungchuling, the first confirmed instance of such Korean activity.

Comment: While no direct Korean connection with the newly arrived IL-28's has yet been established, the coincidence of timing and location suggests that some light bombers, possibly IL-28's, will be made available to the North Korean Air Force.
3. President Rhee ready for new move against political opposition:

In commenting on President Rhee's inflammatory anti-Assembly speeches of 2 and 9 December and the 11 December statement by Home Minister Chin that "organizations opposing the government would be eliminated," the American Embassy in Pusan states that many Koreans feel that the "timing, tone and content" of these provocative announcements may signal the beginning of the anticipated campaign against Rhee's political opposition, particularly in the National Assembly.

The Embassy adds that Rhee's move appears to be carefully timed to follow the Eisenhower visit to Korea and the UN discussions on the Korean conflict.

Comment: There have been increasing indications in recent weeks that Rhee is preparing for another showdown with his opponents in the National Assembly. Having won partial victory in his struggle for power last summer, Rhee may now attempt to have the Assembly dissolved.