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FAR EAST

3. North Korean IL-28 jet bombers have "combat" mission:

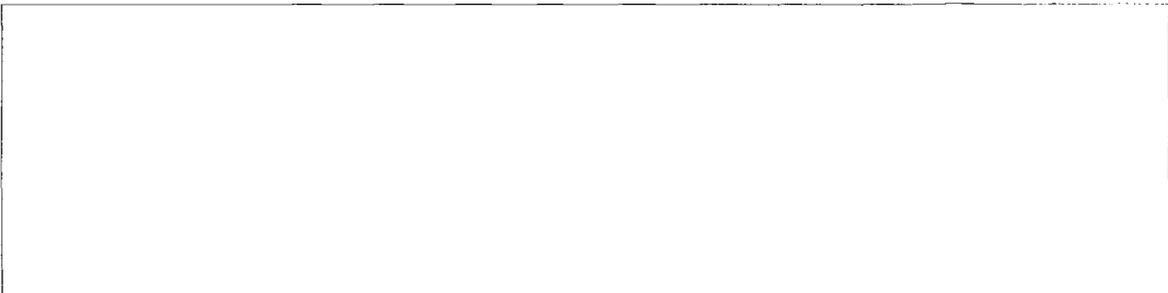
Air Force
Security Service
15 July 53
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Three North Korean IL-28 twin-jet bombers were scheduled to fly from Kungchuling, Manchuria, possibly to Antung or Sinuiju, Korea, on 15 July on a "combat" mission.

There is evidence that past TU-2 bomber flights have utilized this same route to engage in flights over Korea.

Comment: This flight may have been for the purpose of area familiarization prior to the commitment of a larger unit to combat. MIG-15 units have often conducted similar "combat" familiarization flights into Korea.

The North Korean air force now has approximately 40 IL-28's, and the crews are believed to have been ready for combat since May.



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