

CIPHERED TELEGRAM No. 22591

Copy N1 to Cde. Stalin                      Copy N 7 to Cde. Kaganovich

Copy N2 to Cde. Stalin                      Copy N 8 to Cde. Bulganin

Copy N3 to Cde. Molotov                      Copy N 9 to Cde. Khrushchev

Copy N4 to Cde. Beria

Copy N5 to Cde. Malenkov

Copy N6 to Cde. Mikoyan

from Peking    22 July 1950

Extremely urgent

to Filippov

At 1430 22 July I received from Zhou Enlai the following telegram to you from Mao Zedong

"To FILIPPOV.

Having considered the issues of the air cover of the group of our forces on the border with Korea, the conversion of our aircraft to jet equipment, and the acceptance of the materiel and equipment of two Soviet air divisions we welcome your offer and express to you and the Soviet Government special appreciation for the air and assistance being offered.

We intend to deploy a jet [aircraft] division designated by you to protect our troops in the area of Mukden, two regiments [in the area] of Anshan, and one regiment [in the area] of Liaoyang, which will allow the problem of protecting our troops and the industrial region of Mukden, Andong [Dandong], Fushun to be solved in coordination with the fighter regiments of our composite air brigade deployed in the area of Andong.

It is proposed to accomplish the issue of converting our fighters to jet equipment in the following procedure - create a retraining center in the next two months from a jet regiment of Batitsky's group.

It is contemplated to first retrain the existing 65 fighter crews of the composite air brigade to train 160 crews on the jet equipment being transferred to us, [then] by the end of their retraining, December 1950 - January 1951, to begin the retraining the second group (of 100 crews) from the January graduates of the combined aeronautical engineering schools of the Chinese NOA [People's Liberation Army]. Thus we can fully complete the acceptance of the new jet equipment in March and April of 1951.

Consequently we can fully complete the work to accept all the new materiel and equipment of two Soviet air divisions only by this date.

It will be necessary to deploy a training center with a capacity to simultaneously train up to 60 men in order to realize the proposed retraining plan in a timely fashion, providing it with training materiel, visual training aids, and the minimum necessary number of instructors.

We consider it advisable to send General-Major of Aviation Prutkov, our air force representative and senior advisor for air forces, to Moscow for the practical solution of these issues.

Please inform me of your decision.

With Bolshevik greetings - Mao Zedong".

Note (of Roshchin):

By the time this telegram was sent to you an order had been received from USSR Minister of Defense Cde. Vasilevsky by the main military adviser and Cde. Batitsky about the retraining and transfer of the all the aircraft of Batitsky's group to the Chinese friends.

In light of this the General Staff together with our military advisers have worked up a proposal to the government stating that the composite Chinese air brigade is to be concentrated in the Shanghai-Nanjing-Suzhou area for retraining. The shortfall in pilots is to be made up from the combined Harbin-Jinzhou aviation school. The transfer of materiel and the concentration of personnel will be complete in November 1950.

This plan will be examined by the government today and a final decision will be made. Evidently Cde. Mao Zedong will inform you later.

ROSHCHIN

N 1503. 22 July 1950