

Letter from Mao Zedong to Stalin about the supply of aircraft for Chinese aviation in 1952

April 22, 1952

1. We agree with the decision of the Soviet government to supply Chinese aviation in 1952 with various types of aircraft to 15 air regiments. By the end of this year, out of the currently available 8 aviation schools, flight and technical personnel for 26 regiments will be graduated.

In addition, another bomber regiment currently has no aircraft.

Therefore, in addition to the planes ordered in the Soviet Union for 15 regiments, as well as those in the warehouses of MIG-9 aircraft for 4 regiments, there are still 8 regiments of flight and technical personnel that do not have a material part. These regiments can be assigned to the appropriate parts for flight training (for every 2 aircraft - 3 pilots).

2. Of the 19 MiG-15 fighter regiments currently available in our aviation, 15 regiments based at and near airfields in Andong are taking part in hostilities in Korea. Due to losses incurred in battles and during training, 19 fighter regiments have a shortage of 154 MiG-15 aircraft (based on the states of 31 aircraft per regiment).

In order to increase combat effectiveness, ensure the continuation of hostilities, as well as provide the flight personnel with an appropriate number of aircraft to continue improving flight skills, we ask the Soviet government to allow the Chinese government in 1952 to purchase from the Soviet government an additional 100 MIG-15 aircraft, in addition to the aircraft intended for arming 15 regiments, which you indicated in your telegram dated April 9 this year.

We hope that you will send them to China as soon as possible.

Let us know your decision on this matter.

3. A detailed application for the required number of training aircraft of various types in 1952 has already been sent to you through Comrade Krasovsky.

In order to ensure the normal conduct of flight training of aviation schools, we hope for your consent to the number of aircraft indicated in the application.

Greetings

Mao Zedong