

June 23, 1955

**Letter, Lt. General C.R. Ferenbaugh to Vice Minister
Lee Ho**

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Summary:

On June 21, 1955, two defecting members of the North Korean Air force landed a North Korean YAK-18 on Seoul International Airport. Lt. General C.R. Ferenbaugh urges Vice Minister Lee Ho to relinquish the aircraft to the 5th US Air force and the Air Technical Intelligence Center, whom have the "best means" for a thorough investigation on the enemies' (DPRK and USSR) aircraft and aeronautical industrial technique.

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23 June 1955

Vice Minister Lee Ho
Ministry of National Defense
Seoul, Korea

Dear Mr. Minister:

You are aware, I am sure, of the opportunities for intelligence exploitation which have most fortuitously come to our respective military forces through the defection on 21 June 1955 of the two crew members of the North Korean Air Force who landed a North Korean YAK-18 on the Seoul International Airport. This aircraft presents an opportunity not only to study the design and the technical aspects of the aircraft itself, but to develop indications of a deeper nature, such as the aeronautical industrial techniques on the part of the Soviet economy, the selection of materials and the skill in fabrication.

In view of the foregoing, the Commander in Chief Far East considers that it would be mutually beneficial if the Republic of Korea would agree to relinquish custody of the aforementioned North Korean airplane to the United States Air Force in Korea, specifically to representatives in Korea of the 5th United States Air Force, for shipment to and exploitation by the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. I am sure, Mr. Minister, you will agree that this technical center constitutes the best available means by which a most thorough examination and exploitation of all the technical intelligence aspects of this item of military equipment may be accomplished. You may be assured that the intelligence resulting from the United States Air Force examination of this airplane will be made available to the Republic of Korea.

Please accept, Mr. Minister, assurances of my continued esteem.

Sincerely,

C. B. FERENBAUGH
Lt. General, USA
Deputy Army Commander



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