

Red Jets Fight Chiang Planes Near Matsu

TAIPEI (Formosa), May 5 (Thursday). — (AP) — Communist jet fighters yesterday challenged Nationalist planes for the first time in the Matsu area, underscoring reports of an ominous Red air buildup on Formosa's approaches.

The Chinese Air Force said four MIG-15s attacked four propeller planes which were on patrol off the coast fifty miles

north of the Matsu Islands and about 150 miles north of Formosa.

A communique reported the four Nationalist planes—presumably single seat fighters—returned undamaged. No damage to the MIGs was claimed.

BOATS ATTACKED. Other Nationalist planes attacked five small gunboats in Amoy Harbor across Formosa Strait. The Air Force said one

of the gunboats was set afire and two others were damaged. The gunboats were 300 to 400 tonners.

The big news, however, was the appearance so near Formosa of the fast Communist jet fighters of the type that fought in the Korean war.

It was possible they came from a new air base at Lukiao, described as the largest and best in all Red China. Lukiao is

200 miles north of the Matsus.

The Air Force said the air battle lasted two minutes. It began at 4:30 p. m. when the MIGs flashed down from 14,000 feet ten miles off the coast opposite the town of Siapu.

REDS FLEE.

The MIGs were dark blue and with the Red Star on the wings. The Air Force said the Nationalist planes teamed in warding off the attackers who "fled"

after a furious exchange.

The Interior Ministry's Tatao News Agency asserted the Red land and sea buildup was moving ahead steadily along the southeast coast, from the Quemoy area 175 miles northward to the Matsus.

Tatao, which claims underground contacts on the mainland, said the Communists were organizing "dare-to-die" units to lead attacks on the island outposts. Fast Red torpedo boats patrol the coast.

Tatao said security measures were tightened around Foo-

chow, river port forty miles west of the Matsus where air strips are reported being finished.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister George Yeh in an interview declared that his government "has never requested, nor has the United States Government offered, ground forces to be stationed in Taiwan (Formosa)."

He denied that Premier O. K. Yui had told the legislative Yuan (Parliament) Tuesday that "something spectacular" might be in the offing. One

Taipei newspaper had published this. There was speculation this "something spectacular" might be the stationing of United States ground forces on Formosa.

(Asked about this report at his news conference in Washington Wednesday, President Eisenhower replied that there has been no suggestion for the creation of a permanent United States base on Formosa.)

Asked if he had told the Yuan—as one Taipei newspaper asserted—that there might be

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"a certain area of understanding" between the United States and Nationalist China on a Formosan cease-fire, Yeh declared: "I deny that. I said nothing of the sort."

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