

Cable from Stalin Mao Zedong about supplies Soviet Mig aircraft in PCR

May 26, 1951

Thank you very much, Comrade Mao Zedong, for your gratitude.

However, the main thing here is not gratitude, which we appreciate, but that that we Russians made the mistake of thinking that the MiG-9 fighters could compete with the best jet fighters of the Anglo-Americans. Now, after the air battles in North Korea, this is absolutely clear. The significance of this error is that it can cause damage to China's air defense if this error is not corrected.

Since the responsibility for this mistake lies entirely with us, the Russians, we considered it our duty to eliminate our mistake by replacing the MiG-9 fighters with the MiG-15 fighters at our expense, that is, free of charge for China. Setting as our goal the strengthening of the defense of our ally - China, we could not act otherwise.

As for the MiG-9 fighters you have, we could rightfully take them back to the USSR. But since now you need them many times more than we do, we decided to leave them at your disposal. Let this be our answer for the service that you have rendered us by purchasing natural rubber for us.

Hello.

Filippov.