

Soviet Air Power

NEW YORK, Sunday: The Soviet Union had 4,500 planes based in the Far East in addition to the Communist Air Forces in Manchuria and Korea, it was reported yesterday from Tokyo.

General E. P. Weyland, Commander of the U.S. Far East Air Forces, gave this estimate in an interview, adding that the Chinese had about 2,500 combat planes.

He conceded that American planes in the Far East area were greatly outnumbered, but said they could make an air intruder "pay heavily."

"If an all-out attack were launched against Japan from a combination of the bordering Communist nations while we are engaged in the current Korean operations," the General said, "the present strength of the Far East Air Forces could not adequately cope with the composite air power which could oppose us."

"It should be pointed out, however, that we could be reinforced very quickly from the United States."

Commenting on mysterious flying objects sighted over Northern Japan, General Weyland said: "Our evaluations to date of reports on so-called discs and other unidentified objects leaves us unalarmed but not disinterested."

He said U.S. Air Forces' planes had not been flying over Manchuria as charged by Communist propaganda radio broadcasts.