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SPECIAL REPORT  
19 MARCH 1948

*1 Korea*

b. The Draft Constitution: The unanimity of Korean response to the draft constitution is a familiar and major part of Pyongyang's broadcasts. It is also reported, but in more minimal fashion, by Moscow. This week, in a Korean-language broadcast on 9 March, Moscow quotes a Pyongyang report of the "warm" reception given the draft constitution in South Korea. The broadcast also reports the "stern demands" made by South Koreans for civil reforms and notes the "inhuman oppression" to which they are subjected by the American occupation authorities. Moscow mentions the manifesto of the South Korean Labor Party--a document on which Pyongyang expounds at some length. "Only bands of reactionaries" oppose the draft constitution, says Moscow still reporting Pyongyang's statement, and they are the same groups who are "taking the trouble to keep American troops occupying South Korea under the pretext of 'preventing the so-called Communist threat.'"

Pyongyang's comment on the draft constitution is voluminous and frequent. It is often associated with adverse comment on the U.N. Commission and the proposed May election; the latter is treated as representative of retardation in the southern zone, while the draft constitution is treated as representative of the progress made toward independence in the north. Pyongyang continues to report the various suggestions made for changes in the draft and the meetings held in support of it. It also reports the decision to postpone until April the meeting at which the People's Committee is to consider the document.

These reports of harmonious acceptance of the draft constitution are paralleled with reports of meetings being held "in every nook and corner of Korea" at which the people register their "utter rejection" of the U.N. Commission and the 9 May elections. These broadcasts follow the usual Pyongyang style of flowery and emotional language. However, reports of the disturbances in the American zone, said to register Korean opposition to the election plans, are brief and seemingly factual.

Pyongyang devotes considerable attention to the 9 March meeting of the North Korean Democratic Front at which Kim Il Sung spoke. His address, entitled "For the Unification and Sovereign Independence of Korea in Opposition to the Holding of Separate Elections for the Formation of a Reactionary Separate Government in South Korea," restates flamboyantly the familiar arguments in opposition to the election. Moscow, reporting the meeting and Kim's speech in a Japanese-language broadcast of 17 March, emphasizes Kim's announcement that Koreans will not recognize any "puppet government" set up as a result of the election and sums up his appeal for united action to "thwart plans for dividing and enslaving Korea, plans prepared by the Americans and their cohorts."

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Korea

Again this week Moscow broadcasters display scanty and generalized interest in Korean developments. Soviet broadcasts to and about Korea restate the familiar theme of American ambitions to control Korea. Particular reference is made to the U.N. Commission and to U.S. refusal to withdraw troops as prima facie evidence of those ambitions. The alleged absence of civil liberties south of the 38th parallel is pointed out again in further criticism of American occupation policies; and, again, the state of affairs north of the parallel is described as in complete contrast to that in the American zone.

a. Fraud in the American Zone: "Fraud" against the people of South Korea is being perpetrated by America in the plans for a 9 May election, Danilov contends. (In Korean, 11 March 1948) Preparations for the election made by the United States, aided and abetted by the U.N. Commission and the Little Assembly, have led to the arrest and imprisonment of "thousands of patriots, democrats, and other leaders fighting for the freedom and independence of the Korean people," he avers. He explains that the Assembly to be elected by these "fraudulent" methods in May will establish a "puppet government" in accordance with plans drawn up by Syngman Rhee, General Hildring, and other Americans.

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