

Moscow has but two things to say in broadcasts to and about Korea; these are repeated time and time again as they have been in recent weeks. Both themes--Koreans are opposed to the 9 May elections and the U.S. is attempting to divide Korea--are but part of the theme which dominates much of Moscow's radio propaganda, namely that the U.S. is an imperialist, warmongering nation intent on dominating the world.

a. Farmers Buying Land Must Pay 50 Percent of Crops (a Misstatement): Smolensky, in two commentaries, and Troyanov review the familiar charges of U.S. "imperialist meddling" in south Korea. These include the allegedly impoverished state of farmers and workers, failure to institute a land reform program, American control of Korean resources allegedly exercised through the New Korea Company, existence of a "police state" in south Korea, etc. All these are said to reveal American ambitions to control Korea as a potential base of aggression in Asia. The commentators quote the same figures of arrests for political reasons that have been quoted before; in fact the charges and evidence to support them are almost entirely repetitious. (in Russian to Soviet Asia, 18 March; Irkutsk, in Russian international Morse for TASS in Shanghai, 17 March; Soviet Home Service, 18 March 1948)

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Troyanov, however, does mention the recently promulgated plan for land reform. He treats it as further evidence of American malevolence toward Koreans declaring that "the farmers will receive land, but during a 15-year period will have to give one half of the harvests to the landlords." (the NEW YORK TIMES reported, on 23 March 1948, that "the farmers will pay three years' full production of the principal crop over a period of 15 years at the rate of 20 percent of the principal crop a year." If this is correct, the Soviet figure is 2.5 times the true figure. Payments will also be made to the National Land Administration, successor to the New Korea Company.)

b. The Holding of an Election is an "Atrocious" Plot: Moscow repeats in five transmissions a TASS report of meetings all over North Korea at which Koreans are said to be expressing their "all-out resistance" to the "atrocious" plot of "American plunderers"--the plan to hold elections 9 May in the American zone. This plan is said to reveal clearly the American plot to divide Korea, and is said to have aroused the resentment of all Koreans. (The item was transmitted in English, in Korean, and by TASS in Russian Hellschreiber, on 21 March 1948)

Pyeongyang reports these same protest meetings but to this picture of northern resentment adds accounts of various disorders which are said to be occurring south of the 38th parallel and which are reported as evidence of southern resentment and protest over the U.N. Commission and the holding of an election in the southern zone.