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WEEKLY SURVEY
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KOREA: ELECTIONS IN SOUTH KOREA DENOUNCED

Radio Moscow continues its minimal coverage of Korean affairs and this week reports only that North Koreans are signing the Stockholm peace appeal, that South Koreans are resisting Syngman Rhee and the Americans, and that North Korea is making great progress. Radio Pyongyang, however, goes to some length to denounce the 30 May elections in South Korea and to praise the Red Army for defeating Germany. As is customary it calls on South Koreans to smash the U.N. Commission and to drive out the United States. It also appeals to South Koreans to "frustrate" the land reform, the elections, and the conscription program.

a. 30 May Elections Attacked: In what may be a reflection of Pyongyang's sensitivity on the subject of elections--the failure to hold elections in the North last September has never been explained--Pyongyang broadcasts seven commentaries condemning the pending elections as "country-ruining," as "designed to intensify the massacring of the people," and "as doomed to general failure." This anti-election campaign includes not only denunciation of the 30 May balloting but criticism of the 1948 elections. Pyongyang's commentators contend that both elections have been demanded by the Americans and that they serve only to "cover up the true state of the puppet group facing collapse and to justify the continued aggressive policy of the U.S. and the country-ruining policy of the Syngman Rhee gang."

Syngman Rhee's indecision as to the date of the elections is offered as further evidence of his weakness and of American pressure; one commentary insists that Secretary Acheson "whipped" the South Korean President into holding the elections in May although he had wished to postpone them until later in the year.

b. Praise of the Soviet Union: Radio Pyongyang's current praise of the Soviet Union is keyed to the anniversary of the end in the war in Europe--there are five commentaries praising the Red Army for its "righteous" liberation of the small nations and its glorious defeat of Germany. On the occasion of Press Day in the USSR there is praise of Soviet publications "which are the most democratic in the world" and there are two commentaries observing the birth anniversary of Karl Marx on 5 May. Radio Moscow does not appear to have commented on the Marx anniversary in monitored broadcasts but Pyongyang applauds him for his devotion to the cause of the proletariat.

c. The Peace Campaign: Pyongyang's commentaries on the Soviet-led peace campaign bear such stereotyped titles as "All the peoples of the world are marching forward under the banner of peace" and "Let us cement more than ever our solidarity with the peace-loving peoples." The seven broadcasts generalize on the militarism of the United States, the peaceful purposes of the USSR, and the activities of the Partisans for World Peace. In one commentary of 2 May the campaign for world peace is identified with the campaign for unification of Korea and the commentator claims that "the struggle for world peace and security is linked with our struggle for the peaceful unification of our fatherland."

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