

MOSCOW & EUROPEAN SATELLITES*: "THE DISAPPEARING MYTH OF U.S. OMNIPOTENCE"

Toward the end of last week, the tone and substance of Soviet-Communist radio comments related to the situation in Korea appeared to have reached a state of temporary stability. While sprinkling their broadcasts with occasional implications of counter-threat and belligerence, Soviet-Communist broadcasts in the main continued to recapitulate familiar charges and claims about the American "aggression," the subsequent world-wide "protests," and the need for intensifying the "peace movement."

Over the weekend, however, they began to exploit the unchecked North Korean advance primarily in terms of an exclusively American defeat; this, it was suggested, should be food for thought in Western-oriented countries where heightened fear, hesitation, consternation and diminishing faith in the efficiency and knowledge of the U.S. military are said to reign. Recent broadcasts have also been marked by the appearance of invidious references to the U.N. as such, although they are still made in the context of America's allegedly evil role. Radio Moscow's first direct appeal to "young Americans" uses the crude argument that they are having to die "in so many thousands so far away from their homes" because J.P. Morgan and Rockefeller want control of North Korean coal mines and oil rights, respectively, and because of the profit-seeking lust of the American "munition kings."

Gerhart Eisler, broadcasting over Radio Berlin, is the author of a unique commentary attributing alleged American atrocities against the Koreans to the hatred of all colored peoples that has been inculcated into American soldiers by "U.S. reaction." He then proceeds to recommend propaganda work especially among American Negro troops in Germany; since they "hate their white American oppressors and harbor natural feelings of sympathy for the Korean people," it is implied that they could be influenced "to join us in fighting for peace, in demanding the end of the American imperialist war in Korea." (Although other Communist sources dwell on the idea of American "aggression" against the people of Asia, they do not attempt to associate it with the racial problem within the United States.)

* Since the preparation of a series of special reports on the Korean situation has already involved coverage of all monitored Satellite as well as Soviet broadcasts, this section's coverage has been expanded accordingly, as was last week's.

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Otherwise, Soviet-Communist broadcasts continue to repeat the "evidence" of America's allegedly long and deliberate preparations for aggression against Korea; to harp on the from-preparations-to-aggression theme; to link the Korean situation to the need for intensifying the "peace campaign," which is quite frequently given a strength-for-war connotation (see p. B 1 ff); to publicize the world-wide "protests" and the current WFTU-sponsored "week of active solidarity with the Korean people"*; and to draw occasional parallels between the Korean situation and what might presumably happen in the Balkans and Germany. Occasional allusions to the danger of general war also continue to appear.

a. "Haughtily Advertised U.S. Troops...Suffering Defeat After Defeat": Radio Moscow's only available military analysis of the Korean fighting (by a Colonel Tolchenov in a Home Service broadcast) makes a particular point of the fact that, instead of simply expelling the defending enemy, the North Koreans "apply widely successful and complex operations, such as encirclement and liquidation of enemy fractions, taking thousands of prisoners." All of this, says the colonel, "points... to the operative skill of the command, to the valor and high military preparedness of the Korean People's Army." As for the Americans:

"...it presents in a most unfavorable light those U.S. military advisers who had trained the South Korean troops. ... Instead of triumphant victory reports, grim messages on the routing of South Korean troops... and the flight of U.S. advisers from Seoul began to reach Washington. ... Even the American press itself reports that the U.S. armed forces were unable to gain military laurels in Korea.

"The U.S. Airforce merely confines itself to gangster raids on peaceful towns and villages of North Korea and populated points of South Korea liberated by the People's Army."

Tolchenov does not attempt to generalize the South Korean retreats into a defeat of the U.S. Armed Forces per se. But this is done by other Communist radios which speak about the "crushed U.S. ground troops" (Pyongyang), "the defeat after defeat of the U.S. interventionist troops" (Budapest), the "latest defeat of U.S. forces" (Warsaw), "another disgrace for the Stars and Stripes already covered with shame in China" (Berlin), and the "poor showing and state of confusion among the American forces" (Peiping). Although most of them imply that this "poor showing" reflects the weakness of "imperialism," few of them go so far as does Radio Peiping's claim that "it fully shows that American imperialism is barbaric, but weak; infamous, but not to be feared."

* The word "active" is still undefined, except for allusions to worker refusals to handle arms shipments and to Polish collections of money for "defenseless" Korean victims of American bombings. In this connection, too, North Korean broadcasts repeatedly claim that the North Koreans "do not stand alone" and that they have the support of the USSR and the other "forces of peace and democracy"; but they do not elaborate on the nature of this support.

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A somewhat more typical line is contained in broadcasts from Radios Warsaw and Budapest. They talk about the allegedly resulting decline in American prestige among the peoples of both Asia and Western Europe. Europe's "fears and hesitation" are said to have grown as a result of "the American failures."

"More and more often voices of warning are being heard against going too far on the side of the aggressors. The reactionaries are watching with fear the myth of omnipotence and limitless possibilities of America disappear from the minds of the people." (Warsaw, Polish Home Service, 8 July)

Further, says another Polish commentary, the fact that the U.S. Airforce, which is "quite good at bombing cities and killing civilians, is unable to act efficiently in the battlefield and provide the necessary support for the fighting infantry" is probably causing "considerable food for thought in the Atlantic Pact countries which are supposed to deliver their infantry for the planned American adventures in Europe." Moreover, there is said to be fear that the U.S., "automatically compelled to concentrate its armament effort in Asia, will automatically cut the delivery of arms to its European vassals."

b. U.S. Military Weakness and Soviet-Communist Strength: In all the talk about the Korean situation and about American military weakness, there are few direct references to the strength of the Soviet-Communist military forces. But there are allusions to Soviet-Communist strength, usually defined in terms of the "peace camp," in contexts far from peaceful.

In one Soviet Home Service broadcast on the nature of Communism, the commentator warns that despite the USSR's friendly neighbors the "danger of an attack by the capitalist countries on the Soviet Union has not passed.... The U.S., British, and other imperialists are preparing a new world war against the Soviet Union and the countries of People's Democracy. At present the U.S. Government has launched a direct act of armed aggression against the Korean People's Democratic Republic and against the Chinese People's Republic. In realizing the building of a Communist society it is necessary to be exceedingly vigilant, to strengthen the Soviet Socialist State in every way, and to increase the Soviet Union's economic and military might. The Soviet people know that their foremost duty in the struggle for peace is the further strengthening of the Soviet State and its might as the bulwark of peace throughout the world."

In another Moscow broadcast, a Soviet steelworker tells German "activists" that "we Soviet workers are giving our reply to the provocation of the warmongers in Korea by even greater Stakhanovite achievements which are further increasing the strength of the peace camp. ...steel produced by me... is needed for the victory of the cause of peace."

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And still another Soviet commentary, in Rumanian, ends a discussion of the American "aggression against the Asian peoples" with claims that the history of aggressors repeats itself, that the current American "aggression" is a reflection of "fear before the unheard-of elan of the peace movement," and that the "vast peace movement has at its disposal the means and necessary force to call to order the adventurers who have lost balance, and to foil their criminal machinations."

There are similar statements in Satellite broadcasts. A Budapest commentary about the "repeated U.S. defeats," and about the need for Hungarian vigilance in defense of peace, concludes by calling for strengthening the "people's army." A Warsaw commentator claims that "European confusion and uneasiness has become more aggravated" following the result of the "resolute Soviet note making the U.S. responsible for any damages that might be suffered by Soviet ships" as a result of the Korean blockade. And a Berlin broadcast suggests that the American "defeat in Korea" will strengthen the European nations in their determination for "peace"--in which connection, the recent treaties between the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary are held to be of "outstanding significance."

c. "The Debris of the Half-Demolished Security Council": The clearest instance of Soviet-Communist propaganda against the U.N. per se is the broadcast PRAVDA article by its New York correspondents, Rassadin and Philippov. Rehashing the standard Soviet arguments about the illegality of the Security Council's resolutions on Korea, they attack its most recent decision about combined troops under the U.N. flag in Korea as:

"An attempt... to form under the U.N. flag a coalition of imperialist beasts of prey for a sanguinary act of violence against the Korean people. ... They want to dishonor the U.N. flag and use it as a cover for American aggression against the Korean people and other Asian peoples. ...this most shameful resolution is unlawful and cannot express the genuine will of the United Nations. It is a disgrace for the U.N. itself which is meant to fight for peace..., not to connive with the warmongers."

The blame for the U.N.'s "paralysis" and "shame" is of course laid at the door of the U.S. "policy of undermining and destroying the United Nations."

Occasional Satellite broadcasts have also attacked the U.N. itself. Warsaw charges that "the U.N. flag under which the aggressors try to hide their atrocities is not the flag of the U.N., but a label for the wax figures of U.S. imperialism." And Berlin, quoting the BERLINER ZEITUNG, draws a parallel between the League of Nations and the current actions of the United Nations. Observing that the League "did nothing to help the Spanish Republic... (or) to restrain Hitler...", the broadcast charges that "the majority in the present-day U.N. follows along this course in supporting the Korean war...."

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d. Other Areas Allegedly Threatened by the "Imperialists": East-German sources continue to hold up the specter of a Korea-like imperialist attack on Germany. The clandestine "Free Greece" radio continues to warn about an extension of a Tito-involved "imperialist war" in the Balkans, particularly against Albania and Bulgaria. And Budapest talks about Tito "lying in wait in our neighborhood."

An interesting footnote to this Satellite fear-mongering is Radio Sofia's complaint that the work of Bulgarian peasants "is hampered only by the enemies of the country who are encouraged by the insolent aggression of the American imperialists in Korea. These creatures must be brought to feel the strong hand of authority and the contempt of the people."

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ASIAN COMMUNIST RADIOS: THE WAR IS JUST, HOLY, AND RIGHTEOUS

The war in Korea, in the view of broadcasters in Pyongyang, Seoul, Peiping and of the Ho Chi Minh radio, is a righteous effort to liberate Korea from the "bloody" hands of American imperialists. They buttress their stand by reporting the unity and solidarity of the Korean people behind the "holy" war and the support expressed by the peace camp. In what appears to be a case of exceptional distortion Pyongyang adds Premier Nehru to the list of those who denounce American aggression. The obverse side of the coin is delineated by claims that "the people" of the Western nations oppose America's aggression in Korea, by almost complete avoidance of the fact that other than American forces are participating in the drive to push back the North Koreans, and--in the case of the Viet Minh radio--by the remark that "the funny thing is that practically all the accessory nations are only supporting (the war) with declarations and letting the U.S. bear all the weight of the war."

Pyongyang broadcasts reveal what appears to be a concerted campaign to instill hate-America feelings in the Korean people; Kim Il Sung takes the lead by identifying President Truman as a slaughterer and murderer. American air attacks are characterized as brutal, barbaric and wanton, American treatment of prisoners of war is also characterized as brutal and barbaric, General MacArthur is identified as a butcher, and the Korean people are said to look with scorn on American prisoners arriving in Pyongyang. Peiping, in line with its conventional attempt to discredit the U.S., notes the haste with which American troops "scurry" away from the battlefronts.

a. Parallel Emphasis on American Guilt and North Korean Righteousness:
The claim that the American imperialists bear the full responsibility for events in Korea has been magnified in North Korean broadcasts. This week the claim is expanded into what appears to be an all-out hate-America campaign via virulent emotional attacks on President Truman, General MacArthur and the armed forces. Kim Il Sung takes the lead in this effort in an 8 July appeal to the Korean nation to "destroy the enemy more ruthlessly" and to "erase the American looters and their hirelings from our fatherland." Kim insists that America hopes to enslave the Korean nation, that it dreams of world hegemony, that America has resorted to "terrorism, blackmail, and other deceitful methods" plus internecine warfare to obstruct Korean unification and that the U.S. "does not recognize the Korean people as human beings" and is concerned only to "fatten the bloody wallets of the Wall Street merchants." Likening the U.S. to Japan and to Nazi Germany, Kim describes American air attacks on Korea in the following emotionally-charged terms:

"The American imperialists are making our peaceful cities and farm villages a maneuver ground for their military forces, and are making airforce targets of our brothers, sisters, women and aged people.
...liberated cities and villages are being bombed brutally and con-

tinuously by their war planes. They are shooting men and women working on their farms and are dropping bombs on our children. Thus the American butchers are using the same massacre methods as the Hitlerite gang and the Japanese militarists."

(Incidentally, Radio Seoul's report of Korean reaction to this appeal fails to reflect Kim's fervor. A 10 July broadcast notes that the broadcast was received with great pleasure and that the people have made up their minds to fight their best in response to Kim Il Sung's address.)

NODONG SINMUM shows less restraint than Kim. One editorial repeatedly characterizes Truman as the "slaughterer of the Korean people" and identifies General MacArthur as "the butcher of the Asiatic peoples." The President is said to be a "disciple of Hitler" whose direct armed aggression reveals his "unparalleled vicious, brutal, and aggressive character." NODONG SINMUM echoes Kim Il Sung in asserting that American aircraft, obedient to the orders of "madman Truman," are "strafing even the girls and infants of the farming villages." The editorial analyzes Truman's objectives as follows:

"Look at Truman and the atomic warmongers--these bloodsuckers who want to suck the warm blood of our people and plunge our land into a sea of blood. What are they dreaming of and what are they after? It is very clear. They are dreaming of making a colony of our beautiful fatherland and cheap slaves of the Korean people. They are after the fertile land which has been returned to the farmers who till it. They are after the gigantic factories which are being operated by the workers and all the democratic rights and freedoms which the workers are enjoying."

America's objectives are said to have been evident for some time for "our people have known all along what was in the bloody minds of the vicious American imperialists from the very day of our liberation, 15 August 1945."

Another Pyongyang commentary warns American imperialists to "keep your bloody hands off our fatherland" and identifies American forces as "beast-like aggressors." And Korean awareness of the despicableness of America is claimed in the 11 July observation that as American prisoners of war arrived in Pyongyang "many citizens gathered along the road... and gave these beastly imperialistic American soldiers glances filled with hatred and contempt."

Pyongyang and Seoul devote equal energy to establishing the righteousness of this "holy war" to liberate Korea--a campaign in which they are joined by other Communist radios in Asia. The righteousness claim is reiterated endlessly. It is bolstered by reports of the widespread support the "holy war" is receiving from the Korean people, the world peace camp, and even from captured American soldiers. Pyongyang and Seoul repeatedly quote resolutions of support issued by Korean organizations in both cities and they broadcast addresses by scientists, workers, farmers and former South

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Korean officials in which the justice of the North Korean cause displaces all other topics. Kim Hyo Suk, former Minister of the Interior in the South Korean Government, is one of the former officials to "repent his past sins and crimes" in a Seoul broadcast. TASS and Peiping, which claim that Kim gave a "devastating exposure" of the treachery of Syngman Rhee and the U.S., both summarize the address. In the 5 July broadcast the former official identifies himself as a "traitorous lackey who... aided traitor Syngman Rhee in massacring the people." He acknowledges that he participated in many plots against his patriotic fellow countrymen and that the most vicious of these plots was that "to plunge the Korean people into the havoc of an internecine civil war--the so-called northern expedition." Kim abjectly reveals that "tears of repentance" overcome him when he looks back on the crimes he has committed. Then, with somewhat more composure, he "thoroughly exposes the crimes of the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee traitor gang on the basis of what I personally have seen and heard."

Others to express their repentance include officers and men of the South Korean Army, one of whom is quoted as wishing he had deserted earlier. He pleads with his former associates to point their guns at vicious officers and join the North Korean forces or the guerrillas. "The world democratic might which is on our side" not only indicates the righteousness of our cause, says NODONG SINMUN, it guarantees our eventual victory. Other acknowledgements of the world support accorded the North Koreans include the announcement that the WFTU has called for a week of "active" participation (the term active is never defined), a summary of the World Peace Committee's response to the North Korean Appeal (a response which castigates the U.S. and calls for more signatures to the Stockholm Appeal but is otherwise unsubstantial), and occasional references to the USSR's support of North Korea--both historically and currently.

American prisoners of war are included in the growing list of those who have "come to realize the ardent aspirations and wishes of the Korean people" and who express their contempt for Wall Street imperialists and the Syngman Rhee gang. Capt. Ambrose H. Nugent is quoted in two broadcasts as expressing his belief and faith in the North Korean cause and his contempt for the U.S. masters of Syngman Rhee. In a 9 July broadcast Captain Nugent endorses the North Korean claim that the U.N. could not legally consider the Korean issue since there were no Korean participants and the claim that "all the peace-loving peoples over the world" support the North Koreans. He admits that his participation "in the Korean people's righteous struggles" made him realize "that we were sent here for the benefit of the monopolistic merchants." He appeals to "dear friends" to "fight for right against wrong" and to oppose bravely the "barbaric aggressive action to

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protect the benefits of the capitalist monopolists of the U.S.A.)* An 11 July broadcast quotes Captain Nugent as "regretting that as a servant of the Wall Street merchants I have participated in a war which disturbs the unification and freedom of the peaceful Korean people."

"As I see the Koreans fighting for the freedom and independence of their fatherland I feel that America should take her hands off Korea as soon as she can."

b. The United Nations Role: Asian Communist radios consistently ignore the participation of other than American forces in the Korean fighting. The decision to use the U.N. flag in the Korean theater is overlooked, as is the appointment of General MacArthur as U.N. Commander-in-Chief.

References to the Security Council's actions in the Korean affair denounce American machinations in the Council but do not attack the United Nations directly. The Viet Minh radio argues that the United Nations "has been changed into a tool of invasion war in the hands of American reactionaries" and Pyongyang repeatedly emphasizes that American force has been applied unceasingly in Security Council debates.

c. Viet Minh Radios Protest American Aggression: As is indicated above the Viet Minh radios adhere to the Communist line in denouncing American aggression in Korea and in predicting that the path taken by the U.S. leads only to the abyss of defeat. They argue that American militarism is the successor to Japanese militarism and that President Truman's "arrogant declarations" reveal American plans for attacks on other nations in Asia. These revelations are said to be resulting in intensified preparations for the general counteroffensive but the latter subject is discussed only in the usual vague generalities as to time, place, and scope. The radios report approval of Chou En-lai's 6 July declaration of the Chinese People's Republic's determination to liberate Formosa, and note that, at a meeting commemorating the Double Seventh anniversary of the Japanese attack on China, members of the radio staff "protested against imperialist America provoking war in Korea."

d. Radio Peiping Reports the War: Radio Peiping, too, adheres closely to the Communist line in reporting developments in Korea. It demonstrates greater concern with Formosa than with Korea but does not explicitly dissociate the two issues. The two issues are usually treated as related.

* The statement does not appear to have been written by an American; it reads exactly like an English translation of a typical Pyongyang propaganda broadcast. The speaker's voice faltered and quavered at several points in the broadcast, which was read slowly, phrase by phrase, in a tired, halting, toneless voice. Hesitation was particularly noticeable in such words as "imperialist" and "reactionary." The speaker was identified as "Captain, 24th Division Artillery, 52nd Battalion."

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News reports give detailed accounts of military communiques and of guerrilla activities. They summarize Kim Il Sung's appeal to the Korean people, denounce American aggression, and report the statements of South Koreans who now admit the error of their ways. World support of the Korean people is claimed in a JEN MIN JIH PAO editorial which predicts victory for the North Korean forces because the camp of peace supports them. The WFTU statement is reported and the All-China Federation of Labor is said to be responding to this appeal by preparing to observe "anti-aggression week" starting 17 July. The purpose of the week is said to be "to enable the Chinese people to understand more about the facts of American plots for aggression in the Far East" and to "arouse the people to oppose American aggression in Taiwan and back up the Korean people."

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