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USSR SURVEY
14 DECEMBER 1950

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COMMUNIST CHINA AND THE KOREAN WAR

In the past two weeks Moscow has engaged in a full-scale propaganda attack on American aggression against China, has praised Peiping's "voluntary" assistance to the Korean People's Army, has noted "panic" in the United States and has dwelt on the European nations' opposition to the militant course being pursued by the United States. On the other hand, it has not applied a propaganda pattern that commits Soviet propagandists to any specific course of action vis-a-vis Chinese Communist intentions south of the 38th Parallel or in negotiations leading to a political rather than a military settlement.

The attack on American aggression received unprecedented emphasis on 3 and 4 December when a PRAVDA attack on President Truman's 30 November attempt to "threaten" the Chinese and Korean peoples was broadcast at least 176 times in 25 languages--a record which has not been equaled by any other single article or commentary in the past two years. This opening barrage was followed by a series of widely distributed PRAVDA and IZVESTIA articles accusing President Truman, acting alone and in concert with Prime Minister Attlee, of plotting "a program of open, feverish preparations for a new world war." Vishinsky's accusations along this same line have been widely publicized, as has the vitriolic address of Chinese Delegate Wu. Moscow also points to U.S. military preparations, including Mr. Truman's request for a new military appropriation.

On the other hand, Soviet broadcasters have balanced this attack on American aggression with a campaign designed to minimize American military strength. Throughout the intensified attack on President Truman, keyed to the 30 November press interview, there was no reference to his remarks on the possible use of the atom bomb. Moscow also dwells on defeatism in the United States, on Western opposition to a military solution, and on American press proposals for a negotiated settlement. (But Soviet broadcasters do not discuss those proposals explicitly, nor have they mentioned Sir Benegal Rau's efforts in this direction.)

Commentaries on military developments in Korea emphasize the superior fighting ability and morale of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese volunteers and make frequent reference to Western criticism of General MacArthur. Furthermore, Moscow has not yet taken up the projected mobilization of the American economy--a development which might tend to encourage confidence in American strength. Rather, it has concentrated on signs of European dissatisfaction with the "American" war in Korea, in what appears to be an attempt to build up a propaganda picture of the United States isolated from friends in Europe, at war with Asia, and facing internal dissension.

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