

USSR SURVEY
26 JULY 1951

THE FAR EAST

Korean War: Moscow Marks Time

The volume and substance of Soviet radio comment on the Korean war suggest that Soviet broadcasters, having established a propaganda basis from which to exploit any outcome of the Kaesong negotiations, are marking time. The volume of attention gradually declines from the high point of late June and there is increasing emphasis on peace elements in the propaganda. There is no Soviet comment as such on the negotiations and there is continuing pressure on the American people via a marked concentration on the war in English-language broadcasts beamed to America and Asia. These now account for more than half of the references to the war whereas Korean-language broadcasts, for example, contain only three references to the war in each week.

Reiteration of Communist Terms: While Moscow does not initiate comment urging any particular course of action at Kaesong it does relay Sino-Korean editorials insisting that all foreign troops must be withdrawn.

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Kaesong negotiations. These charges, broadcast primarily to Asian audiences, include accounts of bases in Ceylon, aggressive pacts with New Zealand, Australia, and the other Pacific nations, and the potential remilitarization of Japan. In the last few days there has been a revival of charges that America is violating China's air frontier.

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It also quotes editorials questioning the sincerity of the U.S. but these editorials receive less emphasis than reports of the troops' desire for peace.

Emphasis on Peace Elements: The world-wide desire for peace in Korea is reiterated day after day, especially in broadcasts beamed to American audiences. To an increasing degree this desire is being related to the larger-scale peace campaign and Moscow reports that the American public as well as captured American troops are earnestly calling for a peaceful solution. In documentation of these claims it quotes the resolution of the recently concluded session of the World Peace Council Bureau, the delegates at the recent Chicago Peace Congress, and the "Central Committee of the peace supporters organization of American and British war prisoners in Korea." This group is said to be headed by Capt. Ambrose Nugent, the first captured prisoner to be quoted in the opening weeks of the war. The Central Committee's statement recapitulates stereotyped Communist charges, namely that all foreign troops must be withdrawn, that America is responsible for the war in Korea and contemplates aggression against all of Asia, and that Communist China must be admitted to the United Nations.

Increasing Attention to U.S. Aggressiveness: During the second week of the fortnight there was a spurt of attention to American aggressiveness in Asia which seems to be intended to maintain the threat of such aggression and so to counter any possible relaxing of tensions that might follow the Kaesong negotiations. These charges, broadcast primarily to Asian audiences, include accounts of bases in Ceylon, aggressive pacts with New Zealand, Australia, and the other Pacific nations, and the potential remilitarization of Japan. In the last few days there has been a revival of charges that America is violating China's air frontier.