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USSR SURVEY
18 SEPTEMBER 1952

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T W O C A M P S

KOREAN WAR

Increased attention to the lagging BW campaign may be expected as a result of a 14 September Peking release--picked up by Moscow on the 16th--of a report by an investigation commission of international scientists. Other Moscow comment, at a low level for the 4th week, may be a reflection of the stagnation of the truce deliberations. There is a general neglect of other atrocity charges. No new approach is indicated in the renewed comment on the truce talks or the POW issue, and only stereotyped charges of U.S. delaying tactics and mistreatment of prisoners are used. After a sudden and unsustainable peak of 36 items on U.S. bombings during the first week under review, attention to this topic falls to only 3 brief mentions. Moscow also demonstrates that the intense U.S. bombings of North Korea constitute a continuing point of sensitivity, having avoided mention of them to the Korean audience for the past eight weeks. Other comment reflects a desire to reassure the North Koreans that their struggle is not without support and attention.

A recent all-Korean peace congress appeal to all peace partisans for intensified efforts to bring about an end to the Korean struggle receives only marginal distribution by Radio Moscow perhaps to avoid commitment to the idea that any new peace measures may come from the Asian Peace Conference.

New Report on BW Released: New impetus has been given to the lagging BW campaign by Peking's release on 14 September of a report on U.S. use of BW by a commission of international scientists whose investigation was authorized by the March meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Peace Council in Oslo. NCNA reports on the work of the commission are re-broadcast widely by Moscow on 16 September. The commission, whose progress has been completely omitted in comment up until now, makes the new charge that the United States spread infectious plant diseases and repeats the familiar charge of spreading animal infections. In support of the allegations, confessions from two more captured American pilots, O'Neal and Kniss, are cited as well as the previously used confessions of Enoch and Quinn. Moscow's prompt reaction to the report of this new investigation coincides with its handling of the original Pak Hun Yong accusations of U.S. use of BW in February 1952 and of the IADL investigation in April 1952. Release of the report at this time may be intended to support discussion of the prohibition of bacterial weapons at the Asian Peace Conference.

Atrocity Charges Stereotyped; Sensitivity to Bombings: Moscow attention to other U.S. atrocities remains at a low level, although still a major component of overall attention to the Korean War. The current reintroduction of comment on the truce deliberations and on the POW issue, absent since mid-August, has occasioned only stereotyped charges of U.S. stalling because of the desire to gain more profits from the war and of mistreatment of Communist prisoners.

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Moscow's failure to exploit U.N. bombing raids in comment to the Korean audience continues with a complete absence of such comment for the past 8 weeks. The North American beam has received a majority of this comment. And during the first week under review when a sudden spurt raised comment to 36 broadcasts, two-thirds of the attacks on the bombing raids were broadcast to the United States. The concentration on the raids was not sustained however and only 3 items appeared in the second week.

Reassurance of North Koreans Increased: Comment designed to reassure the North Koreans that their struggle is not an isolated one and to keep alive a more dramatic association with the war receives increased attention during this period. Reports of support rendered by the People's Democracies, of heroism in the ranks of the People's Army and by civilian volunteers, and successful resistance against the common enemy by South Korean partisans, account for two-thirds of the material beamed to the Koreans. The omission of comment on bombings as well as of comment on the truce talks where the issue of the repatriation of Chinese rather than Korean POWs figures most prominently indicates avoidance of topics which might aggravate Korean sensitivity to the prolonged truce talks and bombings of North Korean cities.

Peace Appeal Given Little Attention: The second all-Korean peace congress recently held in Pyongyang adopted an appeal to all peace partisans to intensify their struggle for an end to the Korean War and reviewed the plans for expansion of the peace struggle in Asia through the forthcoming Asian Peace Conference. Moscow's failure to give wide dissemination to either the proceedings or the appeal of the Pyongyang meeting may indicate unwillingness to commit itself to any new approach to a settlement of the Korean struggle which may result from proposals at the APC.

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