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5 SEPTEMBER 1952

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T W O C A M P S

KOREAN WAR: Low Volume, Bombings Underplayed

Soviet radio comment on the Korean war avoids BW charges and the POW issue, which have been prominent in atrocity propaganda in the recent past. The drop in overall attention to the Korean war, taken together with this omission of previous charges and of comment on the negotiations, may reflect the inactivity in the truce negotiations. The intensified American bombing of North Korea, while an element of current comment, does not receive undue emphasis and is entirely avoided in Korean and Mandarin-language broadcasts. Familiar charges of U.S. profiteering and reports of U.S. and world opposition to the Korean hostilities continue.

Postponement of POW Settlement Suggested: Moscow reports briefly a proposal of the 14 August New York DAILY WORKER, subsequently repeated by Vincent Hallinan, that settlement of the POW issue be deferred and a truce be completed on the basis of agreements already reached. PRAVDA accounts of this proposal are noted by TASS and in voice broadcasts in English and Russian. Furthermore, Moscow has omitted its usual comment on truce negotiations and the POW issue completely for two weeks, thus minimizing previous propaganda commitments as an obstacle to a fresh approach. However, the cautious treatment of the proposal is consistent with Moscow's usual handling of such American proposals.

U.S. Bombings Receive Minimal Attention: The current U.S. raids receive less attention than was accorded the June-July raids on Pyongyang and the Yalu power plants, and there is no discussion of the bombings in either Korean or Mandarin-language broadcasts. The appeal of the Korean United Democratic Front denouncing the bombings and calling upon the Korean people to remain firm in the face of the raids receives attention, but is also omitted from Korean and Mandarin voice broadcasts.

Sensitivity to napalm may be revealed in the increased attention this weapon has received since the intensified bombings began. Irina Volk discusses the horror and devastation resulting from the use of napalm and claims that only civilian targets are destroyed. This claim is common in all references to U.S. bombing.

BW Charges Appear in U.N. Context: Discussion of bacterial warfare appears during this period largely in the context of the U.N. Disarmament Commission proceedings concerning prohibition of BW. Moscow charges that the efforts of American Delegate Cohen to deny Malik the floor to discuss the issue indicates U.S. sensitivity, while Cohen's statements are cited as evidence that the United States favors the use of bacterial weapons.

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There has been no effort to introduce new evidence of U.S. use of BW in Korea since the statements of Hewlett Johnson in the middle of July. Discussion of BW in the Toronto conference of the International Red Cross and now in the Disarmament Commission seem part of a long-range effort to keep the United States on the defensive concerning ratification of the Geneva Convention of 1925. The failure to include BW charges in Korean war comment suggests that BW has become part of the over-all "hate America" campaign.

Chinese Heroism Applauded: One commentary broadcast first to the Home audience and later to the Koreans, deals with the heroism of the Chinese Volunteers. While commentaries on the heroism of the North Koreans appear regularly, commentary attention to Chinese heroism is less frequent. It could represent an effort to reassure both the Russians and the North Koreans of the staunchness of their Chinese allies. Nam Il's vehement charges that the U.S. is attempting to disrupt Sino-Korean friendship and cooperation and Peking's increased attention to the ties uniting the Chinese Volunteers and the Koreans may indicate concern over the state of Sino-Korean relations. Moscow does not relay Nam's charges nor discuss the question at all.