

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~FAR EAST SURVEY
20 NOVEMBER 1952

- A 1 -

THE KOREAN WAR

While the general volume of comment on the war has increased somewhat during the second of the two weeks under review, the present level is far below that occasioned by the anniversary of Chinese participation in the war and there has been relatively little discussion of the U.N. proceedings. The following elements characterize the propaganda at the present moment:

1. Although the North Korean daily MINDU CHOSUN is quoted as finding in Vishinsky's proposal for the formation of a new U.N. commission "a way out of the present paralysis" of the negotiations, Peking during the last week has originated no approval of the plan, and has insisted that there can be no solution which does not include the return of all prisoners.
2. Peking assails Eden's stress upon "principle" as an indication of servile deference to Wall Street and as a response to the "jingle of the American dollar." A Moscow elaboration of this theme--which maintains that "action" not "principle" is the primary consideration in ending the impasse--is sharply at variance with the previous insistence that strict adherence to the principles enunciated in the Geneva Convention make the return of all POWs mandatory.
3. There has been no reaction to the various solutions offered by the Indian, Arab or Latin American nations. The Pakistani delegate's suggestion that hostilities be ended before the prisoner question is resolved has elicited no response, although it strongly resembles the suggestion offered by Vincent Hallinan which was publicized by both Peking and Moscow.
4. Eisenhower's "vote-catching promise" to go to Korea and his intimation that steps will be taken to end the war are related to speculation that an offensive may be launched to reach the Yalu. Peking warns that should the President-elect so seek to attain the goals of MacArthur's abortive "end the war" drive of 1950, he will receive "an even sounder thrashing."
5. References to the fighting provide the bulk of comment on the war. The present operations are described as defensive maneuvers and counterattacks which have taken a heavy toll of the U.N. forces.

Only Complete Repatriation Can Bring Truce: Although Peking has quoted the North Korean MINDU CHOSUN--and earlier the PEOPLE'S DAILY--to the effect that Vishinsky's proposal of 29 October calling for the formation of a new U.N. commission to tackle the Korean question "points to a way out of the present paralysis" of the negotiations, there has been concomitant insistence

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

that only complete repatriation of all prisoners can bring a truce. PEOPLE'S DAILY declares that the Americans, having worked to death the "nonsensical" phrase "voluntary repatriation," have now turned to "nonforcible repatriation" which is equally "hollow and stupid." This attempt to hoodwink the world will deceive no one, listeners are told, and no other specious juggling of words will sway the Communists in their demand for complete adherence to the Geneva Convention.

Eden Serves the American Dollar, Not Peace: Peking declares that the 15-month armistice talks were abused by Washington to spearhead a vicious assault on the principles of the U.N. charter which stood in the way of American plans for world aggression. This concern with principles contrasts with a Moscow denunciation of Eden's stand that regard for principle demands that no prisoner be repatriated against his will. Vis-a-vis Peking's vehement reiteration that there can be no departure from the principles clearly enunciated in the Geneva Convention, Moscow has declared that this is a time for "action," not "principle." In the further belittlement of Eden's appeal for a rational approach to the POW question, Peking charges that he merely parroted the language of his Wall Street masters and heeded not the desires for peace but the "jingle of the American dollar."

Bankruptcy of His Policy Led to Lie's Resignation: In the meager comment on the Secretary General's resignation, Peking recalls that he stole and defiled the U.N. banner in his servile acquiescence to America's aggressive designs on Korea. The wave of angry protests has at last made itself heard in the U.N., it is vouchsafed, and Lie has been forced to admit the "total bankruptcy" of his policies. Although domestic Chinese audiences are told that Lie defended the American use of biological weapons, this extravagant statement is not broadcast to western audiences.

Little Comment on U.N. Proposals for Peaceful Settlement: Peking thus far has had little to say about the various proposals presented in the U.N. discussions of the Korean question. There has been no mention of the Latin American or Indian suggestions. Pakistani Delegate Zafrullah Khan's call for an immediate end to the fighting and for the relegation of the POW question to the later discussions has elicited no response, although the proposal largely corresponds to that made by Progressive Party Candidate Vincent Hallinan which was publicized by both Moscow and Peking.

Eisenhower Due for "Sounder Thrashing" If He Emulates MacArthur: Commenting somewhat belatedly on General Eisenhower's "vote-catching" promise to go to Korea if elected and the impression he fostered that he would find a way to end the war, Peking declares that the president-elect's military advisers are urging various radical steps to end the war, including the use of Kuomintang troops, an increase in the number of South Korean divisions, and the mounting of an offensive to reach the Yalu. Eisenhower is said to have demonstrated considerable interest in the creation of a buffer or neutral zone between Korea and Manchuria and in the rehabilitation of Korea by the U.N. Reminding its listeners that these were the goals of MacArthur's abortive "end the war" offensive of 1950, Peking warns that should the new President fail to heed the lessons of MacArthur's defeat, he will get an "even sounder thrashing."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FAR EAST SURVEY
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- A 3 -

U.N. Losses Heavy in Fighting for Hills: References to actual military operations provide the bulk of the comment, but in all cases the present battles are described as defensive maneuvers plus counterattacks which have taken a heavy toll of the attackers. U.N. forces are said to have lost some 63,000 men, including almost 30,000 Americans, in the October fighting around Kumhwa, at the base of the iron triangle. There are frequent allusions to the excellence of Communist artillery and shore defenses, and this strength, plus the wealth of combat experience being gained, is said to have made the Communist armies an invincible force.

There is relatively low level denunciation of American bestiality as exemplified in the indiscriminate bombing of nonmilitary objectives, and additional charges that the Americans are abusing prisoners and violating the neutral zone. New prisoners' messages are being broadcast daily in English, all of which sound the identical note of exemplary good treatment being given them by their captors and voice wonderment at the failure to conclude a truce on the Communists' reasonable and humanitarian terms.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FAR EAST SURVEY
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- C 1 -

N O R T H K O R E A

Soviet Aid Made Independence Possible: Pyongyang's effusive comment on the 35th anniversary of the October Revolution is marked by praise of the guidance and inspiration provided by the Soviet Union and by pledges of solidarity and cooperation. References to the seventh anniversary of the Korean-Soviet Cultural Society on 11 November and on World Youth Day on 10 November also follow this pattern. Special messages, speeches, editorials and meetings prompted by the October Revolution anniversary all defer to the Soviet Union's leadership of the Communist world in general and in particular stress the Korean people's indebtedness for the support which made Korean independence possible. Soviet aid, however, is treated in the most general terms, and only technical, cultural and educational contributions identified. Pledges of cooperation and solidarity with the Communist bloc under the aegis of "proletarian internationalism" form a part of the anniversary comment also.

Winter Preparations Are Well Advanced: Comment on local affairs is largely concerned with the preparations for winter which are said to be well advanced in many areas. Plans for the stockpiling of provisions—shoes, fuel, salt, vegetables and clothing—are being met in most communities and thanks are extended for the relief supplies received from the friendly Chinese people. Special attention is given to the needs of dependents of servicemen, orphans, war victims and the incapacitated, and the efforts of volunteer workers and of social workers to distribute necessities to these individuals and to care for them are reported. November has also been set aside as winter antiepidemic month and inspection, disinfection, training and immunization work is said to be progressing steadily. Although there are intimations that bacterial warfare by the enemy may contribute to winter epidemics, major attention is given to the more normal dangers raised by eruptive typhus and tuberculosis "which form ninety percent of all epidemic cases."

TASS Confirms Use of Food Reserves: A TASS dispatch of 14 November reveals that the food relief measures adopted by the North Korean Government in September were made possible through the "allocation from State stocks of a large quantity of bread grain and seed grain." Pyongyang, however, continues to refer to record crops now being harvested, and to stocks being turned in to the State as tax in kind and as "donations" for the armed forces. Pyongyang also adopts the unusual device of broadcasting personal messages from Kim Il Sung addressed to individual farmers said to have harvested record crops. The messages praise the farmers for their successful efforts and thank them for the "donations" made on behalf of victory. It is not clear whether this procedure anticipates the introduction of a new "voluntary" plan for special grain donations for the State. Other references hail the work of plowing teams being organized in some areas "to overcome the manpower shortage" and complete fall plowing on time.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Onus of War Led to Democratic Defeat: In commenting on the election of General Eisenhower, Pyongyang foresees no change in "the American policy of instigating a new war, since the General is a "bellicose and faithful servant of Wall Street." Stevenson is dismissed as "an unknown governor without a wartime record," which rendered him unfit for leadership of the aggressive policy fostered by the Wall Street monopolists. Although both the Republican and Democratic Parties are identified with Wall Street, Pyongyang declares that U.S. monopolists decided to saddle the Democrats with the responsibility for the "defeat" in Korea, and thus enabled the Republicans to capitalize on "the hatred of the American people for the Democratic Party for starting the war." Pyongyang further maintains that the monopolists expect to reap greater profits as a result of the Republican victory and thus fend off the approaching economic crisis. Persecution of the Progressive Party candidates is also reported.

S O U T H K O R E A

Eisenhower Victory Demonstrates Sympathy for Korea: Pusan reports favorable press and editorial reaction to the election of General Eisenhower. The comment generally is couched in a frame of reference of reassurance and support. Listeners are told that the election results "showed the increasing understanding and sympathy of the American people toward Korea," while other allusions stress the leadership qualities demonstrated by Eisenhower, and attribute his election to the desire of the American people for just such a strong leader. The Republican victory in general is linked to conservative victories in Great Britain and Japan, all of which reflect a worldwide determination to crush Communism. Some concern is reflected over the possibility that after the South Korean buildup has taken place Eisenhower will withdraw or weaken American forces in Korea, but in general this possibility is discounted. Several broadcasts report that far from withdrawing U.S. forces, General Eisenhower can be expected to take "even more powerful military measures" which "alone can save Korea." One report goes so far as to infer from the Republican support of MacArthur that Eisenhower may subscribe to the former's views.

Eisenhower's forthcoming visit to Korea is also the subject of attention. Pusan broadcasts without comment the text of Rhee's cable to Eisenhower officially welcoming his visit, together with Eisenhower's reply. Defense Minister Shin is quoted as stating that plans have already been outlined for Eisenhower's visit and that the Defense Ministry has gathered reference material regarding "future intensification of military aid."