

KOREA: MOSCOW MARKS TIME

Korea

9 April 48

Again this week Moscow comment on developments in Korea is stereotyped and scanty. The two commentaries available here review issues and arguments long publicized by Moscow with reference to American refusal to withdraw troops and to the election. No mention has been made as yet of the 14 April conference of leaders from both zones--about which Pyongyang has so much to say.

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SPECIAL REPORT  
9 APRIL 1948

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a. "American Imperialists are Trying Hard to Colonize Korea": Danilov resorts to the charge that the U.S. is trying to colonize Korea. His commentary (31 March) typifies the standard pattern of Moscow's propaganda on the subject. America is said to be "utilizing the reactionary traitors who sold national dignity and honor for the American dollar" in its effort to retain control. The scheduled 9 May election is characterized as further evidence of the effort to retain control--since the "puppet government" which would be set up after the elections will be a "hireling" of the U.S. Danilov also reports Korean dissatisfaction with the election proposal and with the refusal to withdraw troops as evidenced by meetings in Pyongyang and by the resolution adopted in February at the "conference of the neutral parties and some of the rightist parties" in Seoul.

Opposition in both zones to the American election "scheme" is noted by Smolensky in a Korean-language commentary of 1 April. He analyzes the draft constitution of North Korea with emphasis on the rights and privileges granted Koreans by its provisions. This commentary, too, is a familiar reiteration of standard claims.

b. Pyongyang Prepares for the 14 April Conference: Pyongyang's earlier ebullience on the subject of the interzonal conference is continued this week. Broadcast after broadcast reviews the enthusiasm with which the proposal has been received in both zones and, in self-righteous tones, congratulates southern "rightists" who "have come to know the true motives" of America in proposing separate elections. A 2 April broadcast reports formation of a preparatory committee which is arranging conference and rest facilities, billets, and art performances to "comfort" the delegates.

The only slightly discordant note is a 3 April broadcast which declared that "all" political parties and organizations which are opposed to the election may take part even though some of them, in the southern zone, did not receive an invitation. Kim Doo Bong, chairman of the Central Committee of the North Korea People's Front, issued a statement in which he declares that some organizations were not officially invited "owing to difficult conditions of contact." Even those groups, however, should prepare to send delegates