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Korea
KOREA: MOSCOW TURNS UP THE VOLUME BUT AVOIDS THE ISSUE

United Nations deliberations on Korea--from the time the issue was presented to the Political Committee through General Assembly voting--take priority over all other topics in Moscow's comment on Korean affairs. The deliberations are reported in detail via TASS dispatches. Speeches by Soviet delegates Vishinsky, Manuilsky, and Malik are broadcast fully and repeatedly--but only to Soviet and Far Eastern audiences. Throughout all the vociferous comment Soviet broadcasters emphasize the deceitfulness of American delegates, the puppet-like behavior of other western delegates, the righteousness of the Soviet stand, and the illegality of the Little Assembly, the Korean Commission, and their activities.

But, the actual fact of U.N. recognition of the Seoul Government has thus far been minimized in Moscow commentaries. Two broadcasts have referred to the outcome of the Assembly debates but only in the most offhand fashion. Similar casualness marks monitored references to the Assembly's decision to make the Korean Commission permanent. Commentators acknowledge that the action was taken but fail to elaborate on it.

As always, Pyongyang echoes Moscow's vehemence and arguments. It, too, reports TASS accounts of the Paris sessions. Both Moscow and Pyongyang note the letter to Trygve Lie and Herbert Evatt in which Foreign Minister Pak Hun Yung of the People's Republic officially protests against the U.N.'s

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decision not to hear a "genuine" Korean representative. Moscow's elaborate discussions of the Soviet White Paper on Korea are not copied by Pyongyang, however.

The Soviet-controlled North Korean transmitter does not allow the United Nations deliberations to displace other topics completely. It devotes much wordage to Korean groups' "resolutions" thanking withdrawing Soviet troops for their help, reveals the manner in which farms, mines, factories, and fisheries are exceeding their annual quotas, and paints a gloomy picture of life south of the 38th parallel.

a. The American Resolution "Will Fail in the End": By "mobilizing their voting machine," says Pietersky in a Korean-language broadcast of 13 December, the Americans got what they wanted and the Syngman Rhee Government was recognized by the General Assembly. But, he declares, that Government cannot last because of Korean opposition. Furthermore the Korean Commission was and is illegal. These three arguments are the framework for both Moscow's and Pyongyang's discussions of the issue. Again and again, Soviet broadcasters assert that John Foster Dulles mobilized his voting machine to force the Political Committee and the General Assembly to take American-directed action. A 15 December Korean-language talk asserts that Dulles "told a lie" when he "made it appear" that the Czech resolution calling for a Pyongyang representative at the deliberations was defeated. The "fact" is, the commentator declares, the Czech resolution was merely "put off."

A lengthy TASS account of the Paris session also stresses the alleged American use of pressure and the fact the General Assembly took up the Korean issue "late at night... when the visitors' gallery was already deserted but for several sleepy journalists still standing guard." (in English Morse to North America, 13 December; and in Russian Hellschreiber to Europe, 12 December 1948) The TASS account--oozing editorialism--asserts that even at the Political Committee stage the Anglo-American majority attempted "to scrimp discussion" and thus prevent delegates from having an opportunity to study certain "documents" showing the true nature of the Temporary Commission. The dispatch describes the "disgraceful haste" and "even greater bluntness" with which American delegates "thwarted" the debate.

Soviet broadcasters and TASS dispatches refer with equal frequency to the "facts" presented by Malik and Vishinsky. TASS declares that speeches by Ukrainian and Belorussian representatives abounded in "well-grounded weighty statements" and "exhaustive factual data" which the U.S. delegation did not even deign to answer.

TASS belabors the entire debate, including Evatt's refusal to admit Vishinsky's resolution in the closing hours; but commentators Krainov and Pietersky turn to the substance of the debate. With tedious repetition they insist that the Little Assembly was illegal, that the Temporary Commission was illegal,

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that the 10 May elections were illegal and undemocratic, and that the Korean Republic in Seoul is therefore illegal. They also stress the assertion that popular opposition to the Syngman Rhee Government is mounting and will soon force that Government out. "Then," asks Krainov, how did it happen that these measures were approved? He finds the answer in the alleged American "grip" on the economy of South Korea; the recently-signed aid agreement is cited as substantial proof of the tightness of that grip. Thus, U.N. debates are shown to be a "smokescreen" to cover America's venal plans in Korea.

Turning to the newly-formed Korean Commission, a 15 December Korean-language commentary asserts that its only purpose is "to perpetuate the division of Korea."

In reporting General Assembly debate on the resolution calling for withdrawal of troops, TASS scorns the "meaningless, noncommittal" substitution of the phrase "at the first opportunity" for the "even more meaningless and vaguer phrase... 'at the earliest possible date.'" Quoting Delegate Malik, TASS points out that such a resolution does not apply to the Soviet Union which is withdrawing its troops; it serves only to extend the stay of U.S. troops.

The current withdrawal of Soviet troops is one of the factors cited as proof of Soviet political morality in the Korean situation. Commentators also point to the alleged popularity of the Pyongyang Government to document the claim that the USSR is acting in the interests of Koreans while the United States is interested only in its own profits.

b. The White Papers: The Soviet Foreign Office publication, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE KOREAN QUESTION, receives belated recognition in commentaries by Yurev and Maievsky--broadcast 7, 8, and 11 December, after the U.N. had commenced discussion of the Korean issue.

Yurev's talk, broadcast in installments on 7 and 8 December and beamed in English to North America, summarizes the documents presented in the White Paper with familiar references to the Soviet Union's "consistent and un-deviating" struggle for creation of a "truly democratic, united, and independent Korea." The effect of the commentary is the stereotyped one: the USSR is presented as the altruistic white hope of the Korean people while the United States is depicted as a devious but determined blackguard.

Maievsky's PRAVDA article (broadcast to the Soviet domestic audience and transmitted by TASS to North America on 11 December) goes over the familiar ground. It reviews purported Soviet efforts in behalf of Korea. Frequent reference is made to alleged American intransigence and obfuscation. The author sums up his arguments pro and con the USSR and the U.S. in a paragraph typical of the extensive commentary:

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"The Soviet Union, true to the principles of defending the interests of the small countries and peoples, was and remains a selfless friend of the Korean people. This is fully supported by the facts recorded in the book.... The material... completely exposes the maneuvers of the U.S. expansionists who attempt consciously to entangle the Korean question and, following their imperialistic aims, are trying to prevent the unification of northern and southern Korea...."

c. Withdrawal of Troops: Radio Pyongyang demonstrates unflagging interest in the current withdrawal of Soviet troops. Almost without exception, all Pyongyang's news broadcasts include one or more items reporting the parties and other manifestations of Korean gratitude extended at one rail station or another to departing troops.

This week, various transmissions report resolutions of appreciation adopted by the following groups: North Korean Christian League; North Korea Democratic Party; North Korea Democratic Youth League; North Korea Health League; North Korea Buddhist League; Central Committee of the North Korea Federation of Trade Unions; North Korea Federation of Cooperatives; North Korea Federation of Farmers; North Korea Federation of Writers and Artists; Korean-Soviet Cultural Society; and the Supporting Society for Korean Patriotic Fighters. Departing troops were also presented with a banner by the North Korea Democratic Women's League.

Radio Pyongyang's reports of statistics on the farewell festivities are picked up by Moscow and TASS. Soviet, European, and North American audiences are informed that 1.4 million residents of northern Korea took part in the festivities and that "scores of thousands of letters" have been received "calling on Soviet troops to promote Soviet-Korean friendship."

The concomitant thesis--the urgent necessity of withdrawing American troops--is presented by Pyongyang in the standard emotionally-worded broadcasts denouncing the U.S. and Syngman Rhee. In addition the North Korea transmitter broadcasts a radio poem--"recited with music"--entitled "American Troops! Leave Immediately!" (8 December). The continued stay of American troops is also said to be the subject of denunciatory pamphlets issued in Seoul--the distributors of which have been persecuted by police. (Moscow, in Mandarin, 14 December 1948)

d. Economic Successes: Pyongyang gleefully reports the record-breaking efforts of farmers, miners, and factory workers in a spate of broadcasts summing up the year's progress toward fulfillment of the two-year plan. Various factories are singled out and successful production is reported by fishing boats, salt mines, road-building crews, and electrification projects.

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The "movement for payment of taxes in kind" is meeting with "enthusiastic" response among northern farmers, a 9 December broadcast reports. It reveals that farmers in Kangwon Province "completed tax payments, paying 102 percent." Farmers of North Hamgyong Province are said to have paid 97 percent of their taxes by 7 December; while in North Pyongan Province 92.5 percent of the levy had been met on 1 December.

e. Korean-Soviet Cultural Society: Radio Pyongyang, in a 14 December broadcast, reports the organizational setup of the "recently formed Social Science Subcommittee of the Korean-Soviet Cultural Society." The subcommittee is said to comprise four divisions--historical science, philosophy, political economy, and law.

"The subcommittee and the divisions henceforth will organize regular academic meetings as well as (popular) lectures. The research work of scholars will be publicized at academic meetings.... Particularly, the subcommittee (is making special efforts) to study and absorb the various achievements in the field of social science in the Soviet Union."

Each division is expected to prepare and publish dictionaries "shortly."

f. Life in the American Zone: Moscow and Pyongyang join with almost equal fervor in the campaign to defame the American occupation and the Syngman Rhee Government. American policies are repeatedly characterized as reflecting imperialism and greed. Syngman Rhee is attacked as a reactionary puppet unable to control even his own Assembly. Pyongyang frequently reports large-scale uprisings in various parts of the American zone; and Moscow usually rebroadcasts such reports, especially in Mandarin-language transmissions.

This week, Pyongyang recounts refugee's reports of the 30 November zone-wide "strike" in protest over the continued stay of American troops. This documentation of the Korean people's antipathy to the policies of the Seoul Government is accompanied by references to the Government's alleged oppression of pamphlet distributors, school teachers, and "true patriots" and to the "bloody mass purge" reportedly in progress among disaffected South Korean troops.

Radio Moscow demonstrates particular interest in the Seoul Government's recent order concerning political activities by teachers. TASS quotes Radio Tokyo on the contents of this recent order and is in turn quoted by Radio Pyongyang. The Minister of Education is said to have "ordered" all schools to submit full biographies of all teachers. He is further reported as stating that "teachers who retain left-wing views" or fail to express their views with "sufficient clearness" will be discharged. Radio Tokyo is said to have added that Seoul police raid students' homes, confiscate literature "disapproved" by the Government, and arrest suspected students. Krainov, in a commentary

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broadcast on 12 December in Japanese, identifies the "disapproved" literature as Adam Smith's WEALTH OF NATIONS. Confiscation of the volume is said to reveal the manner in which South Korean officials follow the example of "their masters across the Pacific."

Other broadcasts continue the time-honored pattern of attacking the United States as the "enemy" of Korean independence. This charge is, in fact, the focal point of a four-part Moscow survey of America's historical antagonism toward Koreans broadcast in Korean and Mandarin during the week. Cut from the same piece of cloth is Pyongyang's 14 December charge that "American imperialists in South Korea ignore the will of the Korean people and consider us a low people without our own culture. They encourage their degenerate American culture in South Korea thus attempting to obliterate Korean culture."

Perhaps because it coincided with the United Nations deliberations, the recently signed Korean-U.S. aid agreement escapes with little notice in broadcasts monitored to date. TASS quotes a Pyongyang report of "information received from Seoul" on the contents of the agreement and interprets it along standard Soviet lines. The agreement is said to "establish full economic control by the U.S. in South Korea" and to be an "act of treason against the national interests of Korea." It has caused "deep indignation" among the people. (in Russian at dictation speed to USSR provincial press, 12 December; and in Korean, 12 and 13 December 1948)

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