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WEEKLY SURVEY
16 JULY 1948

a. Korean Leaders Concur in Soviet Opinions: Lemin's commentary, which appears to follow point by point the declaration adopted at the meeting held 29 June to 5 July by Korean "political parties and public organizations," emphasizes the unanimity of Korean-Soviet opinion on the subject of American policies in Korea. The commentary points out that delegates to the meeting object to the continuation of American occupation, scorn the National Assembly set up in Seoul, and denounce the Constitution drafted by that Assembly. It fails to mention that Kim Koo and Kim Kiu Sic did not attend this session. Lemin summarizes Soviet criticism of American and praise of its own policies with reference to land reform, voting privileges, and education. He also emphasizes American perfidy, charging that the United States alone is responsible for the failure of the Joint Commission and for the continued presence of troops in Korea.

Lemin's commentary, like the declaration, asserts that Korean political leaders unanimously desire "formation of a united, independent, and democratic state" and, also like the declaration, claims that the presence of U.S. troops is the only impediment to achievement of that desire. Furthermore, he reiterates the decision, adopted at the earlier session of political leaders, that no civil war would follow withdrawal of troops.

b. Syngmann Rhee is a "Puppet": A 12 July commentary, broadcast in Persian, epitomizes Soviet broadcasters' handling of Syngmann Rhee. He is described as a "puppet," "phoney" leader, and as a "traitor" to the cause of Korean independence. The commentator refers to Rhee's 1943 proposal that he alone be given authority to negotiate with the State Department on questions pertaining to Korea, and goes back even further to denounce Rhee's 1919 proposal for a League of Nations mandate for Korea as an attempt to "transform Korea into a United States colony." The evidence is summed up into the charge that Rhee is "a stubborn, crooked, and autocratic old man." The commentary alleges that the 10 May election was rigged to ensure the election of Rhee, "who has spent 40 of his 78 years in America."

KOREA: NEW OCCASION: OLD THEME

16 July 48 *Korea*
The declaration adopted at the Pyongyang meeting of Korean political leaders provides Moscow with renewed opportunity to recapitulate familiar charges against the U.S. for its occupation policies in Korea. The declaration itself is transmitted by TASS and published by PRAVDA; Commentator Lemin tailors his 11 July talk, broadcast in English, to the points raised in the declaration--points which have been the key points of Soviet attack on the U.S. for many months. Other commentaries reiterate familiar charges against the "traitor" Syngmann Rhee.

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