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WEEKLY SURVEY
4 FEBRUARY 1949

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KOREA: MOSCOW'S INTEREST WANES

Korea

Radio Moscow's interest in Korean affairs continues to wane. Monitored commentaries reiterate familiar denunciation of the aid agreement and the Marshall Plan and equally familiar praise of the People's Assembly--whose current session is reported in more detail than has been characteristic of Radio Moscow's accounts of events in Pyongyang. Soviet broadcasters consistently ignore the U.N. Korean Commission, with the exception of a brief quotation of Pyongyang criticism of the Commission in a 27 January Korean-language news broadcast.

Radio Pyongyang's monitored output follows equally familiar patterns. It denounces the U.N. Commission along emotional lines, attacks Syngman Rhee for his consistently reactionary and puppet-like policies and gives detailed reportage of the Assembly session. Major emphasis is given reports of uprisings in the South; this week Pyongyang gives details of rebellions "against the American occupation" reportedly occurring in North and South Kyongsang, North and South Cholla, North and South Chungchong, and Cheju. But it has not yet noted, in monitored broadcasts, the invasion by northern troops reported by the American press.

a. "Economic Subjugation... by the Marshall Plan": "Current events critic Dajikov" takes up arms against the Marshall Plan and American aid to South Korea in a Korean-language commentary of 27 January. The commentary lists factories and industries reportedly "completely controlled" by American individuals and firms and asserts that "the Commander of the American Army in South Korea, Coulter, has invested capital in the mining and power industries."

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"The Japanese actually plundered Korea in the name of economic progress. The Americans call their economic expansion economic aid. This does not change the nature of the act. According to the Americans, a large group of expert economists is in Korea to survey and study the Korean economy. The so-called expert economists who are investing in the Korean economy are the agents of American capitalistic and monopolistic companies."

The same charges are reiterated in a 30 January Korean-language commentary.

Radio Pyongyang expresses particular dissatisfaction with the foreign trade situation in South Korea, which it attributes to American occupation policies. In a 29 January broadcast the Soviet-controlled transmitter characterizes South Korea's trade as "country-selling and nation-extirpation" as a result of the activities of "American imperialists and their hirelings, Syngman Rhee and company." Pyongyang points to the export deficit, the inferior quality of the American goods received, and the favored position given Japanese industries in its critique.

b. South vs. North: The old story about plenty in the north and starvation in the south is repeated again this week in a variety of contexts. Moscow quotes a NEW TIMES article as reporting an increase in building construction in the north (in Korean, 1 February 1949); Pyongyang reports progress made in northern education and contrasts it with reports of police interference with teachers in the South. It also notes the increase in prison officials and the special creation of "a so-called inspection department--a private terrorist, spy organ."

The alleged contrast is elaborated in a 1 February broadcast entitled "North and South of the Republic" which blames South Korea's difficulties on the continued presence of American troops--a familiar charge. The 31 January anniversary of the founding of the Farmers' Union and the 8 February anniversary of the People's Army are also exploited to keynote praise of northern achievements.

c. People's Assembly: The recently-held second session of the North Korea People's Assembly is accorded close reportorial attention by both Pyongyang and Moscow. Pyongyang gives detailed accounts of speeches, especially those of Kim Il Sung and Foreign Minister Pak Hun Yung, and of deliberations of the delegates. Moscow also reports Pak's address with its insistent emphasis on economic progress in North Korea and on American perfidy toward Korea. Pak declares, according to Moscow's version of the speech broadcast in Japanese and in the Soviet Home Service, that "the Marshall Plan... has been exposed as a plan of U.S. expansion, as gross interference in the affairs of weaker states, and as a plan for the subjugation of their national economies." Pak is said to have further scored alleged American violation of the Moscow Declaration, rejection of "the reasonable proposal" for troop withdrawal, and submission of the Korean question to the United Nations. On the positive side,

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Foreign Minister Pak affirms Korea's "policy" to "strive for the establishment of lasting mutual relations with all freedom-loving countries." Speaking in praise of the USSR, Pak declares, according to Moscow:

"The Soviet Union's recognition of Korea's central government bears out the USSR's consistent adherence to the Lenin-Stalin national policy of respecting national independence rights and interests of big and small states. The resumption of diplomatic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union will serve to strengthen friendly relations between these two states and will help Korea to attain unity and independence. ... The greatest event in the life of the Korean people was the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Korea."

Radio Moscow's coverage of the major speeches is supplemented by TASS, which reports, in some detail, the economic discussions of the early sessions. (in English Morse to North America, 30 January 1949)

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