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WEEKLY SURVEY
25 FEBRUARY 1949

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KOREAN AFFAIRS

Korea

While Radio Moscow all but ignores the U.N. Commission and the pending elections, Radio Pyongyang demonstrates unflagging and enthusiastic interest in both developments. The Commission is repeatedly attacked as a "tool" of the United States and as "new" only in that "new" is in the title. The elections are said to be arousing utmost enthusiasm in all parts of North Korea and preparations are proceeding apace. South Koreans are repeatedly reminded that North Koreans are deeply concerned over their suffering at the hands of the "brutal" Americans and Syngman Rhee.

Neither Moscow nor Pyongyang has yet explained, in monitored broadcasts, the purposes behind Kim II Sung's current trip to Moscow. Moscow commentators Smirnov and Bronin contrast economic conditions on either side of the 38th parallel but add little to what has been said before in this context.

a. U. N. Membership: Radio Pyongyang has not yet commented, in monitored broadcasts, on the Security Council action on the People's Republic's application for membership in the U.N. Moscow reports the debate in a heavily editorialized account, attributed to TASS. (in Korean, 16 February; in Mandarin, 18 February 1949) The TASS dispatches of 16 and 17 February report Security Council deliberations of those days and the account transmitted on 16 February makes what appears to be the first monitored reference to U. N. recognition of the Seoul Government:

"It is known that at the Paris session of the General Assembly, the Anglo-American bloc with the aid of its voting machine pushed through a resolution which tries to cover up the split of Korea with the authority of the United Nations organization, and to 'legalize' the reactionary regime headed by the clique of American agents and traitors to the Korean people set up in Korea by the American occupation authorities." (in English Morse to Europe, 16 February 1949)

The remainder of the dispatch is a summary of statements by Malik and Terassenko and of Radio Moscow's familiar line of attack on the American position in relation to South and North Korea.

b. Letter to Stalin: Moscow makes propaganda capital of the letter to Stalin reported last week not only by re-broadcasting the letter itself but

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via a commentary by Leontiev broadcast in Mandarin and English to North America on 16 February. Leontiev recapitulates the events described in the letter and concludes that it reflects "the voice" of the Korean people, who support the People's Republic and oppose Syngman Rhee and his American sponsors. He also includes a familiar attack on the United States:

"It is common knowledge that the ruling circles of America are obstructing the unification of Korea and the creation of a united and free Korean state. They have violated the decisions of the Moscow conference of the three foreign ministers on Korea and obstructed the work of the Joint Soviet-American commission of Korea. They have taken advantage of the immediate majority in the U. N. General Assembly to set up an unlawful U.N. Commission on Korea. Disregarding the express will of the Korean people, the American occupation authorities have held undemocratic, fake elections in the south and formed a puppet government made up of extreme reactionaries and American agents headed by the traitor Syngman Rhee."

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