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KOREA: "DEAR JOSEPH VISSARIONOVICH"

*Korea*

Familiar components make up the propaganda assault leveled against the United States, the United Nations, and the Syngman Rhee Government by Moscow and Pyongyang radios. For the first time in monitored broadcasts, Radio Moscow takes up the subject of the U.N. Commission--but it continues to overlook U.N. recognition of the Seoul Government and the Security Council debate on admission of Korea to the U.N. Moscow's criticisms of the Commission, like its criticisms of Syngman Rhee and the United States, are echoed and re-echoed by Radio Pyongyang, which adheres to familiar patterns of volubility and emotional tone. Unlike Pyongyang, however, Moscow does not attack Nationalist China's delegate to the Korean Commission.

a. The U.N. Commission: Nothing good can be expected from the Commission, says Moscow in an 8 February Korean-language commentary--the only monitored broadcast from Moscow which departs from the previous pattern of complete silence on this subject. The Commission is characterized as "unlawful," subservient to American wishes and, like its predecessor, unpopular. The broadcast likens the Commission to Syngman Rhee, who "spent half of his life in America." "This fact alone" is said to obviate further discussion.

Radio Pyongyang employs all the charges leveled against the Commission by Moscow, but adds one of its own: an attack on the Commission Chairman, the Chinese member. As in past weeks, he is reminded of the imminent collapse of the Kuomintang and warned that the will of "the people" will be victorious in Korea as in China. Radio Pyongyang also goes farther than Moscow in asserting repeatedly that Koreans "absolutely denounce" the Commission as an "imperialists' tool." This is the refrain of four lengthy commentaries during the week.

Arrival of the Commission is said by Pyongyang to have aroused "more naked vindictiveness" toward North Koreans in the hearts of Syngman Rhee and his cohorts. The 12 February broadcast summarizes reports of attacks perpetrated north of the 38th parallel by troops and police from South Korea and claims these incidents were arranged to justify the prolonged stay of U.S. troops

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by creating disorder, to turn the attention of South Koreans from their miseries, and to divert the attention of the South Koreans from the "anti-people acts" of U.N. protected "traitors." The attempt to pin blame for the incidents on the Democratic People's Republic is dismissed as nothing but a "malicious, planned scheme to realize the plot."

b. Troop Withdrawals: Continued stay of American troops in South Korea is exploited by Moscow and Pyongyang to exemplify the "startling" contrast between the "peaceful" policies of the USSR and the "imperialistic" practices of the United States. It is also exploited to prove the "insecurity" of the Syngman Rhee regime and to document the claim that the U.S. is unpopular in the South; this conclusion is arrived at by picturing the uprisings in the South as expressing opposition to the continued stay of troops. (Khabarovsk, in Korean, 10 February; Moscow, in Korean, 15 February 1949) The uprisings are also said to reflect popular opposition to the U.N. Commission but both issues are linked more often than not. (Moscow, in Japanese, 15 February 1949)

Radio Moscow supplements its commentaries pointing out the imperialistic nature of American policy, especially on the issue of troop withdrawals, with brief dispatches reporting Pyongyang accounts of uprisings in Poan, Gynsen, Dyandyun, Cheju-do, and Quelpart island. It also gives detailed coverage on the letter thanking Stalin for withdrawing troops--a letter allegedly signed by 16,767,630 Koreans, of whom 9,940,000 are said to live south of the 38th parallel. The letter, reportedly "embroidered on silk linen," reached Moscow only "a few days ago" although it was started at the time Soviet troops were withdrawn.

The letter is reported briefly by TASS in an English Morse transmission to Europe of 16 February which reveals that the document was published in all Moscow papers. Furthermore, it is given in full in a similar transmission of 15 February and broadcast in the Soviet Home Service on 16 February. Worded in typically ornate style, the letter reviews Korea's history of imperialist exploitation and overtly acknowledges Korean's debt of gratitude to the Soviet Union and Generalissimo Stalin. The entire content is synthesized into the first two paragraphs:

"Dear Joseph Vissarionovich:

"With a feeling of profound emotion, the Korean people send this letter to you, greatest genius of mankind and savior of the Korean people. These days, the Korean people warmly part with the Soviet warriors who are leaving the boundaries of our homeland.

"Under your leadership, the Soviet Army liberated us from the lengthy Japanese yoke and helped us to set foot on the broad and shining path of a free and happy life. The Korean people express their sincere gratitude to you, liberator and friend of the Korean people."

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c. Unification: Both Moscow and Pyongyang appear to avoid substantive discussion of the unification of Korea. The subject is mentioned rarely, if at all; the minimal references are confined to the assertion that Korea will be unified at some future date under the aegis of the Democratic People's Republic. No attempt is made, however, to give any specific idea of when or how this will take place.

This shadow-boxing characterizes a Feodorov commentary of 15 February. (Moscow, in Japanese) The broadcast reports National Assembly debate on the question and alleges that the debate was "forced" by the people of South Korea who, by rising against Rhee, are demanding the withdrawal of troops and the unification of their country. Moscow is confident, however, that "unification will not be brought about by reactionaries like Syngman Rhee but by a really democratic Government."

d. Elections for the People's Committees: Moscow and Pyongyang are as vague in discussing the elections to be held in the South as they are in discussing unification. Moscow claims, in a 7 February Korean-language commentary surveying the People's Assembly session, that elections will be scheduled in the South when "conditions" permit. Pyongyang is equally evasive, although preparations for the northern elections are reported in some detail--including provisions of the electoral law which are reported in full in broadcasts on 11, 13, and 15 February.

e. What's Wrong With South Korea?: Both Moscow and Pyongyang are explicit and repetitious in describing the ills of South Korea, all of which are attributed directly and unequivocally to America's desire to establish a colony there. This week, as has been true in the past, Moscow reports the imminent "bankruptcy" of the South. (in Korean, 10 and 13 February; in Indonesian, 15 February 1949) This "chaotic" state of affairs is, as usual, contrasted with the prosperous state of the North. (Alexandrov, in Korean, 14 February; Radio Khabarovsk, in Korean, 14 February 1949)

Alleged American demands for militarization of South Korea are scrutinized by Alexandrov in a 9 February Korean-language commentary. The commentator dwells at length on plans for "compulsory conscription" which, he says, were drawn up by "frightened" Syngman Rhee under instruction from his American masters. Alexandrov argues that the conscripted youths will be trained not for defense but "to smash the democratic movement."

Radio Pyongyang criticizes American policies along economic, social, and ideological lines. It points to "the people's" successful frustration of the "grain plunder" (11 February 1949), to plans for importation of Japan-produced porcelain plumbing equipment (11 February 1949), and to imperialists "wrecking" of Korean culture (9 February 1949). On 10 February, Radio Pyongyang analyzes the "traitorous" acts of the Syngman Rhee Government and concludes that they result from the reactionaries' desire to prevent progress by "desperately" halting the break up of the old, exploiting class.

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