

10 May 51
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SECTION 1 (SOVIET)

"B" USSR. VE-Day Propaganda Stresses USSR's Postwar Peace Policy - But Maintains Significant Silence on Support of Red Forces in Korea. PRAVDA editorialized on the USSR's postwar program of peaceful construction and the growth of the peace camp, as opposed to "Anglo-American preparations of a new war for super profits." Stalin's recent assertion that "the people are taking the peace fight into their own hands," was again quoted. Marshal Sokolovsky claimed that the Soviet Union conducted broad demobilization (33 age groups) while the US, UK and French armed forces remained "more than double those of the USSR and are increasing." Major General Alexandrov, while hailing the "Soviet victory" over Hitlerite Germany, again charged that the Western Powers did not try to smash the Fascist aggressor but impeded the opening of a second front, "hoping that the USSR would become exhausted." The most widely circulated radio commentary cited the WPC demand for a Five-Power peace pact, quoting Lenin and Stalin on the possibility of peaceful coexistence.

COMMENT: Embassy Moscow noted that PRAVDA carefully followed the official line of refraining from any reference to Soviet armed might beyond its role as defender of the USSR. This line has been particularly noticeable since the beginning of Korean hostilities. So far, Moscow has significantly avoided mention of actual Soviet support for the Korean war while continuing to prod the Peace Partisan and Company to action in the name of "peace." Their silence on military aid, a technique well used by them, is simply a cover for the material assistance they are in fact rendering to the Communist forces in Korea.

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

"A" Chinese Communist Intentions Toward Korea. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] the Peiping regime can and will persist indefinitely in its Korean venture. [Redacted] foresees a stalemate in Korea at least until a conflict breaks out elsewhere, basing [Redacted] on (1) Peiping's success in capitalizing on Chinese nationalist sentiment, ensuring a continuing supply of manpower for Korea, (2) Chinese pride in their successful resistance to UN forces in contrast to shameful defeats by foreign forces in the past, so that even a holding-action is regarded as a victory, and (3) the consolidation of Communist control in China, which [Redacted] is strong enough to counter the adverse economic effects of

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the Korean conflict. [redacted]

COMMENT:

[redacted] that Peiping will not abandon its commitment in Korea. Most observers agree [redacted] that the Peiping regime can supply "volunteers" indefinitely, would regard even a holding-action as worth the cost, and can maintain effective control of China. Some observers, however, feel that Peiping would not participate in an indecisive conflict indefinitely and could not maintain control of the nation in such circumstances.

"B" KOREA. Extremely Heavy Antiaircraft Fire Reported over Pyongyang. The US Air Force, commenting on extremely heavy flak received over Pyongyang on 7 May, reports the loss of one B-29 and the damage of seven other aircraft from ground fire. While most of the fire received appeared to be from radar-directed 85mm antiaircraft guns, several explosions four to five times the size of ordinary explosions were also reported. Fragments from these burst were reportedly large enough to be seen. [redacted]

COMMENT: Reference to antiaircraft burst "four to five times larger than 85mm explosions" suggests the use of either larger-type antiaircraft weapons (not previously reported in Korea) or the remote possibility of some type of ground to air rockets. Recent field reports have noted a heavy increase (up to 400%) in antiaircraft fire received throughout Korea.

"C" ROK Vice President Announces Resignation Intention. Ambassador Muccio reports that ROK Vice President YI Siyong announced his intention to resign on 9 May. The Vice President explained to the National Assembly that he had waited three years for an improvement in the Government, with particular reference to the caliber of ministerial appointments, and because of the Government's failure in this respect he wished to resign. It is rumored that YI is dissatisfied with recent Cabinet appointments because of their "pro-Japanese" background. [redacted]

COMMENT: The Vice President, who was a high official before Japan annexed Korea, is 84 years old and a widely respected figure-head in Korea. His action may have been motivated by dissatisfaction with the background of Cabinet appointees or as a gesture of protest at the corruption in ROK official ranks. In any case the situation is symbolical of the turmoil in ROK political circles as witnessed by an AFP report that Pusan political circles feel Premier Chang, who was appointed only three or four months ago, will shortly tender his resignation.