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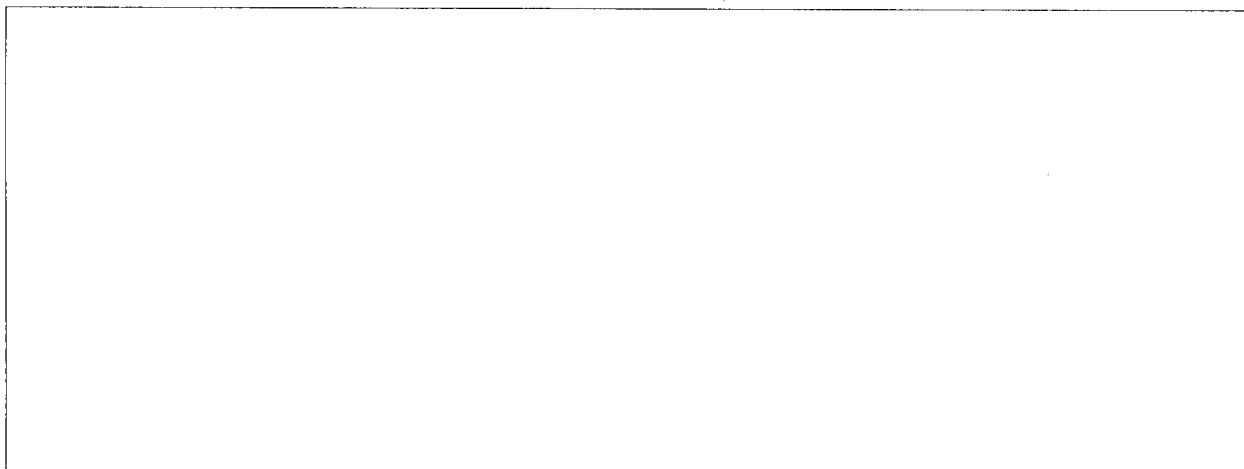


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GENERAL

1. Stalin and Kim Il Sung exchange greetings on fourth anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations: On 11 and 12 October, Radio Moscow broadcast an exchange of greetings between Premier Kim Il Sung and Stalin on the fourth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the USSR. Kim expressed gratitude for the "selfless assistance and friendly support" of the Soviet Union, while Stalin hoped that the Koreans would have "successes in their heroic fight for the freedom and independence of their motherland." 

Comment: These messages, in contrast with the 1950 greetings, clearly show that the Communists are less sure of the outcome of the Korean war than they were then. At that time, Stalin expressed hope for a "united, independent, democratic" Korea, while the Soviet press quoted Kim as saying that the "Soviet foreign policy strengthens our people's belief in a triumphant conclusion to the sacred war."



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10. South Korean press exaggerates economic situation:
American and UN officials called on Clarence Rye, director of the ROK Office of Public Information, in an attempt to secure official South Korean cooperation in checking the current Korean press campaign exaggerating the social and economic distress in South Korea. Rye at first claimed that the campaign was part of the usual carping of the opposition press, but when confronted with the fact that the stories were actually initiated by pro-government papers, he shifted to a general condemnation of all Korean editors as "rascals" who changed policy daily. He agreed, however, to take the matter up with the editors at his next press conference. [redacted]

Comment: The press campaign was probably inspired in part by South Korea's desire to build up its case for increased UN and American assistance in food and other consumer goods. Among other things, the press articles claimed that 9,000,000 civilians are destitute and that war destruction has reduced ROK morale to a point where attempted suicides are reaching alarming proportions. The Communists have been quick to utilize these stories in their propaganda broadcasts.