

THE FAR EAST

The Korean War: Military Situation Ignored

Soviet propaganda concerning the war in Korea is low in volume and ignores the actual military situation, thus following a pattern of non-emphasis that has been applied since the United Nations forces resumed the offensive in January. One Home Service commentary purports to "review military operations," but it is actually concerned with evidences of America's inability to crush the Korean people rather than the existing strategic or tactical situation. The commentary dwells on the generalized claim which is part of Soviet conventional propaganda in a

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defeat situation, that "the myth about the might and power of American arms ... dispersed like smoke when it came into contact with Korean reality."

Soviet propagandists show continuing concern to convince the Koreans and the world that the Korean cause is receiving wide support, but scrupulously avoid the question of more than spiritual support from the Soviet Union. Korean-language commentaries 21-26 March repeatedly urge the Koreans to exert great efforts to help themselves. The strength of Chinese support of the Koreans is cited frequently and in some detail, citing such things as comfort kits and letters from Shanghai workers. Furthermore, the strength and solidarity of the Chinese People's Republic is emphasized in broadcasts beamed to Korea. Conversely, however, the Korean War receives little attention in Mandarin-language broadcasts--an indication perhaps that the subject is a delicate one at present.

There is no reference to the possibility of a negotiated settlement, and U.N. efforts in this direction continue to be ignored. There are, however, repeated references to Stalin's 16 February assertion that the Western nations will be forced to accept Peking's terms. The repeated allusions to this statement not only reflect Soviet leader-worship (Stalin's remarks always receive enduring publicity), but they also keep open the door to negotiations on unspecified terms.