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WEEKLY SURVEY
10 DECEMBER 1948

FRIENDS AND ENEMIES IN KOREA

Radio Moscow and its Pyongyang satellite devote themselves to establishing the Soviet Union as Korea's true friend this week. Broadcasts describe various manifestations of this friendly character and Pyongyang makes the outright assertion that the "Soviet Union is a true helper." The United States and Syngman Rhee are denounced in familiar fashion on the issues of withdrawal of troops and weakening of the economy, but Pyongyang's comment on the troop issue is somewhat more restrained than was the case last week.

United Nations deliberations on Korea are reported by TASS and Ermashev in the context of U.S. "rude pressure" on other delegations and of American fear of Korean "democrats."

a. Northern Koreans "Appreciate" Soviet Friendship: Radio Pyongyang has never been backward about overtly acknowledging North Korea's debt of gratitude to the USSR but broadcasts this week abound with references to Korean awareness of Soviet bounty. One such reference is Kim Il Sung's speech at the party honoring Soviet Army officers on their departure from Pyongyang. Broadcast on 6 December, the address is full of verbal bows to the Soviet troops whose "great benevolence" made possible the establishment of the People's Democratic Government and the development of the Korean economy. Kim attributes the achievements of the People's Committees to the assistance rendered by the Soviet Army and reiterates his "conviction" that "such solid goodwill will become a sound collateral security" in Korea's struggle against American imperialism.

Other less prominent individuals are also quoted by Radio Pyongyang either as affirming Korean-Soviet solidarity or as calling for it. Cho Su of the Korean-Soviet Culture Association is so quoted on 7 December and a member of the Ch-ondo Cult Youth Friend Party, on 2 December. In addition, Pyongyang reports the rapturous send-off meeting and parties arranged by grateful Koreans for Soviet troops, attributes rehabilitation of the machine industry to the "help of the Soviet Union" and commemorates the anniversary of the Stalin Constitution with a broadcast lauding that document

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as "the constitution for all the peoples throughout the world who are fighting warmaking imperialists for lasting peace." Still another instance of this type of broadcast is an 8 December commentary entitled "The Soviet Union Is the Nation with the Most Progressive Culture"; Pyongyang insists that "no other country" has such wonderful cultural institutions.

b. Border Crossings: Radio Pyongyang has periodically quoted refugees from American "terror" who have fled across the 38th parallel to Soviet protection in the north. On 6 December, the Soviet-controlled transmitter reports "a busy flow of immigrants and merchants" across the border at Yonchon and quotes adverse reports of conditions under the Rhee Government. This broadcast is substantiated by 7 December transmissions giving additional details of the allegedly depressing conditions in Seoul and of the efforts of Korean "democrats" to withstand official terror as reported by "a South Korean woman" or "a South Korean housewife."

c. Withdrawal of Troops: The vehement outbursts with which Moscow and Pyongyang reacted to the National Assembly's resolution on retention of American troops is tempered this week in that the quantity is reduced; the emotional wording of Pyongyang's broadcasts remains the same, however. Typical of this emotional quality of Pyongyang's comment is the 4 December broadcast quoting an "actor of the national motion picture studio." This actor is said to have declared "I am absolutely opposed to the unpardonable, malicious scheme of the Syngman Rhee puppet Government to sell our nation as a slave of America." Pyongyang quotes opposition to American troops expressed by leaders of the Wonsan Christian League, teachers groups, workers of the Songjin Steel Works, and South Korean political parties and social organizations including the Democratic Independence Party, Korean People's Republican Party, South Korean Independence Party, Social Democratic Party, and the New Progressive Party.

Comrade Zhukov, writing in PRAVDA, emphasizes the Soviet contention that the Assembly resolution reflects Syngman Rhee's fear of "well deserved" popular "contempt and hatred." The commentary, broadcast to Soviet Asia and in Korean and Japanese on 6 December, argues that "the soil under Syngman Rhee's feet has become hotter still" and "the old foreign agent," being unable to cope with the situation, is calling in American assistance. Rhee "needs the aid of American tanks in order to strangle the strikers and postpone the hour of his unavoidable fall. . . . Rhee's appeal to the United States is vivid testimony to the fact that the puppet Government in southern Korea is kept in power only with the help of U.S. occupation troops."

In further substantiation of its familiar assertions, Moscow quotes Pyongyang accounts of protest meetings, handbills, mass strikes, and demonstrations, all of which "demand immediate withdrawal of American troops from Korea."

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d. Korea and the United Nations: Radio Moscow has three major criticisms of current U.N. deliberations on Korea, and all are included in Ermashev's 7 December commentary, broadcast in Czech, Finnish, English, Polish, Serbo-croat, French, and German. It is argued that the problem is too complicated to be considered in the short time available to the Political Committee, that the Seoul Government does not represent "democratic" Korea, and that the Temporary Commission on Korea is but an illegal offshoot of the illegal Little Assembly. Ermashev reasons that Dulles, knowing the problem to be too thorny for the time available, proposed its consideration as a "smoke-screen" for "continued United States occupation of southern Korea."

TASS elaborates charges of the undemocratic nature of the Seoul Government and of the popular basis of the Pyongyang regime in a dispatch reporting U.N. debate on the issue. (in Russian Hellschreiber to Europe and in English Morse to North America, 6 December) The report summarizes arguments presented by American, Soviet, Czechoslovak, and Chinese delegates and concludes that approval of the Chinese proposal for inviting a representative from Seoul and not Pyongyang represents the triumph of American "rude pressure" on other delegates. The whole debate "once more demonstrates" American fear of participation by "true representatives of the Korean people," TASS warns.

Pyongyang follows suit in claiming on 1 December that America presented the issue only to "deceive" world and Korean opinion. The same broadcast reiterates the claim that "it is only the Soviet Union which is giving every assistance to Korea."

e. "New Crimes" in Seoul: Pyongyang broadcasters make new charges against the Seoul Government this week. The familiar assertions regarding the use of "police terror" are supplemented by claims that the National Security Law "is nothing but the reprint of the old Japanese national mobilization law" and of "vicious" Japanese policies for maintenance of public order. (3 December) On 28 November the law is criticized on the grounds that it defines opposition to the puppet Government as opposition to the Constitution, punishes those who oppose specific governmental measures such as the Grain Purchase Law as opponents of the Government, and punishes those who assist "patriots." Pyongyang insists that the new security measures, although designed to "wipe out completely all patriotic political forces" will nonetheless operate to strengthen democratic forces.

Pyongyang also includes among Syngman Rhee's "new crimes" the press control measure; this is said to duplicate the press code of the Kwangmu era of Japanese oppression. (4 December) Still another "crime" is the measure creating a committee to look out for the "welfare" of Assemblymen. Pyongyang interprets this measure, which on the surface is designed to care for housing, transportation, "and other welfare matters" for Assemblymen, as being an attempt to "provide a state guarantee for... the corrupted, carnal pleasures of life" of the Assemblymen. (4 December)

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