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FAR EAST SURVEY
11 SEPTEMBER 1952

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THE KOREAN WAR

Communist Chinese and North Korean broadcasts continue to reflect the stalemate in the truce negotiations. Few new propaganda elements are provided and there has been no slackening of the vigorous denunciation of American bestiality as demonstrated in the bombing of Korean cities and towns and the mistreatment of prisoners. Some indication of the effect of the bombing upon popular morale may be gleaned from Pyongyang's insistent effort to convince the people that the Koreans have powerful friends who will not desert them.

Charging that prisoner massacres, escapes and impressment into American espionage services have seriously depleted POW ranks, Peking continues to call for an up-to-date revision of the POW lists. The possibility that this demand foreshadows an attempt to rationalize the availability of fewer POWs for repatriation is gainsaid by the accompanying insistence that the final figures for repatriation must approximate 116,000 men, including 20,000 Chinese.

While Moscow and Peking have frequently averred that no military installations are located in the Pyongyang area, the North Korean radio has broadcast no such allegation. Soviet sensitivity to the Communists' failure to blunt the aerial offensive may be indicated by the studied deletion of all references to the bombings from Soviet broadcasts to Korea.

Bombings True Measure of American Humanitarianism: Few new elements are provided in Peking and Pyongyang's present orientation towards the continued stalemate at Panmunjom. The Americans' bestial and indiscriminate bombing of defenseless Korean cities and towns remains the focal point of Communist invective, and Pyongyang and Moscow join Peking in classifying the bombings as another demonstration of the Americans' desperate effort to win victory through arrogance and brutality rather than military power. Qualifying the senseless murder of women and children as a true indication of America's much touted "humanitarianism," Peking, especially, continues to insist that neither such ill-conceived "military pressure" nor the sustained massacre of POWs will sway the Communists in their insistence upon an equitable peace and the return of prisoners.

All three transmitters demonstrate sensitivity concerning the present state of Sino-Korean relations and there are indications that Moscow seeks to avoid Korean reflections concerning the Soviets' part in the war effort. Continuing a tactic in evidence for the past three weeks, Peking, Pyongyang and Moscow have frequently praised the ties of amity and common purpose binding the Korean and Chinese battle partners. Pyongyang and Peking have vied with each other in their deference to the aid and comfort mutually extended and the frequent references to the tremendous contributions made by the Soviet Union and the Satellites may well stem from a desire to counter popular displeasure with the Soviets, inability to provide effective aid to prevent the bombings. This factor may also be to the point in considering

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that Soviet propaganda, while vehemently assailing the bombings in broadcasts to North America, Europe and the Satellites, has assiduously failed to broadcast such expressions of shocked displeasure to the Koreans, who might well feel called upon to ask why their powerful friend has done nothing to prevent these "crimes."

Pyongyang Avoids Discussion of Local Installations: Some indication as to the presence of military installations in the Pyongyang area may be gleaned from the varying approach to the question of American targets. Moscow and Peking have repeatedly declared that the destruction of homes, cultural institutions and hospitals is the primary goal of the Americans, since no military installations are located anywhere in the vicinity of the North Korean capital. Pyongyang, for its part, has reported that civilian structures, peaceful men, women and children are bearing the brunt of the attack, but it has never alleged, parallel to such charges, that there are no military installations in the area. It would seem that such a claim might find little acceptance among the local listeners who know better.

Revision of Prisoner Rosters to Precede Mass Repatriation: Peking continues to demonstrate displeasure with the consecutive week-long recesses, but no longer claims that they are illegal. Harrison's reminder that a prolongation of the war can only increase the incidence of disease in North Korea and aggravate the sufferings of the people is denounced as a threat to resume bacteriological warfare. There are numerous allegations that prisoners are being massacred in large numbers because they insist on going home, and one commentary expresses indignation at an American attempt to classify POWs as political exiles.

As was the case two weeks ago, the Chinese claim that massacres, escapes, and impressment into American espionage services have seriously depleted prisoner ranks and ask for a revision of prisoner lists to provide a more realistic picture of the present situation. Although such a demand suggests that the Communists may be preparing to rationalize the availability of a smaller number of prisoners for repatriation, a concomitant insistence that approximately 116,000 POWs, including 20,000 Chinese, must be returned largely serves to gainsay this possibility.

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