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FAR EAST SURVEY
12 APRIL 1951

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NORTH KOREAN BROADCASTS EMPHASIZE NEED FOR RECRUITING

There is a widespread effort by the North Korean radio to gain volunteers for the People's Armed Forces. Greatest play has been given to rallies in support of the appeal made by the Democratic Front's central committee. The rallies are said to arouse such patriotic fervor that hundreds of youths volunteer during the demonstrations. Indicative of the scope of this manpower drive is the fact that a recent Pyongyang broadcast carried an appeal by a farmer who had left his plow to take up arms for the Fatherland. Such appeals to farmers are infrequent in Pyongyang broadcasts. In conjunction with the intensified recruiting appeal there is an insistent call for a "higher spirit of patriotism."

Battle Area Shifts to "Line North of Seoul": Current references to fighting "on the line north of Seoul" represent a fourth phase in Pyongyang's treatment of the fall of Seoul. The first phase referring to fighting in the "Seoul area" is mentioned as late as 1 April, although the extension of the fighting north of the capital is mentioned earlier. Pyongyang's first reports on the paratroop invasion north of the capital did not come until after the U.N. command had announced the entrance of its troops into the city. North Korean troops at this time were said to be acting on orders from Seoul. By 28 March, there were references to fighting "north of Seoul," and current reports relate the details of fierce engagements with heavy U.N. losses on a "line north of Seoul." North Korean comment continues to emphasize the establishment of schools for the children of "martyrs" and the problems of spring planting. In connection with the latter, a recent broadcast announces that party workers are going to live with farmers to "guide the sowing" in various provinces.

SOUTH KOREA: NORTH KOREANS STARVE TO FEED CHINESE TROOPS

In a commentary on the current situation, Pusan charges that Kim Il Sung is requisitioning "all the food in North Korea" to feed the Chinese Communist hordes. Other broadcasts declare that while their people are starving, the Chinese Communists are exporting food to India, and that as long as Kim Il Sung is feeding the aggressors, the North Koreans will never be able to feed themselves.

There is a great deal of comment on the deteriorating financial situation of the Syngman Rhee Government. Finance Minister Paek is quoted to the effect that the government will drop its former tax policy, and substitute that practiced under American Military Government rule. This system bases market prices on the taxable value of imported goods, minus transportation costs.

Recent Pusan broadcasts carry a presidential message on the loss of national prestige as a result of "irresponsible statements" made in the open sessions of the National Assembly. President Rhee cautions that "irregularities" among government organs and officials must be investigated before they are discussed in open session.

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