

THE FAR EAST

Korean War: Moscow Remains Detached from Cease-Fire Negotiations

Moscow is nominally aloof from the cease-fire negotiations and does not speculate on the issues involved or commit itself to any particular outcome. But it demonstrates topical interest in the discussions by increasing its attention to "peace" elements in the Korean context and by increasing its over-all attention to the peace campaign. It does not, however, make any extended effort to relate peace in Korea to peace in other frames of reference.

Decline in Atrocity Propaganda: There is a sharp decline, in the second week, in attention to atrocity propaganda and to charges of American responsibility for the war, both of which had been prominent in previous weeks. There is a decided concentration on the war in broadcasts to North America in pursuance of Moscow's effort to arouse American public opposition to the war, and there is a decline in the volume of attention to the war in broadcasts beamed to Korea.*

* On 12 June Radio Khabarovsk discontinued its daily broadcasts in Korean, thereby reducing the weekly time on the air in Korean from 26 to 21 hours. The decline in attention to the war in Korean-language broadcasts is not merely a reflection of this reduction, however, for in the period between 12 June and 2 July the war was discussed an average of 16 times weekly in Korean-language broadcasts, while between 3 and 9 July there were only three such references.

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Peace Elements Increase in Volume: Moscow's exploitation of the cease-fire negotiations relies on TASS reports of the various notes exchanged by the negotiators; it does not discuss any of the issues involved or even acknowledge speculation as to possible conditions to be presented by either side. But it does give wide publicity to a commentary recapitulating the Soviet Union's efforts to secure peace in Korea. Furthermore, it gives only minimal attention to the belligerent Sino-Korean protestations of certain Communist victory should the negotiations fail, and it ignores the drives for donations of planes and for enrollment in military schools which Peking regularly associates with reports of the negotiations. The above-noted decline in the emphasis on American atrocities and American responsibility for the war also suggests concern to maximize the possibilities of peace without committing the Soviet propagandists to any direct course of action.

Wall Street's desire for profits and its opposition to a peaceful solution are frequently cited, and reference is made to President Truman's 4 July appeal for continued mobilization in Moscow's drive to identify the culprits; but these elements receive less attention than the USSR's efforts to secure peace, which are the subject of a widely distributed Marinin commentary on 6 July. Just as it did in the early weeks of the recent DFM meeting, Moscow seems to be preparing the groundwork for identifying those responsible for either outcome of the negotiations.