

12 Nov 48
Korea

The Pyongyang radio pursues its endless recriminations against the "American imperialists" who, with the aid of the "traitor" Syngman Rhee, are "bent on colonizing the southern half of Korea." At the same time a plethora of broadcasts is devoted to developments in North Korea, where pre-schedule fulfillment and overfulfillment of quotas in almost every field of production are said to be taking place. The second anniversary of the elections for provincial, municipal, and county People's Committees is the starting point for further eulogies on the "democratic" development of North Korea which is "capable of founding and running a democratic, united, sovereign, independent state."

Comment on the south Korean insurrection, which tapered off toward the end of last week, is renewed with vigor. Attention focuses again on Syngman Rhee, who is accused of perpetrating "brutal massacres, worse than ever before." Whereas the Pyongyang radio makes numerous references to the use of American troops in quelling the rebellion, only one reference has appeared in monitored broadcasts from Moscow which quotes a Seoul newspaper charging that "American troops, along with the Syngman Rhee Army, are participating in quelling the rebellion." (Moscow, in Korean to Korea, 10 November 1948)

The October Revolution Anniversary is given full play by Pyongyang commentators who regard the day as a Korean as well as a Soviet holiday because of the Revolution's "inseparable link with the Korean Liberation Movement." Nothing unexpected is said in these discourses on the Revolution anniversary; they contain the usual panegyrics on the Soviet system and stress the enormous debt the Korean people owe to the Soviet Union.

So far the Pyongyang radio has ignored the U.S. elections.

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a. "The Americans Are Sucking the Honey of Korea": Among the many crimes committed by that arch traitor Syngman Rhee, Pyongyang declares, is his signing of the so-called South Korean-American financial agreement under the terms of which "the Americans are sucking the honey of Korea." (9 November 1948) Added to this is the signing of the South Korean-American military agreement which "agrees to convert South Korea into an American military base." Another "crime" is the issuance of inflationary bank notes by the Chosen Bank "under the country-selling policy of the Syngman Rhee country-ruining puppet Government." (Pyongyang, 5 November 1948)

b. Americans Aiding the "Brutal Massacres" of Syngman Rhee: Interspersed in smug accounts of the Soviet troop withdrawal from North Korea are endless references to the American failure to carry out the withdrawal order and to the use, instead, of American troops in assisting Syngman Rhee to quell the uprising of the people "at vindictive gunpoint." The Honam area is reported to be witnessing "brutal massacres worse than ever before." The so-called expeditionary police units are reported, in one broadcast, to be shooting the people to death on the spot--thereby illustrating the "last-ditch vindictiveness of Syngman Rhee." (Pyongyang, 9 November 1948)

c. The "Happy Life in North Korea": Among the many features of the good life in North Korea is the enjoyment of complete freedom of religion, Korean listeners are told in one broadcast from Pyongyang. "Korea has made great strides since the days when Christians were burned to death." This aspect of a "free life" contrasts sharply with the situation in South Korea, the broadcast continues, where "Christians have been deprived of freedom of religion" because of the policy of Americans whose "one and only scheme is to colonize South Korea." (9 November 1948) Not only Korean Christians but also the Chinese population of North Korea is "enjoying a happy life," another Pyongyang broadcast indicates. The "correct measures" of the Korean Central Government have "enabled them (the Chinese) to enjoy a happy life in a free environment." (9 November 1948)

Further evidences of prosperity and happiness in North Korea are offered in an endless number of Pyongyang broadcasts which give accounts of overfulfillment of production quotas in many fields--chemical and fertilizer plants, mines, iron and steel industries, transportation, communication, fall wheat sowing, and so forth.

c. North Korea -- "Democratic, United, Sovereign, Independent State": The second anniversary of the "democratic" elections for provincial, municipal and county People's Committees is featured in several Pyongyang broadcasts which hail the elections as "a brilliant triumph" for the North Koreans who have demonstrated to the world that they are capable of "founding and running a democratic, united, sovereign, independent state." The elections are said to have dealt a "scathing blow to the American imperialists bent on perpetrating their vicious plotting to convert liberated Korea into their colonial dependency." (10 November 1948)

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