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USSR SURVEY  
13 NOVEMBER 1953

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Korea

KOREA: U.S. Charges Dismissed as "Fabrication"

While Moscow reacted promptly to the U.S. Army report on Communist atrocities in Korea and the refutation of BW charges, there are no indications, from the volume or substance, of any concerted effort to counteract the American charges. Thus, they are dismissed as a "fabrication" with no attempt to refute specific points. The main commentary--a 31 October PRAVDA article which was broadcast to European and Chinese audiences but not to Korea--compares the U.S. charges with the report on atrocities issued by Colonel Hanley in November 1951. (However, at that time the Hanley report was publicized only to the North American audience and was not used as a primary propaganda topic.) A statement by Dr. Andreen, member of the International Scientific Commission that investigated BW charges, asserts that before the meeting with the captured American airmen the commission had established that the United States was using bacterial weapons; however, the statement is transmitted only by TASS.

Political Conference: Initially Moscow relied largely on Chinese sources for comment on the Panmunjom preliminary negotiations. However, a PRAVDA article on 3 November echoes Peking's insistence that the composition of the political talks must be the major issue and adds that by sending Dean to negotiate the United States is merely trying to delay the settlement of the convocation of the political conference. Currently there is no delineation of the Communist position on composition nor any elaboration on Soviet participation. The 3 November Soviet note to the three Western powers, in castigating the West for refusing to hold a five-power conference, made the unusual statement that the U.S. rejection of the participation of neutral countries makes Soviet participation impossible. This is the first such explicit statement that the USSR would refuse to attend the conference except as a neutral. (Vishinsky's 30 September threat that the political conference would not be held unless neutrals participated was not publicized in Moscow broadcasts.)

The Soviet note also makes an atypical statement that the political conference is needed to achieve unification and a stable peace. While unification consistently has been cited as a Communist aim, recent broadcasts have avoided linking the issue directly with discussion of the political conference.

Current broadcasts avoid the prisoner-exchange issue and in general broadcasts evade India's position. On the other hand Voroshilov in the October Revolution speech assails the United States for refusing to invite India to the political conference.

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