

THE FAR EAST

Korean War: Atrocity Charges Reach High Point

There is a decided increase in the volume of atrocity propoganda which keeps total attention to the Korean War at the approximate level of two weeks ago. The erstwhile emphasis on the U.N. embargo has been replaced by these charges of atrocities in further demonstration of Moscow's tendency to maximize related but non-military events.

In the first of the two weeks under review, atrocity propoganda accounts for one fifth of the attention to the war, while in the second it accounts for two thirds. This volume of concentration is higher than at any point since January; as was customary with the earlier atrocity propoganda, the current attack is beamed primarily to European audiences, and Moscow avoids the panic effects that might follow emphasis on atrocities in Asian-language broadcasts. There is, in fact, a tendency to avoid the war in Korean and Mandarin-language broadcasts. This avoidance is contrary to Moscow's usual beaming patterns and suggests a continuing desire to remain aloof from a possibly unpopular war.

There is no evidence of any interest in a negotiated settlement, but there is continuing evidence of a desire to provoke war-weariness in the United States.

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As has been customary, Moscow's references to actual military operations are casual and uninformative. The present situation is described in terms of U.N. counter-thrusts which are repulsed by the Communist forces, but Soviet broadcasters seldom identify the areas involved in these reports; this omission is acknowledged in one commentary which notes that a correspondent has inquired as to the actual location of the fighting front. The commentator identifies three key points of the line but gives no other precise information. There is repeated reference to the American officers' practice of ignoring the cost of any operation, and this is said to apply to both men and materiel. The degree to which allied forces are sacrificed by American officers who wish to save their own troops is emphasized in the second week, especially in broadcasts to Greece and Turkey--which have provided some of the troops being sacrificed.