

## THE K O R E A N W A R

Peking Promises "Quick Armistice" Following Effective Guarantees: Communist comment following acceptance of General Clark's proposal to resume the Panmunjom negotiations reflects a cautious optimism toward the possibility of a final truce settlement, conditioned largely by insistence that the United States provide a firm guarantee of South Korean adherence to the armistice and "related" provisions. Peking observes that the necessary "effective steps" to curb Rhee's obstructionism are not included in either General Clark's letter of 29 June or in the joint statement released by Syngman Rhee and Assistant Secretary Robertson, although Peking expresses interest in Clark's reference to certain "military safeguards" the UNC is prepared to undertake to ensure an armistice.

NCNA correspondent Kiang Nan specifically charges that the Rhee-Robertson talks have "insured Rhee the necessary conditions for wrecking the armistice," and notes that Rhee claims he agreed only not to obstruct the armistice for a 90-day period. General comment, however, is marked by its restraint, particularly in discussion of the alleged American failure so far to provide real guarantees of South Korean compliance and of American culpability in the "release" and projected release of prisoners.

Communist Demands Assume U.S. Control of Rhee: The demands for American guarantees against South Korean obstruction are apparently based on the assumption that the United States can and will "control Rhee." These demands emphasize several factors: (1) that Rhee "abide by and implement" all armistice terms; (2) that a total cease-fire be observed; (3) that all troops be withdrawn from the demarcation line; and (4) that the security of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, Indian troops, and other personnel be assured. There has been no indication that the Communists are prepared to adjust their position to permit agreement on a truce in the event that Rhee continues to reject the U.N. proposals.

Peking Joins Pyongyang in Demand for Recapture of POWs: Peking has now echoed Pyongyang's more insistent demand that Rhee return all released prisoners in order to fulfill the terms of the armistice. The ambiguity which previously surrounded this demand seems to have been dissipated since the Kim-Peng letter of 7 July clearly enunciated the principle that the United Nations Command "bears at all times the responsibility for recovering all escaped prisoners of war." Pyongyang, after the conclusion of the Rhee-Robertson talks, renewed its insistence on the recovery of all released North Korean prisoners, a subject about which it has been silent for a week and which dominated its apparently premature and unilateral rejection of Clark's letter of 29 June. Peking repeats this latest Pyongyang demand for the return of prisoners--in contrast to its avoidance of the Pyongyang rejection of the Clark letter--but devotes the bulk of its comment on prisoners to the alleged plans of the South Koreans colluding with Kuomintang agents to release the remaining North Korean as well as the Chinese Communist prisoners.

Little Substantive Comment on Truce Sessions: Communiques on the resumed truce meetings report only briefly that executive sessions are being held. Comment stresses that an armistice "can be signed quickly" if the American side demonstrates its sincerity for successful implementation of the agreement. Communist press observers, however, imply that little progress has been made to date. Broadcasts contain no reference to indefinite adjournment of the meetings, despite the alleged U.S. shelling of the conference site and the "unilateral" U.S. adjournment of the 15 July truce meeting.

16 JULY 1953

## N O R T H K O R E A

Bumper Crops Foreseen Despite Difficulties: North Korean comment on domestic affairs reveals concern over a number of natural calamities and shortcomings of varying severity. Pyongyang reports organized campaigns against the depredations of the "mibbore" insect which caused severe destruction in the fields, and warns that the rapidly-breeding insect will return twice more before the summer is over. Greater attention to preventive measures is urged. Inclement and unseasonable weather, which is blamed for the heavy incidence of the mibbore, is also cited by Pyongyang as making necessary prompt anti-flood measures to safeguard storage facilities, farm land and villages. American atrocities--destruction of dams and forests in indiscriminate bombing attacks--are alleged to be contributing factors in the increased flood danger. Pyongyang also demands increased preparation of vegetable compost to replace the continued shortage of chemical fertilizer, and reports that teams have been organized to collect grass for this purpose. Despite these difficulties, Pyongyang boasts that a bumper crop will be harvested this year and claims that farmers are already preparing record taxes in kind on early barley and wheat.

Pyongyang broadcasts also stress the need to replace depleted State reserves of food and raw materials and to secure commodities which can garner foreign exchange. A wide network of "purchase agents" has been established empowered to make on-the-spot payments to individuals for the necessary goods. While Pyongyang indicates that the collection techniques will stress the use of incentives, the hides of all slaughtered cattle must be "compulsorily sold to the State."

Subsidiary North Korean comment continues attention to Communist camp relations. Both Soviet culture and science are praised and listed as sources of study by the Korean people. The 32nd anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party occasions similar praise of Chinese culture and friendship. Comment on relations with both China and the Soviet Union, however, stresses spiritual and ideological relations and avoids reference to material aid. Pyongyang generally fails to repeat Peking's frequent references to CPV aid to the Korean people.

## S O U T H K O R E A

Seoul Reduces Comment on Independent Action: The large volume of South Korean comment reiterating a determination to fight on alone if necessary for Korean unification has now abated, and Seoul reported the text of the Rhee-Robertson communique without comment. A statement by President Rhee on the following day announced his continued desire to effect the unification and independence of Korea, although the "means" to bring this about may change. Rhee voiced a desire to avoid any "utterances or acts" which might "create a difficult situation." South Korean comment on the progress of the talks themselves was circumspect and avoided rash speculation.

Continued concern over the present truce terms seems indicated in official South Korean denunciation of the 7 July Kim-Peng letter as evidence of the Communist plot to invade South Korea "after forcing us into a defenseless position." The official statement, issued on 10 July, also rejects the Communist assumption that the Republic of Korea is subordinate to the United Nations Command.