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GLOBAL TOPICS

KOREAN WAR: Deneutralization Policy Linked to Korean War

Moscow comment on Eisenhower's deneutralization of Formosa, withheld until 9 February, is principally related to expansion of the Korean war and does not differ in treatment from previous Moscow comment on alleged plans of the new Administration. Comment has been largely confined to discussion by two leading commentators, Kudryavtsev and Korianov, who feature the following contentions:

1. Deneutralization is "in accordance with the U.S. intention to expand and extend the war in the Far East";
2. Recent statements by Stalin, Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai indicate Communist willingness to end the war peacefully, demonstrating the false position of U.S. propaganda which contends that there was "no alternative";
3. Opposition to the U.S. move has crystallized rapidly in the Western camp as well as in Asian nations;
4. The United States plans "to deceive the Asiatic peoples by depicting the aggressive intentions of the U.S. imperialists as a struggle of the Asiatic peoples against Communism";
5. Any expansion of the war by the United States will be met successfully by Communist forces.

Emphasis on the defensive nature of the Communist position, noted in comment on the war during recent months, continues in the present comment. Communist force is presented merely as capable of countering the U.S. threat. There is no mention of the possibility of Chinese Communist military action against Formosa as a result of its deneutralization.

Chinese Leaders Emphasize Peaceful Intent: Chou En-lai, speaking recently before the National Committee of the Chinese People's Consultative Conference, reported that the Chinese and Koreans are prepared to cease hostilities immediately on the basis of the general terms of the Soviet proposal to the United Nations on a Korean cease-fire. The subsequent speech by Mao Tse-tung, although failing to mention truce possibilities explicitly, stresses only China's resolve to continue the struggle as long as "American imperialism prefers to fight," in contrast to the early and vehement Communist war aim of driving the Americans "into the sea." Highlights of the two speeches are broadcast widely by Moscow without comment.

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Poison Gas Added to List of Atrocities: Moscow's latest charge of U.S. atrocities alleges that "poison gas" was used to quell the demonstration of Korean prisoners on 9 February at Koje Island. In contrast to the Pongam incident of December 1952, however, the present charge is treated as an isolated incident with no reference to the over-all truce issue or to future U.N. discussion. Elaboration of the poison-gas charge is provided by alleged quotations from Western press sources which refer to the gas used as an "irritant," "a sticky poisonous liquid that burns the human body," requiring soap and water to wash it off. Commentators denounce the use of this substance with unusual intensity, comparing Koje once again to the Nazi extermination camps. Attention to the POW issue-- this week to the poison-gas charge and the previous week to the repetition of Chinese denunciation of the U.N. report on 1952 prisoner riots-- provides the largest single component in Korean war comment. Peking and Pyongyang carry similar comment.

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