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FAR EAST SURVEY
19 JULY 1951

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NORTH KOREA: U.S. ORDERED RIDGWAY TO SUE FOR PEACE

Pyongyang broadcasts continue to insist that the initiation of the cease-fire talks is a patent revelation that the Americans finally realized that the invasion of Korea was a "reckless military adventure" and a "major miscalculation." The Americans are pictured as being faced with incipient disaster, growing resistance at home and constant disagreements with their satellites; therefore they were forced to order Ridgway to ask for a cease-fire. The details of the preliminary negotiations are presented factually and without comment. Any possible conditions to be presented are consistently glossed over, and the "cessation of military action" and the "conclusion of a truce" are repeatedly mentioned as the essential goals of the talks. Parallel comment, however, maintains that the Korean people, who have won their independence so dearly, are prepared to continue the fight with the certainty of eventual victory, and the Americans are reminded that their future actions will determine whether there is to be peace or war. Other comment on the war denounces American brutality in conventional manner and assails the U.S. for its unrestricted bombing, especially of Pyongyang.

In other comment, Pyongyang reports the opening of special schools for disabled servicemen, the rapid restoration of essential services in areas devastated by American bombing and the accelerated advance of the people's economy despite privation and suffering. In addition there are appeals for more prompt payment of grain taxes, and the military cadres, among others, are asked to help in the general agricultural effort.

SOUTH KOREA: UNIFICATION IS THE ESSENTIAL GOAL

Pusan transmissions maintain that Malik's proposal for a cessation of hostilities in Korea stems from the realization that the war in Korea has been a dismal failure and that the free nations of the world are united against aggression. The Soviet Union, it is likewise contended, has become increasingly aware that the long war of attrition has seriously undermined the Chinese Communists' control of the mainland population.

The major component of South Korean comment on the war, however, continues to be insistence on the claim that any cease-fire which does not provide for the unification of Korea under a democratic government will nullify the sufferings of millions and the destruction of a major part of the country. Recurring reports of the possibility of a coalition between the Communists and the South Koreans are vigorously rejected as Communist propaganda designed to incite dissension.

Non-military comment reports the return of refugees to Seoul, the rapid rehabilitation of the city, and the successes attained in meeting the food situation. Profiteers are warned to cease their activities.

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