

20 Sept 57

KOREAN WAR: No New Lines

Having said almost nothing about the Kaesong stalemate for two weeks, Moscow breaks its silence in a PRAVDA article broadcast some 40 times on 18 September. However, this article does not introduce any new line of argument; it reiterates the claim that the American attitude is the only obstacle to a peaceful solution in Korea, and it argues that American leaders "frequently" indicated their acceptance of the 38th Parallel as the cease-fire line. The American agreement to participate in cease-fire negotiations is identified as a tactic designed to cover a military build-up, to compensate for losses, and to exert pressure at the San Francisco Conference. (This interpretation of American motives could very well be nothing more than an instance of the usual Soviet practice of projecting its own motives.)

During the two weeks preceding the 18 September article, Soviet broadcasters did not indicate any concern to change the status quo at Kaesong either in the direction of open hostilities or of the resumption of negotiations. The PRAVDA article does not necessarily change this picture, for, although it receives greater attention than has usually been given comment on the Korean war in recent weeks, it merely rehashes generalities.