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USSR SURVEY
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Korea

T W O C A M P S

KOREAN WAR: Koreans Misled About Soviet Mass Meetings

Major emphasis in the Korean war comment focusses on the 7th anniversary of the Soviet "liberation" of Korea from the Japanese. Most of the anniversary comment is stereotyped in its expressions of gratitude for the Soviet liberation. In contrast to last year's anniversary comment, there is noteworthy attention to Soviet aid to Korea in the postwar period and an emphasis on Soviet concern and moral support for the Korean people's struggle against the American aggressor. This unusual--but not unique--emphasis on Soviet support could serve as appropriate propaganda preparation for two alternative purposes: (1) to document the Soviets' supporting role in the Korean war should a truce be accomplished; (2) to allay possible cynicism concerning Soviet support for the war effort, especially in the event that extended hostilities are resumed, but also in view of the current Sino-Soviet talks. ✓

Soviet Mass Meetings--a Propaganda Trick?: One Soviet-support commentary, broadcast in Korean on 14 August, asserts that in the USSR "mass meetings are continually being held to denounce the American aggression in Korea." The commentary attempts to give the impression that Soviet citizens hold such meetings repeatedly but gives no precise information regarding dates and places. It is not broadcast to Soviet audiences. In reporting these meetings Moscow quotes statements given by writer Suvorov and biologist (Cherneshevsky). The statements are almost identical to the statements these same speakers gave at the March meeting protesting BW and at the June meeting protesting the Kojé massacres.

The War and the Negotiations: There is little actual discussion of the negotiations or of the war. American intransigence is cited in the negotiations and atrocity charges make up almost half the attention to the war per se. In an anniversary article written for PRAVDA, Kim Il Sung alludes to captured "patriots" who will be returned to their homeland. This is the first and only such reference by Moscow; it may pave the way for distinguishing between POWs who will not be repatriated and the "patriots" who will return.

Unification Revived: In the same PRAVDA article Kim Il Sung declares that the Soviet people and Stalin personally desire a peaceful solution to the Korean problem in the interests of "creating a united, independent democratic and peace-loving Korean state." This Soviet concern is held to be a guarantee that such a state will be reclaimed from the ashes of the war. This revival of a formerly prominent claim suggests a desire to reassure the Koreans that the conclusion of an armistice does not mean abandonment of the long-term objective--a unified Communist Korea. ✓

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