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FAR EAST SURVEY
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NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang propaganda about the Korean war fails to reflect the recent developments in Radio Peking's broadcasts which suggest that the Chinese Communist propagandists may be preparing listeners for some kind of a Communist-U.N. agreement. North Korean comment generally is keyed to the third anniversary of the establishment of Soviet-Korean diplomatic relations and follows the customary pattern of satellite radios in expressing adherence to the Soviet Union. Pyongyang stresses American atrocities with especial emphasis on the purported intention of the Americans to use Korean, Indochinese, and Malayan war prisoners in atom bomb experiments. Stalin's PRAVDA interview on the atom bomb and domestic expressions of agreement with the sentiments voiced therein are given wide publicity, particularly in Korean and Japanese.

Some Belligerence Continued in Comment on Truce Talks: With charges of bad faith, Pyongyang continues to claim that the Americans have been responsible for the truce-talk delays, and to predict that such bad faith, as evidenced by the innumerable American violations of Kaesong, "cannot insure the smooth progress of truce talks." The Americans are familiarly charged with falsely conveying the impression that they are working for "a successful conclusion" of the talks while attempting to frustrate them.

In relation to the Kirk-Vishinsky exchange, Pyongyang does not appear to have abandoned demands for the fulfillment of some of the conditions hitherto held essential for an agreement in Korea. It is demanded, for example, that the Americans show their sincere desire for a truce by deeds which include agreement to Soviet conditions for the relaxation of international tension and improvement of Soviet-American relations; and one point mentioned in connection with American agreement to the Soviet peace program is the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea.

In a broadcast of 19 October, Americans are accused of "perpetrating" military offensives behind the facade of peace talks. "Nobody could be deceived at this time," Pyongyang declares on 20 October, "by the hypocritical and noisy yells of the American imperialists for peace."

Stress on Atrocity Propaganda: Pyongyang voices great indignation in denouncing American imperialist "cannibals" for inhumane treatment of war prisoners in violation of international law and in warning that the American imperialists who "continuously perpetrate" such atrocities shall not escape punishment by the people of the world. The Americans are charged with transforming their prisoner-of-war camps into "human slaughterhouses" in which prisoners are used "as human guinea pigs" in tests of atomic and bacteriological weapons, are arbitrarily shot and beaten by "atrocious means." In connection with descriptions of ghoulish atomic experimentation on prisoners, Pyongyang notes that these experiments are going on while the peace-loving peoples are simultaneously demanding the prohibition of atomic weapons.

These atrocity charges are broadcast simultaneously with claims that the "so-called" Van Fleet offensive has been stalled, and that the Americans must sue for peace and renew the truce talks.

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SOUTH KOREA

Pusan continues to express pessimism regarding the cease-fire negotiations. There is repeated speculation concerning the General Assembly's treatment of the Korean issue at the Paris sessions. Comment on internal matters continues to reveal difficulties in filling depleted military ranks.

Pessimism about Truce Talks: Pusan declares that "there is room to suspect a Communist plot" in their proposing Panmunjom as the new conference site instead of Songhyon-Ni proposed by the United Nations Command. It warns the United Nations Command to be wary of Communist duplicity.

Speculation on the Future Role of South Korea: Pusan envisages the current Japanese-South Korean parleys and handling of the Korean issue at the forthcoming Paris session of the General Assembly as a test of South Korean strength in international politics as an independent nation. As a result of the rebirth of Japan through the San Francisco peace treaty, Pusan says, an agreement with the "historic enemy" of Korea has become necessary. Among the issues mentioned is continued treatment of Koreans in Japan as Japanese nationals.

Internal Difficulties: Continued difficulties in procuring men for the ranks of the ROK are evidenced by Pusan's announcement regarding the "unsatisfactory" results of mustering forces in specified provinces. Subsequent comment concerning the deferment of students in the national interest notes the apparent inability to recruit good officer material.

Other comment on internal difficulties mentions transportation problems, smuggling, and the procurement of supplies for rehabilitation.