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THE KOREAN WAR

There is an over-all decline in attention to POW and BW charges, the truce negotiations and other aspects of the Korean war. Malik's call for ratification of the Geneva protocol and the U.S. proposal for an International Red Cross investigation of the BW charges receive no comment. Neither is there mention of Truman's suggestion for rescreening of POWs, the proposals by Senators Wiley and Russell on impartial investigations of the BW and POW charges, and Nehru's 21 June offer of India's good offices in settlement of the impasse over exchange of POWs.

POW--Intensity Remains High, Volume Decreases: The reduced comment on the charges of U.S. atrocities committed against Communist POWs still represents about 60 percent of total comment on the Korean war. There is no decrease in the intensity and broadcasts reiterate charges of murder and brutal treatment perpetrated against the POWs. Previous charges that large numbers of POWs have been used in BW and other mass extermination experiments are also revived.

In the first reference to Cheju Island as a new site of prisoner camps, it is asserted that prisoners have been secretly transferred there from other camps, but there are no indications that this will be used as a peg for increased volume or virulence. A further indication of declining attention to the POW issue is the virtual disappearance of comment on Soviet protests.

No Mention of POW "Kangaroo" Courts in Broadcasts: The only known Soviet press reference to the Communist "kangaroo courts" which terrorized and executed fellow prisoners on Koje appeared in a 23 May dispatch from PRAVDA's Pyongyang correspondent. The dispatch, as printed in PRAVDA on 24 May, included the statement that "Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek agents" were caught spying for the Americans in the prison compound. These spies were condemned and "severely punished by an underground court of POWs." The PRAVDA item was subsequently broadcast but the reference to "kangaroo courts" was not included.

U.S. Sources Utilized in Continuing BW Charges: The opening of the Pyongyang exhibit on BW is reflected in slightly increased attention to BW charges in the first week under review, but this increase is not sustained. Continuing the practice of using U.S. press sources to substantiate the BW campaign, Moscow cites a recent article in U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT as evidence that the United States is engaging in large-scale BW research and experimentation.

This week Moscow extends the BW charges to non-Asians in the allegation that the United States is conducting experiments on Latin Americans. However, no parallel is drawn with Korea. (See section on Latin America.)

Anniversary Comment Avoids Truce Implications: Moscow commentaries on the second anniversary of the Korean war repeat vicious charges against the Americans and reiterate claims of self-strength and the "heroic"

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resistance of the Koreans. However, Moscow does not echo the Pyongyang claim that the basic objectives of the war have been achieved.

Very
Alexander's Visit: Moscow exhibits an unusual amount of vacillation in its comment on Field Marshal Alexander's visit to Korea. Initially it was claimed that contrary to reports that the visit was in connection with Anglo-American differences, actually its purpose was for discussions on extending and prolonging the war. But subsequent commentaries claimed that the reason for the trip was British dissatisfaction with the course of events in Korea vis-a-vis Koje, the truce talks and the Rhee-Assembly stalemate.

Following Field Marshal Alexander's remarks in support of the American position, broadcasts to Korea claim that this is proof that the British are powerless to express their own views. On the other hand, the home audience is told that Alexander's statements prove that Britain bears equal responsibility for the Korean aggression, delay of the truce talks, support of Syngman Rhee, and the planned extension of the war in Asia.

Deadlock Not Stressed in Truce Comment: During the first week comment on the truce negotiations reappears and emphasis is on the fact that the repatriation issue remains to be settled. The U.S. is accused of wilfully preventing agreement on false grounds merely to prolong its profiteering. Later broadcasts, however, omit discussion of the issues and say merely that the negotiations are being delayed by the Americans for profits alone. Senator Taft is quoted in support of prolongation of the talks and it is charged that both the Democrats and Republicans, with their well-known financial ties, are in agreement on this.

Rhee-Assembly Dispute Treated Marginally: Soviet propagandists give only minimal attention to the Syngman Rhee-National Assembly dispute over the presidential elections. However, detailed accounts of the dispute and its implications are broadcast by the Pyongyang radio.

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