

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~USSR SURVEY
29 DECEMBER 1950

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THE KOREAN WAR: AMERICAN ATROCITIES AND WEAKNESS

As the Moscow radio's attention to the Korean war declines (from 32% of all attention to foreign affairs two weeks ago to 10% this week), commentators concentrate on charges of American atrocities and on evidences of American weakness. There is little explicit discussion of actual military events, and the communiques broadcast by Moscow are increasingly uninformative. The evacuation at Hungnam was not mentioned until it was almost completed, there are only brief, factual references to fighting south of the 38th Parallel, and there is little of the propaganda enthusiasm with which Moscow recorded the similar military situation last summer.

Soviet propagandists do not take a strong stand regarding Communist China's position in the Korean war. Delegate Wu's vitriolic attacks on the United States are reported, Chou En-lai's rejection of the U.N. cease-fire proposals is noted almost without comment, and Peiping's insistence that the price of a cease-fire in Korea is representation in the United Nations is reported without particular elaboration. Praise of the Chinese volunteers continues to be almost incidental. This pose of detachment suggests a desire to avoid committing Soviet propagandists to any particular course of action, and a desire to avoid being identified with Peiping's intransigence.

Soviet broadcasters dwell on the poor morale of the U.S. troops and civilians. They resort to wedge-driving in reporting that American commanders sacrifice Turkish and South Korean troops to protect the Americans being evacuated at Hungnam; they also report Western Europe's dissatisfaction with General MacArthur.