

Korea

KOREA: THE U.S. HAS "EMBARKED ON DIRECT AGGRESSION"

The Home Service broadcast of PRAVDA's reply to Truman's decision to intervene in the Korean fighting and in the Communist-Nationalist Chinese conflict represents Moscow's only extended independent comment on any phase of the Korean situation. Moscow's one other comment, appearing at the end of a TASS dispatch on the original Security Council resolution, contends that this resolution was illegal since it did not stem from a unanimous vote of the Council's permanent members. Otherwise, the only comments to appear in monitored Soviet radio material are made via reports and rebroadcasts of Pyongyang's propaganda. The Soviet radio has also reported foreign press and news agency accounts of the Korean Communists' progress in their drive into the south.

To date, available monitored Pyongyang broadcasts have not mentioned the President's decision. Prior to it, they plugged their now-familiar fiction that it was the American-controlled "Rhee gang of traitors" which invaded North Korea, and that the North Korean action was therefore a justified counter-move. At the same time, a series of Pyongyang broadcasts themselves belied this fiction and revealed in unmistakable terms that the North Korean offensive was launched as an "all-out war of righteousness" for complete annihilation of the Rhee regime, for the "liberation" of all South Korea, and for "unification of the Fatherland."

a. "Direct Aggression": Compared to its usual delay in responding to important foreign decisions and statements, Moscow reacted with lightning speed to the President's decision. The PRAVDA reply was broadcast within 14 hours after the announcement of the decision.

The article takes the position that the President's decision "signifies that the U.S. Government has undertaken an act of direct aggression against the Korean National Democratic Republic and the national democracy of China. Truman's statement and actions, without precedent in postwar international relations, are added proof of the fact that the U.S. ruling circles no longer restrict themselves to preparing for aggression, but have embarked on direct aggression." (The phrase "direct aggression" appears four times in the 530-word long article.) "Events in Korea" are said to "show in all clarity that the imperialist warmongers are determined to achieve their ends and not stop half way." But there is little expression of counter-threat or belligerence in the article. The only overtly ominous statement--"Have they not gone too far, however?"--refers to the alleged U.S. embarkation on "direct aggression"; but it is followed immediately by the familiar charge that the U.S. is "brutally violating the U.N. Charter" and is "acting as though the U.N. did not exist."

Considering the previous pattern of Moscow's anti-American propaganda, PRAVDA's charge that American ruling circles have embarked on "direct aggression" is a logical extension of the long-familiar Soviet propaganda

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line. The new element is the use of the qualifying word "direct." Although Moscow has repeatedly accused the U.S. of "aggression" and "aggressive" policies, it has rarely, if ever, accused the U.S. of "direct aggression." Otherwise, however, PRAVDA's charges are no stronger than the usual Soviet charges made in various other previous contexts. In fact, they are less emotionally charged than many have been.

But PRAVDA's relative restraint, if it can be called that, is compensated for by Radio Berlin's comments on the President's decision. Studded with such phrases as "U.S. war criminals," "criminal and provocative action," "peace is threatened," "immediate danger of war for Europe," and calling for a mass public opinion campaign against "this new crime against peace," two available commentaries appear intent upon arousing their listeners to a fever pitch of fear and hatred of the U.S. "criminals" whose "war" against the Korean people has been "long prepared and dastardly calculated." "Even now," says one, the American criminals are bombing Korean women and children and may be shelling villages and towns on the Korean coast.

"Today it is the brave, courageous Korean people. Tomorrow it will be we who are to be hit. Declare your passionate sympathy with... the Korean people. ... Down with the U.S. imperialists!"

"...imperialism is once again murdering human lives," cries the other commentator. "Why," he asks, "should there be another holocaust when the greatest of all wars has hardly ended, when the very Far East has almost found complete peace (sic)?" The answer, of course, is that "a strategic springboard and an object of exploitation was on the point of being lost to the U.S. imperialists."

As indicated above, monitored Pyongyang broadcasts have not yet mentioned the President's decision. But the broadcast of a "central press review," although apparently written before the decision was announced, referred to the alleged "mobilization" on 27 June of American warplanes which shot down a North Korean fighter near Seoul. "The Korean people are becoming more indignant at such interferences," says Pyongyang. "Aggressive American imperialists, withdraw from our country immediately! Take your bloody hands off our Fatherland immediately!"

It may be of interest that except for one of the Berlin commentators' appeal for signatures to the Stockholm Appeal to ban atom weapons, none of the above-mentioned broadcasts so much as mentions the atomic bomb.

b. "Violation of the U.N. Charter": Prior to the President's decision only one Communist radio had attempted to foresee the policy that might be expected of the U.S. in reaction to the Korean situation. Broadcast at approximately the same time the decision was made public, a Radio Warsaw commentary "assumed" that to save Syngman Rhee the U.S. would "make use of its obedient majority in the Security Council... to intervene..." Whether or not this represented the general expectations of the Soviet-Communist elite, it is of some interest in this connection that, aside from charges

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of "direct aggression," PRAVDA's primary substantive criticism of the President's decision has to do with its alleged violation of the U.N. Charter. But it does not make any reference to an American-dominated Council majority nor, curiously enough, to the previously alleged illegality of any Council decision adopted without Soviet participation. Instead, PRAVDA merely states categorically that the U.N. never "empowered the U.S. Government to undertake against Korea and China those measures which Truman announced yesterday." Consequently, the U.S., "acting as though the U.N. did not exist,... apparently intended to place (this act of direct aggression) before the U.N. (as) a fait accompli."

c. Kim Il Sung's Appeal for Support of the "All-Out War": The North Korean broadcast most squarely contradicting the Communist fiction of a North Korean "counterattack" was issued, with Kim Il Sung himself at the microphone, slightly more than 24 hours after the fighting began. In it, Kim treats the fighting as an actual war, spelling out the North Korean objectives and issuing directives for total North Korean conversion "to a wartime basis" and for South Korean sabotage and "partisan" resistance. These are outlined below:

Objectives

1. Defense of the "Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its constitution."
2. Complete defeat of the South Korean armed forces and elimination of the "fascist Rhee puppet regime."
3. Complete "liberation of the southern half of our Fatherland" from the rule of the "Rhee traitor gang" and enslavement by the American imperialists.
4. Restoration in the "southern half" of the "people's committees, the true people's governments, under the banner of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."
5. "Unification of the Fatherland and the establishment of a powerful, democratic, independent Korea."

North Korea's Total War Effort

1. The Army. The "people's armed forces must demonstrate their valor, courage, and initiative in the struggle to defend--at the cost of death--the northern half, to save our fellow countrymen in the southern half, and to unify the Fatherland." They must not spare their lives. They "are equipped with crack modern arms" and should fight with "noble determination."

2. The People. All northern business must be "converted to wartime basis. All resources must be mobilized in order to mop up the enemy quickly and mercilessly." All saboteurs, rumormongers, and spies must be detected and purged. "All those who obstruct the waging of the all-out war... must be executed." Industrial workers must defend all their establishments from enemy violations and "faithfully fulfill production quotas and other tasks so as to fill the requirements

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from the battlefronts." Farmers must insure the armed forces' food supplies.

South Korean Partisan and Sabotage Activities

1. The Partisans. Intensify offensives, absorb the masses, cut off communications lines, execute traitors, restore people's committees, carry out destruction, stir confusion in the enemy's rear areas.

2. Workers. Organize general strikes, stage riots, and collaborate with the partisans. "But defend factories, establishments, mines, and railways."

3. Farmers. Do not give food to the enemy. Engage in guerrilla warfare. Defend this year's crops.

4. Individual Industrialists. "Extend aid to the people's armed forces and cooperate in the struggle to free our national economy from the American monopolists."

5. Intellectuals. Participate in a "mass political publicity campaign. Mercilessly expose the crimes of the Rhee traitor gang.... Organize mass riots."

6. The Southern Armed Forces. "Don't miss the opportunity to fight for the Fatherland and turn your guns against the Rhee traitor gang. Come over to the side of the people.... By rising in opposition to the people's enemies you will occupy honorable places in the column of the fighters for freedom and independence."

This broadcast was followed by others along similar lines, addressed individually to "people of the southern half," soldiers of the South Korean armed forces, youth, women, workers, etc. "Concentrate our might in the war to oppose the American imperialists and the U.N. Korean Commission, and to overthrow and smash the Syngman Rhee gang."

Other Pyongyang broadcasts have described the "mass meetings that are being held everywhere in liberated areas to welcome the people's armed forces."

"People's Committees" are allegedly being restored in an atmosphere of jubilation, enthusiasm, and pledges that the "new government shall never again be usurped by reactionary fascists."

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