

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

USSR SURVEY
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KOREAN WAR: CHINESE VOLUNTEERS; ATROCITIES, GUERRILLAS

The volume of Soviet comment on the Korean war increases from the low point of late October but it is still below the 20-week average of 25 percent of all comment on foreign affairs. Although this increase may reflect the changing military situation, Moscow has not explicitly acknowledged that change. The re-capture of Tokchon has not been reported as yet, nor has there been any attempt to capitalize on the worsening position of the U.N. forces; in fact military communiques and commentaries are characterized by a tone of caution which suggests that Soviet broadcasters wish to remain aloof from the question of Chinese Communist participation or feel uncertain of the final outcome of the current situation.

Three themes are emphasized: (1) The fraternal assistance of the Chinese Communist volunteers is praised. This neighborly assistance is said to have inspired North Korean troops and partisans to an effort that is certain to be victorious, but Moscow does not discuss the right or wrong of this assistance nor even acknowledge the possibility that it could be considered morally wrong. (2) The atrocities allegedly committed by Americans and South Koreans are denounced. (This theme has received almost continuous emphasis during the past four months.) (3) The growing partisan movement behind American lines receives increasing approval. In addition there are continuing references to America's aggressive intentions toward Asia, particularly China, and there is continuing praise of the high morale of the "young and small" North Korean army.

The Korean war also receives appreciable emphasis in comment keyed to the Warsaw Peace Congress; many of the speakers, whose addresses are widely publicized, denounced American aggression in Korea and vehemently praised the North Koreans for their defense of their homeland and of the cause of peace.

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