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WEEKLY SURVEY
5 NOVEMBER 1948

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KOREA: ATHLETIC MEET DISPLACES INSURRECTION NEWS

Korea

Pyongyang's propaganda pattern shows little variation in subject matter this week, but emphasis veers abruptly from last week's concentration on fighting in South Korea, troop withdrawals, and diplomatic recognitions, and rests heavily on North Korean developments, as contrasted to that of the south. A current athletic meet is touted for its political angle: The South Korean team speaks of its "amazement at the other aspects of North Korea."

There is a good deal of attention to the significance of the October Revolution, some attention to the oppression of Koreans in Japan, a stray mention of the Eastern Bloc and the visits to Japan of Rhee and Chang, and a minimum of speculation on the U.S. election, wherein Henry Wallace is the favored candidate.

a. South Korea Under the Hated Rhee: As the week wears on, comment on the South Korean insurrection tapers off. On 29 October, Radio Pyongyang speaks of the "bloody struggle" on Cheju Island. On 30 October, the "outrage" committed by the "puppet Government" in "indiscriminately shelling Yosu from tanks and ships led by the American Army" is assailed. "Guerrilla warfare" in Sunchon and elsewhere is spoken of on 1 November as "fiercer than before." And on 2 November, a Moscow commentary by Krainov, broadcast on 28 October in Korean, is repeated in Japanese on the Far East Service, with the report that "the people's uprising in South Korea is still going on." After that, neither Moscow nor Pyongyang appear to have anything further to say on the subject.

Rhee's trip, however, still comes in for a lengthy rehash, in which TASS tells North America (on 30 October) of the hatred and contempt Rhee has earned from Koreans at home and in Japan. The Korean people, it is said, are sufficiently well aware of the "truly rapacious nature" of the agreements between the traitor and General MacArthur.

The arrival in South Korea of electricians to assist in the taking over by the Americans of the electrical monopoly, already reported last week, is in line with a Pyongyang broadcast of 31 October, exposing the monopoly of foreign traders who are "bent on making enormous profits." To add to South Korean misery, the country-ruining puppet Government has once more invoked the "most vicious of all the vicious laws," the "so-called political party and social organization registration law."

b. Politics on the Athletic Field: Amidst a profusion of material on North Korean patriotism in overfulfilling plans, economic, agricultural, industrial, et al, to which Moscow contributes a commentary by Vasiliev on the restoration of Korean culture (in Korean, 2 November 1948), the most consistently plugged topic is the "nation-wide, overall athletic meet." Its importance is not just its historic place as "the first since liberation," or for its great influence

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on "the democratic restoration of Korean physical culture." Rather, it is a political peg, of all things, for propaganda against South Korea. "The so-called Korean Athletic Association, a federation of reactionary athletic groups of South Korea, is headed by a director of the new Korea company, a target of the hatred of all the Korean people."

On the other hand, the "democratic camp," as well as the athletes of South Korea and all the other people, "absolutely trust and support the democratic People's Republic of Korea, genuinely welcoming its founding." (Pyongyang, 30 October 1948) As a proof of these allegations, the South Korean team, which went north in order to participate, held a press conference in which the "corrupt physical culture" of the south was contrasted, "to their great indignation," with what they found in the north; including "other aspects" of which the leader would prefer to speak "at some other time."

c. Recognition from Rumania and Yugoslavia: Although the new diplomatic relations with the Eastern European countries attain less prominence as more countries fall in line, satellite recognition of North Korea is still reported prominently. In a series of commentaries on the satellite countries, discussion of Czechoslovakia and Poland is followed by the Pyongyang radio with a laudatory discourse on Rumania. Selection of diplomats to represent Korea in these countries is also reported as under way.

d. Soviet Troop Withdrawals: Still vague on facts and figures connected with the evacuation of Russian troops, Pyongyang continues to highlight "solemn farewells" and mentions 26 October as the date for one celebration at Sinuiju Airfield. For the rest, a speech by Chairman Kim of the "North Korean Patriotic Fighters' Aid Committee," entitled, "Let Us Crush the American Scheme Aimed at Prolonging Their Stay in South Korea," is typical.

From Moscow, Polyanov takes up the subject in a commentary on 28 October (in Japanese), remarking that when the Supreme People's Council, on behalf of 30 million Koreans, requested the U.S. and the USSR to evacuate their troops, "the U.S. Government rejected this request, but the Soviet Government gladly acceded." This is just one reason why the 30 million Koreans have welcomed the policy of the Soviet Government, "which is always working for the independence and freedom of Korea."

e. October Revolution and Other Anniversaries: Echoing Moscow's hailing of the significance of the "Great October Revolution" for Korea as well as Russia, Pyongyang broadcasts typically commemorate the anniversary "as our own, because it is so inseparably linked with our liberation movement." It is also noted that 3 November is a dual anniversary for Korea: that of the "democratic elections" and the Kwangju students case, when influenced by the October Revolution and a study of social science, "progressive students" turned a local affair into a revolutionary movement against the Japanese. Today, therefore, "it is not an accident that students in South Korea are bearing arms in the struggle against the traitors." (Pyongyang, 2 November 1948)

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