

T H E F A R E A S T

KOREA: Bacterial Warfare; Churchill vs. Morrison

Moscow's follow-up of the Sino-Korean protests against alleged American use of bacterial weapons in Korea accounts for almost half of the comment on Korea and is more voluminous and pointed than the propaganda which followed a similar North Korean protest last May.

The most common theme, aside from the more routine charges of American bestiality, is contained in Chou En-lai's warning that "if the people of the world fail to end this criminal act, the indescribable sufferings will be those of all the people of the world tomorrow." This implicit danger is made more explicit in a quotation from a Shanghai newspaper which predicts that if the Americans are not prevented from continuing to use such weapons in Korea, "they will throw them again tomorrow on other countries."

Moscow makes only general attempts to relate the germ-warfare charges to the ultimate success of the truce negotiations. Krainov, for example, in the most widely broadcast commentary on the charges, claims that these "criminal acts corroborate the fact that the American ruling circles are not eager for cessation of the Korean war and are trying to expand their aggression in the Far East." The charge that the United States does not sincerely want a settlement and is seeking to extend the war has been a consistent theme in Soviet propaganda, however, since the negotiations began.

Broadcasts to Chinese audiences contain a disproportionate share of the germ-warfare charges, and Shanghai newspapers are quoted as reporting the sacrifices endured in East China as a consequence of the use of bacterial weapons by the Japanese during the last war. In addition, Moscow belabors the charge that Japanese bacteriologists are being employed in several American "factories of death" in experiments on captured Korean and Chinese prisoners. Such research is said to be in progress on Koje Island.

Churchill's Commons Statement: Prime Minister Churchill's revelation concerning Labor's secret agreement with the United States, pledging British support in military operations outside Korea, is reported in a PRAVDA dispatch broadcast only to the Home Service. Moscow's only interpretation of the announcement is that it unmasks both Conservatives and Laborites and that neither Party succeeded in its parliamentary maneuvering. Thus, Moscow says, "the calculations of certain elements in the Labor Party to make political capital out of the criticism of the Conservative Government failed." And just as the right-wing Socialists failed to make political hay, so did the Conservatives fail in their attempt to "deflect the attention of the people" from the aggressive actions of the Conservative Government.

Churchill's revelations of Anglo-American unanimity concerning possible attacks on China could readily be exploited in the standard context of American designs for war involving all of Asia. But they are not so exploited, and they are minimized by PRAVDA's related discussions of British disunity. The failure to capitalize on what seems to be a golden propaganda

- 12 -

opportunity may be related to Moscow's current hesitancy vis-a-vis Churchill. And the failure to belabor the specific agreements is also consistent with Moscow's usual avoidance of specificity in charges of American aggressiveness. There have been occasional reports of American plans to bomb China, and there have been predictions that America will extend the flames of war to all Asia. But, on the whole, such charges are lacking in specific details. 9350

Russia on Truce Team: Moscow's first reference to the American refusal to consider the Soviets for a position on the neutral truce team is beamed to North America only. It quotes Col. Chang Chung-san as declaring that "any attempt to exclude the Soviet Union from the supervision committee, no matter what form it may take, will be categorically rejected." The commentary claims that both sides must make concessions and quotes Chang as arguing that the USSR, "more than any other country, deserves to be on the supervision committee."

Koje Island Riots and POW's: Most of the comment on the Koje island riots is beamed to North America, and Moscow's principal theme is that the "massacre" typifies American treatment of war prisoners and was organized in order to compel the prisoners to agree to "voluntary repatriation." The latter is said to be the American "scheme" for turning them over to the South Koreans and the Chinese Nationalists.