

THE TWO CAMPS

Korea
*BW*KOREAN WAR

Moscow comment on the Korean War reflects the uncertainty as to future developments in Korea and indicates a desire on the part of the propagandists to prepare for any eventuality. In sum, the comment concentrates on the responsibility of the United States for the continuation and prolongation of the war and on U.S. guilt for the alleged atrocities committed. Although these themes have been a consistent part of Moscow attention to the Korean issue, there is a greater than normal concentration on them during this period. While the volume of comment on the Korean war normally fluctuates widely, during the first week of the current period it reached the lowest point since the end of April, the time of the presentation of the Allied "package" proposal at the truce talks.

Comment on the truce talks and mistreatment of POWs returns after an absence of three weeks, but Moscow avoids committing itself on either issue. Developments are reported by quoting NCNA and other news sources, a device used frequently in the past.

U.S. Responsibility in Korean War Emphasized: Charges of bacterial warfare continue to spark Moscow's attack on America. In an apparent continuation of the effort to give credence to the BW charges, almost all of the comment is related to Hewlett Johnson's pamphlet containing "evidence" of U.S. guilt and General Van Fleet's alleged admission to Belgian diplomat De La Chévalerie that the United States has used BW in Korea. Discussion of BW outside the context of the Korean war is reintroduced in a widely broadcast commentary by Soviet Academy of Science member Korovin who attacks U.S. non-adherence to the Geneva protocol on germ warfare. This is the first extensive comment on the broader international aspects of BW since Malik's June resolution at the Security Council calling for ratification of the Geneva Convention. Further evidence of this trend is contained in the limited Soviet comment on China's recently announced adherence to the Geneva Conventions of 1925 and 1949. Moscow calls China's adherence evidence of a "humane" policy which points up the refusal of the United States to ratify the Convention.

While to date there is a single voice broadcast on the IRC meeting in Toronto several TASS items report the approval of the Polish resolution calling for ratification of the 1925 Geneva Convention. Attention is also given to the defeat of the Chinese resolution on U.S. atrocities, Communist charges that the IRC is not an impartial international organization and attacks against the alleged Western-oriented mechanical voting in the Toronto meeting.

Publication of a book by an American author, Stemans, criticizing American participation in the Korean war, charges of more ruthless American bombing of civilians, and repeated charges of U.S. war profiteering provide further ammunition for the Moscow claims of American responsibility for events in Korea.

Truce, POW Issues Return; Original Comment Avoided: References to the truce negotiations and to the mistreatment of Communist POWs, absent from Moscow comment for several weeks, once more appear. Refraining from original comment, as in the past, Moscow cites reports from NCNA and other sources. This follows Soviet propagandists' consistent practice of refraining from committing themselves to any specific position on Korean war issues. Listeners hear an NCNA report on Nam Il's statement announcing the resumption of open sessions and the beginning of staff talks to settle differences of phraseology in the draft truce agreement. Likewise, Moscow keeps alive the issue of U.S. mistreatment of Communist POWs by quoting the Pakistan paper IMROZ to the effect that Koje POWs are being screened, with some of them to be sent to the Marshall Islands to serve as guinea pigs in the testing of chemical and bacterial weapons. An Austrian news agency report that the U.S. has begun a "systematic extermination" of 80,000 Communist POWs because they wouldn't join the "interventionist army" is also cited. And according to NCNA, 800 POWs are reported to have been killed or wounded at American hands since February.

Vigilance of North Koreans Urged: Low level attention is given by Moscow to the alleged threat to the unity between the Korean People's Army and the home front posed by extensive infiltration of enemy spies and saboteurs. This comment comes only three weeks after Pyongyang voiced similar warnings to the people to be vigilant against the increased infiltration of enemy spies and saboteurs who were making use of the discontented and confused elements of the population. Moscow cites the effective help rendered by the vigilant Soviet population during World War II in combatting enemy infiltration and calls upon the North Korean people to follow this example.