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WEEKLY SURVEY
14 JANUARY 1949

- I 10 -

KOREA: THE NORTH IS FLOURISHING, THE SOUTH DETERIORATING

Both Moscow and Pyongyang radios revert to the familiar standby-contrasts between living conditions in the northern and southern "parts" of Korea. Both transmitters contrast the alleged economic deterioration, suppression, and rebellious state of affairs south of the 38th parallel with the allegedly prosperous state of the northern economy, culture, and polity.

No reference is made to the impending arrival of the U.N. Commission or to U.N. recognition of the Seoul Government. Moscow, however, denounces American recognition of that regime in two commentaries.

a. American Recognition: U.S. recognition of the Syngman Rhee Government "does not change anything in the actual state of affairs in South Korea," says Bronin in a commentary broadcast three times this week. The "complete subordination" of the Rhee Government to the U.S. "is no secret," the commentary asserts; and, therefore, the recognition is significant only because it indicates that the U.S. plans to "perpetuate" the division of Korea as well as its occupation. Danilov's 7 January discussion of the recognition, broadcast in Mandarin, reiterates the same charges.

b. "Total Collapse" of the Southern Economy: Claiming that "American occupation authorities... have caused a total collapse," a TRUD article by Kovyshenko refers to the "economic crisis which... has long since spread to all branches of industry, agriculture, and trade." As is true of other monitored material, the repeatedly broadcast article quotes statistics to prove that southern industry is at a standstill and that inflation is worsening. It claims that South Korea is being flooded with "stale" American-made goods and that the economic position of the American-occupied region is "even worse than under the Japanese colonial regime." It condemns the aid agreement as the ultimate in American perfidy toward Korea.

Radio Pyongyang furthers this campaign to indict the American occupation with broadcasts detailing the severity of living conditions, the suppression of papers and speakers, and the retardation of women; it also reviles the "murderous grain purchase law" and the Government's alleged resort to terroristic measures to enforce its "dastardly" programs. Many of these reports are broadcast in a daily program entitled "Hour for the South Korean People Who Are Fighting to Oppose the Syngman Rhee Puppet Government."

c. "Major Successes" of the North: IZVESTIA, in an article also credited to Kovyshenko, applauds the progress made by North Korea along economic and cultural lines. He points to the "excellent" results achieved by industry and agriculture during 1948 and claims that similar successes have been scored in developing a national culture and raising the cultural level of the Korean people. These successes, he argues, "graphically expose the mendacious 'theory' about the inability and the unpreparedness of Koreans for self-

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

WEEKLY SURVEY
14 JANUARY 1949

* I 11 *

government and for setting up their own independent democratic state." (TASS, in Russian Hellschreiber, Abroad, and in English Morse to Europe; in Russian to Soviet Asia, 11 January 1949)

The happy state of things in North Korea is also attested to by a delegation of the "League of Korean Residents in Japan." Currently visiting Pyongyang, the group is repeatedly quoted by TASS and Pyongyang as being overcome by the "radical" improvements made. Korean gratitude for Soviet sponsorship of the improved conditions is reported to Stalin from the "League." The letter was handed to General Derevyanko, according to TASS. (in English Morse to North America, 10 January 1949)

Kim Il Sung's New Year summary of the progressive state of North Korea is also quoted in confirmation of the familiar claims. The address is rebroadcast on 5, 6, 9, and 10 January.

d. Troop Withdrawals: Soviet broadcasters continue to extoll the withdrawal of Soviet troops as a fitting example of the "rightness" of Soviet policy in Korea; they point to the American failure to withdraw troops as an equally fitting example of the "wrongness" of U.S. policy. IZVESTIA, in an article transmitted by TASS in English Morse and Russian Hellschreiber and broadcast by Moscow in Korean, Mandarin, and Japanese, elaborates the thesis with reference to the U.N. resolution and claims that both Washington and Seoul are aware that Syngman Rhee cannot remain in office without American troops; ergo, the resolution adopted by the U.N. contained "a special clause" sanctioning the continued stay in Korea of American troops. Mike McDermott's 31 December effort to explain the American position in the troop issue is derided as "absurd" and as injurious to American prestige.

Gaidarov claims that by retaining its troops in Korea, the U.S. is violating the Moscow Agreement. (Khabarovsk, in Russian, 11 January 1949) The commentary is identified as being "in aid to the political agitator."

e. The South Is Resisting: Radio Pyongyang reports the "fierce" struggle of South Korean civilians and troops against American-sponsored oppression. These accounts are summarized by TASS in an English Morse transmission of 10 January. Pyongyang notes uprisings in Cheju and in South and North Cholla provinces. The incidents reported generally occurred in December.

f. Ambassador Arrives: Ambassador T.F. Shtykov arrived in Pyongyang on 11 January with his Embassy staff. (TASS, in English Morse to North America, 11 January 1949) The envoy was met at Pyongyang airport by Kim Il Sung, Kim Du Bong and other representatives of the Government, political parties, and public organizations.

~~RESTRICTED~~

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WEEKLY SURVEY
14 JANUARY 1949

- I 12 -

g. Repatriates Arrive: Pyongyang reports the "recent" arrival of 1,162 Koreans who had been taken prisoner with the Japanese troops with whom they had been forced to serve. A 6 January broadcast reports that the repatriates "received kind treatment from the Soviet troops in Soviet territories" and are staying at the quarantine station at Hungnam. At the conclusion of the quarantine period they will be sent to their "dear respective homes" in North and South Korea ~~and Northeastern China.~~