

KOREA: INCREASING DISSATISFACTION IN THE SOUTH

16 June 49 Korea

The widening rift between Syngman Rhee and the people of South Korea--including "some members" of the "puppet National Assembly"--is highlighted in reports of growing popular resistance and of friction between Rhee and the Assembly. Radio Moscow avoids bestowing unqualified approval on the members of the Assembly who are "feuding" with Rhee; rather it claims that the individuals are prompted by the dubious motive of fear of popular disapproval. The growing movement for a popular democratic front is said to be a further indication of Rhee's shaky position.

Radio Pyongyang hammers away at familiar theses and continues to regard the withdrawal of American troops as improbable.

a. The History of U.S. Animus Toward Korea: Station commentator Kojina outlines America's historical enmity toward Korea in a commentary broadcast in Korean on 12 June and identified as the first of a series. The subject is revived periodically by Radio Moscow.

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Kojina argues that the U.S. has "at several times, not one or two, assumed a disgraceful, cut-throating role in Korea's future by helping to suppress the struggle of the people." Japanese aggression against Korea in 1904 is said to have been American-inspired, and America is also held responsible for the deeding of Korea to Japan in 1905. Kojina contrasts this imperialistic attitude with that of Russia, which encouraged Korean trade and culture. The discussion is brought up to date in the concluding argument.

"The American imperialists have re-emerged as an enemy to Korea's independence. They are preventing the Koreans from exercising their lawful rights for unification and democratic process. They have attempted to convert the southern half of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into a (colony) of the American monopolists and into a military and strategic base from which to launch their war against the Asian people's liberation movement."

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