

THE FAR EAST

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Korean War: Malik Proposal Endorsed

Current comment on the Korean war, keyed to both the first anniversary of the war and to Delegate Malik's 23 June radio address, tends to enlarge the scope of propaganda claims concerning the war. In the PRAVDA article on Malik's peace proposal, for example, it is claimed that "the war cannot be considered apart from the present international situation," while a commentary on the war anniversary declares that the aim of the Five Power Peace Pact is the destruction of America's aggressive plans in Korea. Furthermore, certain other familiar extensions receive increased stress, e. g. the claim that the Korean war is the "standard" of all peoples seeking national liberation.

A Shift in Emphasis: Although the volume of attention to the war remains at the approximate level of two weeks ago, there is a shift in emphasis on the various topics which are regularly exploited. During the first week under review atrocity charges continued to dominate the war propaganda, but during the second week, and perhaps as a result of the anniversary, the theme of American responsibility supersedes them. The distribution of comment on this theme follows the beam pattern that prevailed in the first quarter of this year, even though the volume of attention in the second week almost equals the total volume for the three months in that it receives special stress in broadcasts to North American and Yugoslav audiences. The concentration on the North American beam, which coincides with especially heavy stress in broadcasts to American forces in Asia, indicates a continuing effort to promote dissension in the United States, while the stress on the Yugoslav beam seems intended to warn the Yugoslav audience of the dangers inherent in alliance with the American aggressors.

Malik's Peace Proposal Is Timely and Popular: Delegate Malik's 23 June peace proposal, after receiving only moderate distribution, is endorsed in a PRAVDA article of 26 June which elaborates on the relationship between the Korean war and the current international tension and recapitulates the USSR's abortive efforts to bring about a peaceful solution. The article does not dwell, however, on Malik's generalized reference to negotiations between the belligerents or give any details of possible peace terms. It insists

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that a Western victory is out of the question, a point which is also raised in other commentaries claiming that the armed interventionists have not been able to crush the patriotic and determined Koreans despite their superiority in numbers and equipment.

The Malik statement itself is distributed only 49 times, and the pattern of the beam distribution suggests a desire to further dissension in the Western camp; 31 of the 49 items are broadcast to Europe and North America, an atypical concentration in those beams.