

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FAR EAST SURVEY
13 MARCH 1952

- B 1 -

NORTH KOREA

The North Korean transmitters give great but conventional emphasis to America's aggressive intentions in the Far East, and stresses the popular opposition to these plans. American use of bacterial weapons is diagnosed as a sign of desperation and no actual epidemics are reported. The American rejection of the Soviet Union as a neutral member of the truce inspection team is termed another delaying tactic.

American Imperialism and Aggression Theme: North Korea devotes continuing attention to American imperialism and aggression. Repeating the familiar claim that "the American aggressors launched their barbaric invasion of our Republic with the object of subjugating the whole of Asia," commentaries detail the effects of the American plans in Korea, Asia, and throughout the entire world. A long commentary on 9 March charges that the Americans plunder South Korea and are taking "monopolistic control of South Korean industries and economy." The "moral degeneration" now rampant in the south is also attributed to the Americans.

Recalling the January conference of the general staffs of the United States, Britain, and France, Pyongyang states that it coordinated the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and Malaya. It also maintains that the conferees planned to expand operations "to a scale which will encompass all of Asia," with Japanese militarists as "the core of the military bloc." Pyongyang reiterates confidence that "eventual triumph is in the hands of the people," but it emphasizes that victory will come "only as a result of vigorous struggle."

Calling attention to the world-wide struggle against imperialism, of which the war in Korea is a part, Pyongyang notes the democratic struggle in Tunisia, Greece, the Middle East, and Germany. The fact that many Scandinavian leaders "are advocating neutrality" is said to point up the peace partisan struggle there, while the ranks of the peace partisans in India and Pakistan are pictured as swelling to oppose the "flame of war hysteria" spread by the reactionary followers of American and British warmongers.

Bacterial Warfare: Pyongyang focuses great attention on the charge that the Americans have adopted biological warfare, echoing Moscow's claim that this "criminal act of the American imperialists proves that they have suffered complete defeat in the Korean war." Editorials, commentaries, and news items plug this theme, Chou En-lai's statements are widely reported without comment, and there are regular reports of protests by democratic organizations throughout the Communist world.

Going beyond Peking and Moscow, Pyongyang gives detailed accounts of Government directives 65 and 237 which outline plans to combat the threat of epidemics such as "bubonic plague and cholera which are liable to originate from the bacteria spread by the frantic American imperialists." Anti-epidemic teams already dispatched from Pyongyang "are engaged in investigation of germs, disinfection, killing bacteria-bearing insects, surveillance, and propaganda work in South Pyongan, Kangwon, Hwanghae, and South Hamyong provinces." While the Ministry of Public Health and the National Emergency Anti-epidemic Committee are said to be "setting up" strict defenses against bacterial warfare, there is never any mention of actual epidemics. Rather, there are predictions of epidemics "which are liable to originate from" the bacteria spread by the Americans.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- B 2 -

Armed Forces Communiques: The official communiques broadcast by Pyongyang continue to report defensive action on all fronts. Recent American probing actions are said to have been repulsed with heavy losses in manpower, tanks, guns and vehicles. The repulse of these attacks is usually attributed to heavy artillery fire. The communiques of 4 March and 10 March report naval action off Chongjim, claiming that two destroyers were sunk and others damaged. The usual claims concerning air raids and planes shot down continue. But there is no comment on or discussion of these actions.

Ceasefire Talks: Attention to the ceasefire talks highlights the issues of voluntary repatriation of war prisoners and acceptance of the Soviet Union as a member of the neutral inspection teams. Although not so vehement as Peking in its denunciation of the U.N.'s voluntary repatriation proposal, Pyongyang nevertheless terms it "nothing but a scheme to detain our prisoners of war indefinitely." Justifying Soviet participation, Pyongyang cites the Malik proposal as the start of truce talks, and argues that the Soviet Union has always been "genuinely and profoundly interested in Korean peace." Pyongyang also attempts to point up the peace policy of the Soviet Union by recalling that "no matter how near the American invaders advanced to the Soviet border," the "Soviet Union kept its neutrality." Perhaps to answer domestic critics of this neutrality, Pyongyang adds that the Soviet Union "has not disguised its sympathies with the Korean people fighting to defend the freedom and independence of their fatherland." The United States is portrayed as being "afraid of" and "flurried" by the proposal of Russia as a neutral nation. However, no attempt is made to picture this issue as one which could break up the truce talks; rather it is pictured as another U.N. "stalling" or "delaying" tactic.

Communist Orbit Affairs: Discussion of the coming economic conference in Moscow is limited to marginal comment on the preparations for North Korean attendance. The Preparatory Committee for the International Economic Conference in its second session states that the conference will take an active role "in the promotion of free trade among different peoples and in the strengthening of world unity through peaceful measures." International Women's Day brings conventional references to the role of women in Communist societies.

Internal Topics: Unsuccessful cultural and ideological programs among both civilian and military groups are disclosed, and Pyongyang calls for better understanding of the revolutionary ideology of Marx-Leninism to meet the needs of the war situation. An editorial of the NODONG SINMUN of 6 March states that "mass cultural activities in the rural areas are not satisfactory" and adds that those responsible have failed in performing "their political objectives of educating the people." The threat presented by U.N. propaganda efforts is acknowledged in a report on the convention of agitation workers of the People's Armed Forces, It states that the American aggressors "are plotting to weaken our solidarity by utilizing all sorts of propaganda measures and tricks," which must be countered by "intensifying the propaganda and agitation activities within the units." Another commentary refers to the "vicious propaganda activities" of the Americans and to the vestiges of reactionary ideologies still remaining and states that "combatting these reactionary and aggressive ideologies is one of the most important fighting tasks required of us,"

The sixth anniversary of the land-reform law receives passing mention with Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Pak Mun Kyu stressing the increased production, farmers' savings, and general rise in the living standard as results. Farmers are urged to redouble their efforts in food production.

The thirty-third anniversary of the 1 March Independence Day also received only minor attention. It is pointed out that the original movement was led by bourgeois elements at a time when proletarian revolution was in progress throughout the world, and hence, the movement was an isolated one, doomed to failure. In contrast, the Korean people are assured that their present struggle is supported by the Soviet and Chinese peoples and by all peace-loving people of the world.

SOUTH KOREA

In a lengthy statement President Rhee defends his proposal to recall National Assemblymen, and denies that it is in his own interest. The seriousness of the rice price rise and the Government's inability to cope with the increase are emphasized by the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture. Unification of all Korea is again highlighted as the goal of the South Korean Government. The Korean people are warned of the threat posed by Japan's attempt to market cheap goods and are told that "agreement in principle" has been reached on the status of Koreans in Japan. According to the broadcasts the threat of an epidemic in South Korea was avoided by prompt and effective action.

Rhee Controversy with National Assembly: The rivalry between the President and the Assembly continues to be publicized with a statement in which Syngman Rhee defends his views. He points out that the Constitution does not prohibit recall of Assemblymen, and insists that he is not motivated by self-interest; he maintains that he seeks measures "to deal with the National Assembly in the event it over-rides its powers" and "to provide for the direct election of the President and for a bicameral house in order to prevent any future disputes." The views of the Assembly are not reported by Pusan.

Rising Price of Rice: The seriousness of the rise in the cost of rice is pointed up by the resignation of Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Im, who assumed responsibility for the rise. He attributes the disastrous increase to the poor crop last year and to the increased currency circulation. Government inability to handle the situation is illustrated in a report of Vice Minister of Agriculture Won who remarks that "the National Assembly has set up a committee to cope with the situation and I think the government will form a special committee to consider measures to counter the situation."

References to Armistice Negotiations: The ROK Government's determination to press for complete unification of the country is reiterated by President Rhee in his Independence Day address. He adds: "If necessary, we will fight it out single-handed." He also expresses the hope that the Allies "will help train our national defense forces." Foreign Minister Pyon assures the National Assembly that there will be no change in the attitude of the United Nations "in opposing a Korean Government without unification."