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USSR SURVEY  
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*Korea*

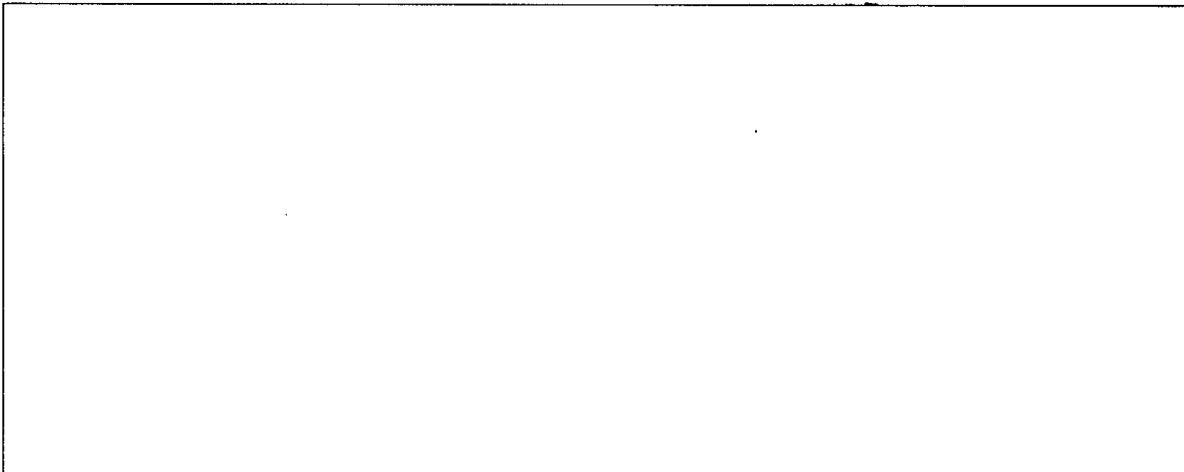
GLOBAL AFFAIRS

KOREA: Chou-Nam Notes Receive Minor Exploitation

There is little Communist broadcast exploitation of the Chou En-lai and Nam Il messages of 10 October agreeing to a pre-conference meeting to decide the time, place and composition of the political talks. Moscow has broadcast the Chou note only nine times and Peking gives only routine dissemination to the note. No mention is made of the customary endorsement by the PEOPLE'S DAILY. The messages represent the first Communist acknowledgment of the three U.S. notes concerning the political conference.

The only Communist comment is provided by Pyongyang broadcasts of North Korean editorials reiterating the Communist demand for inclusion of the Soviet Union and Asian neutrals and insisting that the composition of the conference must be the first question to be settled at Panmunjom. The failure of Moscow and Peking to follow the normal pattern of exploitation of a major Communist maneuver, such as the Chou-Nam notes represent, suggests a sensitivity to the concession involved. Particularly pertinent is the Communist failure to exploit the notes as the latest evidence of the "sincere and consistent" Communist desire for peaceful settlement in Korea, an explanation invariably applied to previous messages.

The bulk of Moscow and Peking broadcasts on Korea concerns U.S. obstruction and violation of the armistice provisions, particularly pertaining to the treatment of prisoners under neutral custody as well as to the activities of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. Moscow beams over half of this material to Communist audiences, particularly Korean, while Peking increases by three-fold its dissemination of these items to the domestic Chinese audience. This concentration of denunciatory comment to Communist listeners could be designed either to prepare them for a failure of the political talks in advance, which seems an unlikely explanation in view of Communist agreement on pre-conference discussions, or to divert the attention of Communist listeners from the concessions made in the Chou-Nam notes.



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