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KOREA: INCREASING ATTENTION TO MILITARY OPERATIONS

Korea

Soviet radio broadcasters appear to be turning their attention to "explanations" of military operations, principally the Inchon landing and the drive toward Seoul, and away from other types of propagandistic exploitation of the Korean war. This week there is a flurry of military reviews which dwell on the heroic resistance of the Koreans defending Seoul and on the losses suffered by the numerically superior Americans in the attempt to conquer the capital. (Fighting in the southern sectors is not exploited with similar emphasis, however.) Such a concentration on military events was not found in broadcasts monitored in earlier weeks.

Other aspects of the war receive stylized emphasis. The Fatherland Front Committee's report on atrocities perpetrated by the Americans is reported by both Pyongyang and Moscow, although the Soviet version is shorter than that of the North Korean radio. Other broadcasts also continue the denunciation of American atrocities, and General MacArthur is personally attacked for his responsibility for and approval of these actions. There is reviving interest in the charge that America has long prepared the invasion of the North and there is continuing documentation of the claim that the peoples of the world oppose the American adventure. U.N. developments related to Korea are slighted and there are continuing but minor hints that the U.S. hopes to expand the sphere of aggression to include all of Asia. Monitored Korean-language broadcasts from Moscow make recurring references to the USSR's friendly feelings and moral support for the Korean people, but the question of actual military aid is ignored. The low morale and poor discipline of American troops is conventionally contrasted with the spiritual unity of the North Koreans.

Inchon Is a Dunkirk, Seoul a Stalingrad: Moscow's reviews of military developments stress the claim that the numerically strong American forces have been unable to accomplish the targets assigned in the Inchon landing plans. The failure to capture Seoul is ascribed to the stubborn and heroic resistance of the Korean forces; the Koreans are repeatedly credited with inflicting tremendous losses on the Americans by destroying equipment and killing and wounding soldiers and officers. LITERARY GAZETTE correspondents Volkova and Chakovsky indignantly reject the American claim that the Inchon landing met no resistance, and claim that "this revolting lie is an insult to the memory of the fallen soldiers."

In two dispatches PRAVDA's correspondent Borzenko describes the heroic resistance of the Koreans and the brutal behavior of American troops and commanders. In the dispatch reported on 23 September--which is broadcast nine times--Borzenko likens the Koreans' defense of Seoul to the Soviet defense of Stalingrad; but he does not extend the parallel to an explicit prediction that the defense of Seoul will be successful. The PRAVDA writer brings in the claim that American officers protect American troops by placing the "cheap cannonfodder," namely British and Japanese troops, in the forefront of the fighting, and he implies that General MacArthur promised the troops complete freedom in the exploitation of Seoul's candy, whisky, and women. This article also contrasts the Americans' brutal attacks on Seoul with the North Koreans' careful treatment of the capital; the "Americans spare nothing," he points out, "willing as they are to capture mounds of ashes instead of towns."

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In a report broadcast on 27 September Borzenko again emphasizes that "during the 10 days" since the Inchon landings "the aggressors lost a considerable amount of equipment and man power and did not fulfill the task set them." The unexpected resistance of the people is said to have caused confusion and panic among the American troops. Borzenko again notes that Japanese troops were sacrificed. He dwells on the losses suffered by the Americans and on their awareness of the price they are paying for intervention. "Young Americans" are quoted as describing the road between Inchon and Seoul as "the road to Calvary" and "saner prisoners" are said to feel that "Inchon may become a second Dunkirk." Borzenko admits the progress of the Marines but claims that the progress gives the U.S. "ample ground for 40,000 graves." The report closes with the claim that "the troops of the people's army believe that the hour is near when they will begin a counter-offensive and finish off the pirate landing forces."

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