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- A 1 -

FAR EAST SURVEY

6 NOVEMBER 1952

THE K O R E A N W A R

POW Issue Retains Attention: Peking comment on the U.N. debate of the Korean question in general parallels that of Moscow, charging the United States with attempting to cover up its crimes in Korea and of seeking U.N. support for continued and expanded aggression. Reviews of Acheson's speech before the Political and Security Committee on 24 October are more detailed than Moscow's and special attention is given to the POW issue. NCNA comments that recent brutalities committed against POWs by the Americans not only belie Acheson's remarks on "humanitarianism" but also "prove that Acheson's allegation that thousands of POWs had said they would not return to Communist territory unless they were forcibly repatriated is a prefabricated lie." Likewise, Peking charges that Acheson "cooked up" the story that the Koreans and Chinese had agreed to the original American screening of POWs, and maintains that the Communist negotiators were "fully aware that forced tattooing and writing letters in blood in the American POW camps were certainly not done of their own accord." They add that the prisoners "should not be held responsible" for the above deeds and that the Communists "would welcome all our prisoners of war back to their motherland."

New Vishinsky Resolution Belatedly Noted: The 29 October resolution of Vishinsky calling for a new U.N. commission on Korea is reported by Peking five days after its introduction. Moscow has devoted heavy attention to this proposal and has advanced the claim that adoption would open the door to "instantaneous" settlement of the Korean issue.

U.S. Deception on Communist Proposals Cited: The United States is charged with deception intended to keep the United Nations uninformed of the true course of the truce discussions and especially of the Communist peace proposals. "The American imperialists used every means to keep the letter... to Mark Clark from being disclosed to the U.N. delegates" and failed to inform them of the concrete proposal for settlement of the POW issue made by the Korean and Chinese side on 8 October. In special broadcasts on 21 October both Peking and Pyongyang transmitted the full text of the Kim/Peng letter to Clark and for the first time disclosed the full text of the draft armistice agreement, asking that these documents be brought to the special attention of all U.N. delegates.

Anniversary of Chinese Participation Hailed: Heavy attention by both Peking and Pyongyang to the 2nd anniversary of Chinese participation in the Korean war during the first week of this survey results in a record volume of comment, which in the case of Peking exceeds even the attention given to the BW campaign. Listeners are told that Chinese aid "is based on a new form of genuine friendship and mutual assistance" and is an outstanding example of the new "proletarian internationalism." The Chinese assistance is credited with preserving the independence of Korea and the security of China, increasing China's military prowess and consolidating and extending her domestic economy.

A Pyongyang rally commemorating the 25 October anniversary pays due tribute to Soviet leadership in a special resolution eulogizing Stalin and crediting the Soviet victory over Japan as making possible present-day Sino-Korean

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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- A 2 -

friendship. No reference is made to Soviet military assistance in the war. Other comment reports the gratitude of the Koreans for the assistance of the Chinese Volunteers in sharing the burdens of agriculture and in giving needed relief and assistance to civilian refugees.

Sino-Korean Military Successes Cited: Claims of military successes form a part of the anniversary comment. Sino-Korean cooperation is credited with having "thwarted and wrecked the desperate invasion" by the interventionists, "driven them south," and "established a solid military ground" for future annihilation of the enemy. The Deputy Commander of the Chinese Volunteers speaks of the Sino-Korean forces "holding the initiative in the war," as evidenced by the successful "counteroffensive which started 18 September." This unusually confident assertion is tempered by reference to the possibility that the "enemy may launch a limited offensive and a landing operation in our rear area." References to the battles now in progress emphasize that the Communists are defending a "well-fortified, 200-kilometer long steel wall built in the past year from coast to coast," and Western press releases and statements by U.N. officers are cited as evidence of the growing effectiveness of the modern equipment, especially artillery, possessed by the Communist forces.

U.S. Aggressive Intent Charged: Two recent events are cited by Peking as evidence of American intent to expand the war. NCNA reports that on 26 October eight American jets strafed and bombed a village in Liaotung Province, killing two and wounding 17. This "provocation" is condemned in familiar fashion, but with the added remark that it may be an attempt "to create an incident" for extending the war. Previous Peking denunciation of such incidents has not been phrased so specifically.

Another NCNA dispatch reports a U.S. protest against Communist stockpiling and transporting of military supplies within the neutral zone. The U.S. protest is described as an American attempt to camouflage its intent "to repudiate the agreement reached by both sides concerning the neutral zone and the conference site," and thus to smash the truce talks "finally and completely."

International Trial for War Criminals Proposed: Hugh Hardyman, U.S. delegate to the recently-concluded Asian Peace Conference, has called for the trial before an international court of those responsible for the use of germ warfare and mass bombings of civilians. Hardyman also warns of the "grave danger" the United States faces if it persists in the use of BW. Peking has previously referred to possible trial of war criminals responsible for atrocities committed during the Korean war, but has never attempted to publicize such a proposal extensively. Hardyman's statement was broadcast by Peking as one of a series of specially prepared talks by APC delegates.

New Series of POW Messages Inaugurated: Radio Peking has announced a new series of messages from United Nations POWs held by the Communists beginning 31 October. The messages, wire recorded, will be broadcast in all of Radio Peking's transmissions each Tuesday and Friday and will probably follow the pattern established by a similar series last year at this time.

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