

5 Nov 53

Outline: Soviet reaction to US reports on BW and atrocities.

- A. Surprise at the documented refutation of the Communist charges was evidenced in initial Soviet reaction.
1. No reference to the Mayo presentation of US charges regarding BW has been made to date in Soviet output. Only Peiping has mentioned it.
 2. Attempts are being made to broaden the issues for propaganda purposes by labelling the reports part of a campaign to maintain international tension.

B. Biological warfare: Soviet bloc reaction.

1. In the UN, on 26 October, Soviet delegate Malik contended that:
 - a) The US had blocked an impartial investigation.
 - b) The returning airmen had been intimidated.
 - c) Mistreatment charges had been refuted by the POWs themselves.
 - d) The depositions of the US airmen were only "supplementary elements" in the "vast amount of evidence" that the US had used germ warfare.

In conclusion, the USSR representative submitted a draft resolution calling on all states to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

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2. The Soviet press reported the UN debates and quoted Malik's statements at length. However, there has been no independent comment to date.
3. Radio Peiping, first to refer to Dr. Mayo's speech as such, asserted that:
 - a) The speech was designed to divert world attention from US attempts to obstruct the explanation work at Panmunjom.
 - b) The "desperate and clumsy US propaganda effort in the UN to whitewash its germ warfare" simply proves that the US "intended to use germ warfare as a means of dominating the world."
 - c) Dr. Mayo actually calls attention to the "fact that the US has not accounted for 90 thousand Korean-Chinese captured personnel."
4. An East Berlin broadcast charged that the US report had been released at this time in order to prevent a political conference on Korea.

C. Atrocities: Soviet reaction

1. In the UN, Malik charged that the US Army report was part of the US campaign to keep international tensions high and to keep the "arms race" going.

Vyshinsky asserted that the charges were "fabrications" that had been "invented" to help block a permanent settlement of the Korean question.

2. Pravda termed the report part of the US "slander campaign" to "stimulate war hysteria, prevent any relaxation of world tension, and block a peace settlement in Korea..."