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SUMMARY

Bacteriological Warfare Propaganda in Korea. Although this propaganda could serve many purposes, it seems likely that the campaign is designed to scare the Communist forces and the North Korean population into taking proper precautions to prevent epidemics which usually occur in Korea during the spring season, and to raise the fighting morale of their forces for a possible spring offensive.

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Bacteriological Warfare Propaganda in Korea

The propaganda campaign alleging that United Nations' forces are using bacteriological warfare in Korea has reached a new and unprecedented volume and has been well coordinated throughout the Communist Orbit. These allegations are not a new front of Communist propaganda. Similiar charges have been made periodically since the outbreak of the hostilities, and a spate of such charges reached ~~volume~~ campaign proportions in Nov, 1951.

On 23 February, the North Korean Foreign Minister alleged that UN forces were using bacteriological warfare. The charge was reiterated by the Chinese Premier, Chou En Lai, and subsequently by all other Soviet propaganda media.

Various Soviet bloc countries have sent protests to the United Nations and to the International Red Cross. The World Federation of Trade Unions and the Partisans of Peace also have forwarded protests to the United Nations. An "international commission of democratic jurists" has arrived in Korea to examine the "crimes" committed by the UN forces.

American planes reportedly dropped various insects carrying germs of such diseases as Bubonic Plague and Cholera on many provinces

of North Korea. On 6 March, Peiping stated that US planes had extended germ warfare by sending a total of 448 ^{aircraft} in 68 raids over Manchuria between 29 February and 5 March. The broadcast added that at least one area had been bombed and strafed by American fliers.

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Positive counteractions to be taken against the outbreak of epidemics have been outlined. These include inoculations, the setting up of quarantine stations at traffic points, the warning to units in designated areas where "the enemy had dropped bacteria" to maintain a clear guard, to be careful of uncooked food or unboiled water, to make lids for all wells, and to disinfect enemy leaflets. ^{Battalion}

commanders also were warned that they would be held responsible for any disobedience in regard to these regulations.

Nowhere is there mention of actual illness or epidemics in North Korea, but merely talk of the presence of bacteria and the dangers of diseases spread by bacteria. One Chinese Communist dispatch said epidemics of "such contagious disease as measles, smallpox, influenza, pneumonia, and relapsing fever" had broken out in "some areas" in north and east central China.



The United States has been singled out as the real perpetrator of these crimes. Hence, the hate-~~America~~ theme has been prominent in

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all output. The most ^{common} ~~common~~ theme, aside from the routine charges of American hostility is the warning that Americans are readying UN attacks for other areas of the world. Time for experimentation in this field was offered as a reason why "American ruling circles are not eager for cessation of the Korean war." The London Daily Worker accused the US 3rd Division of placing bacteria-laden insects in artillery shells which were fired "dangerously close" to the British Commonwealth Division, while a Paris Ce Soir correspondent stated that not only may faulty UN pilots drop these germs over their own troops but that ^(400-odd) ~~400~~ UN POW's will have to take their chances along with the rest of the Korean population.

Since reports from the Far East indicate that there is no health situation sufficiently bad at present to cause a campaign of the magnitude, it seems likely that the campaign is designed to scare the Communist forces and the North Korean population into taking proper precautions to prevent epidemics which usually occur in Korea during the spring season, and to raise the fighting morale of their forces for a possible spring offensive.

However, this propoganda could also serve the following purposes:

to lay the ground for
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negotiations, to embarrass the United States, to drive a wedge between the allies which could lessen their capability to withstand an attack, or to provide justification for the non-return of Communist-held POW's.

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