

*Korea*

KOREA: PEOPLES OF THE WORLD PROTEST AMERICAN BARBARISM

American "cannibalism" in Korea and the world-wide rejection of that cannibalism are maximized in Soviet comment on Korea. Last week's emphasis on the legalistic argument that America has no right to intervene in the Korean "civil war" is followed up only by indirect references to this argument. There is almost no discussion of Security Council debates, although TASS continues to report the speeches of Delegate Malik without giving any substantive idea of the addresses of other delegates. The Indian proposal for a six-man committee to study the Korean situation is not exploited, the reported invitation to Nehru to visit Peiping does not appear to be mentioned, the controversy over Korean use of Soviet armaments is ignored, and Delegate Austin's "zombie" address continues to be overlooked.

There is continuing and consistent attention to the "hands off Korea" theme, with which the theme of protests over American bombings is closely associated, and there is continuing and unvarying emphasis on the contrast between the Soviet Union's longing for peace and the war-making plans of the American aggressors. This contrast is said to be more and more apparent in the Security Council debates.

a. The World Protests American Bombings: Some 12 commentaries this week are devoted to establishing the fact of world-wide opposition to America's wanton bombing of civilians and peaceful villages. These commentaries associate the protested bombings with other alleged instances of American cruelty, including terroristic treatment of civilians, slaughter of prisoners, and attacks on hospitals and schools. They attempt to identify American barbarity with the cruelties of Germany and Japan during World War II, repeatedly claiming that the Americans' "savagery surpasses that of Goebbels' pilots"; and TASS claims that the destruction of Plentek parallels that of Lidice. The bombings are said to be more horrible because they are done during rainstorms and on cloudy days. This reveals the depths to which American fighters have fallen; they are characterized as so frightened by defeats that they are afraid to come out from behind the clouds.

In none of these commentaries is there any overall discussion of strategic bombing as a principle or of the application of that principle to Korea. Nor is there any concrete estimate of the damage other than claims that certain health resorts have been destroyed or defenseless villages laid waste.

Adhering to previously-established propaganda techniques, Soviet broadcasters report protests over the bombings, which are equated with endorsement of the Soviet peace campaign, issued by the Democratic Front of Korea, the World Peace Committee, WFTU, Delegate Malik, the Government of Poland, Patriarch Alexius, the Soviet trade unions, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai of the Chinese People's Republic, and the Anti-Fascist Committee of Soviet Youth.

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b. The Military Situation: As is customary, Moscow avoids comment on the current military situation. There are generally-phrased accounts of Korean victories, and Kim Il Sung's call for a complete victory in August is reported, but it is not otherwise exploited.

One military review, by Colonel Tolchenov, ridicules the American offensive near Chinjon and claims it suffered a shattering defeat--as have all other American efforts in Korea.

American defeats are also stressed in a Home Service commentary broadcast by Lev Fedin. This commentary points to the low morale of American troops which it claims is revealed in the fact that General MacArthur has been given authority to impose severe punishment in discipline cases.

Fedin's commentary also ridicules the newly-created psychological warfare strategy board. Employing the familiar identification of American acts with those of the Nazis, Fedin reiterates that:

"The U.S. imperialists are mistaken if they think that they have managed to avoid the responsibility for their crimes. The anger of the peoples will overtake them. Mankind will not forget and will not forgive the U.S. crimes in Korea, the same as it does not forget the Hitlerite atrocities in the Second World War. The Washington ruling circles have already secured the same general hatred as that which some time ago surrounded Hitler's ruling clique.

"Attempting to deceive the world public opinion, and trying to prove that black is white, the U.S. imperialists were unable to think of anything better than to create the so-called Administration of Psychological Strategy attached to the State Department. They still believe that with the aid of propaganda, demagoguery, and intimidation, as well as promises, it will be possible to justify the policy of Washington, and to deceive and drug the people.

"What a naive reckoning! The Administration of Psychological Strategy is not an American invention. It was already patented in fascist Germany, where the functions of this administration were performed by the Ministry of Propaganda headed by the supergangster Goebbels. However, it is known what the results of this psychological strategy were, and how Goebbels ended his life."

(For other comment on this strategy board see section on U.S. affairs, p. 11 of this SURVEY.)

Fedin's lengthy commentary brings in other, more standard themes. He finds evidences of conflicts in the imperialists' camp in British opposition to American policy decisions concerning Korea and Formosa. He reiterates American opposition to the intervention in Korea and quotes captured soldiers as claiming that they have no idea why they are even in Korea. He quotes the WPC and WFTU protests over the abominable bombings and insists that the people of the world demand "hands off Korea."

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The possibility that American military strength in Korea will be increased by mobilization at home and by the arrival of forces from other Western nations continues to be minimized, either by omission of the facts or by derisive remarks concerning the morale of the troops or both. The announcement that British land forces are to be sent to the Korean front is greeted with the claim that Britain is providing the cannonfodder for American capitalists, a claim that is typical of Soviet propaganda in this frame of reference, and by the claim that America will fight to the last Briton. Soviet broadcasters repeatedly point out that America is forced to hire mercenaries in Western Germany. They ignore the possible inconsistency between this claim and claims concerning the imminence of American defeat-- i.e., they make no attempt to explain why those German troops are not being sent to Korea at once, since they imply that America is making a last-ditch stand on a small toe-hold.

a. Reforms in the Liberated Areas: Broadcasts from Seoul, Pyongyang, Moscow and Khabarovsk make propaganda capital of the democratic reforms that have been implemented in "liberated" areas of South Korea. The people are said to be overjoyed by the promise of free elections, by the land reform, by increased wages and reduced taxes. And they are reportedly demonstrating their joy in enthusiastic support of the North Korean forces.

There are continuing, but unspecific, references to guerrilla activities; Cheju-do is one area singled out for special mention.

d. Security Council Sessions: Soviet accounts of the Security Council debates of the past week are lacking in facts concerning the addresses and attitudes of other-than-Soviet delegates. These addresses and attitudes are customarily described, when mentioned at all, as revealing that individual or nation's opposition to the Soviet campaign for world peace. And that opposition is attributed to American domination.

A Melnikov review, broadcast to the Soviet Home audience on 18 August, capitalizes on the USSR's diplomatic victories, and quotes Western acknowledgement of those victories. It reiterates, as do other discussions of the Security Council meetings, that the American delegation deliberately obstructs efforts to secure peace in Korea and reviews evidences of Indian opposition to the American course of action reported in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 13 August.

e. The Workers Pay for the Korean Aggression: Another standard theme receiving emphasis this week is that of the workers' suffering to pay the taxes required to finance the capitalists' war effort in Korea. American and British workers are singled out for special sympathy on this account. References to rearmament plans in the Marshallized countries of Western Europe--plans which are being instituted as a result of American aggression in Korea--are repeatedly said to be financed by increasingly heavy tax burdens on the people--who, after all, oppose the American aggression.

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f. Race Propaganda Not Stressed; MacArthur's Brutality: As has been noted before, Soviet-Communist propagandists do not appear to exploit the race propaganda potential of the Korean war in monitored broadcasts. There are sporadic references to American attempts to enslave the Koreans, and American plans and methods are repeatedly identified with those of Tojo and Japan, an identification which also has potential implications for race propaganda. This week General MacArthur is presented as brutal and is identified with all manner of cruelties. A PRAVDA article by Rassadin and Filippov, PRAVDA's New York correspondents, characterizes MacArthur as "the organizer of bloody crime." It recounts the bonus march incidents of 1932 and credits General MacArthur with "sending troops and tanks against the hungry demonstrators" and with "ordering his soldiers to fire on the demonstrators" as a result of which several were killed and 55 wounded. The depravity of the General's character is implicitly revealed in his announcement to press reporters that he considered the events of "bloody American Thursday" to be "good work." PRAVDA dwells on General MacArthur's hereditary ruthlessness--it includes a brief history of his father's activities in the Philippines--and identifies MacArthur as "a fanatical reactionary, full of hatred for the people."

Turning to the present day, Rassadin and Filippov credit the General with personally ordering ruthless air raids on defenseless Koreans, whom he considers "inferior colored peoples."

"In his rage MacArthur is ordering more and more criminal air raids on peaceful Korean towns and villages, and on Korean women and children. MacArthur hates the people of Korea and is treating them as an inferior colored race. Just as Truman, he does not call the Koreans otherwise than bandits." (in Czech twice, and once in English to North America, 20-21 August)

This reference to the Koreans as "an inferior colored race" is not included, however, in the TASS version of the PRAVDA article.