

KOREA: EMPHASIS ON U.S. ATROCITIES AND PROFITEERING

Soviet comment on Korea pursues stylized propaganda lines; there is continuing emphasis on the hair-raising atrocities perpetrated by American troops, and there appears to be increasing emphasis on the profit-seeking motives of American businessmen and officials. There is a decline in attention to arguments concerning the illegality of American intervention in the Korean civil war and concerning American preparations for an invasion of North Korea; these themes appear in incidental references but do not receive specific emphasis comparable to earlier weeks.

The Soviet note protesting the shooting down of a plane on a training mission from Dairen is widely publicized, but Moscow has not yet initiated comment on the Soviet note or on the preceding American note. Discussions of military operations in Korea continue to belittle the morale of American troops and imply that the end is near; Pyongyang claims that "the last battle" is imminent but does not elaborate on the claim.

One theme on which emphasis is invariably great is that of world-wide protests over American aggression in Korea. Delegate Malik's claim that he has received 20,000 messages of protest is reported in news accounts of Security Council sessions but is not exploited per se. However, both Moscow and Pyongyang report the messages of protest emanating from widely varied groups, including American prisoners of war, and repeatedly note that "the people" of the world are opposed to the American "adventure."

Moscow continues to hint that the United States hopes to expand the scope of the Korean war consonant with its imperialist ambitions toward all of Asia and toward Asian racés. And it continues to minimize the fact that the so-called adventure is a U.N. effort, either by insisting that "the people" of the various nations are opposed or by insisting that the troops to be sent are mercenaries.

The question of the use of the atom bomb in the Korean war, which has been avoided for several weeks, is revived by Ilya Ehrenburg--who contends that the A-bomb has not been used because the U.S. fears adverse reaction in other nations--and in a diatribe against General Spatz who is said to hope that the inhuman method will be employed.

Moscow continues to give only minimal publicity to the Security Council sessions. The debates are reported in news accounts which quote Delegate Malik at length and barely mention addresses by other delegates. These accounts, which receive only limited distribution, mention the presence of the South Korean representative, but the issue is not elaborated upon. Brief commentaries on the U.N. pursue the two-policies-on-Korea theme, insisting that Malik stands for peace while Austin determinedly obstructs a peaceful solution.

The North Korean radios dwell conventionally on the high morale and fighting spirit of the North Korean forces and on the atrocities committed by American troops. They praise the USSR's contributions to Korean progress in connection with the anniversary of the Japanese surrender. There is slight but continuing interest in the activities of partisan groups, and one broadcast claims that it is easier to take a star from heaven than it is to capture all the guerrillas.

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a. Atrocities and War Criminals: A new ingredient is added to the standard charges of American atrocities in a repeatedly broadcast PRAVDA account of cruel treatment of Korean prisoners. The alleged eye-witness account adheres to the standard line concerning American atrocities and adds that the perpetrators must be tried as war criminals. The following extract is typical of the emotionally-charged account:

"We also saw a patented gallows designed by Washington engineers, but the gallows was no good for mass executions. Nor were there enough soldiers for shooting people. And then the Americans resorted to a devilish crime. Typhus was raging in Seoul, so they issued an order that sick people be taken to prison instead of the hospital. A sick person would be brought into a solitary confinement cell where up to 12 prisoners were already cooped and thus, without knowing it, became an instrument of the prisoners' execution.

"Corpses of hanged and shot people as well as of those who died of typhus were thrown over a precipice. Then the top of the rock was blasted and the debris covered up traces of the monstrosity. But 'crime will out,' a Korean proverb says. 'Sooner or later it is brought to daylight.'"

Exploiting the war-criminals claim, PRAVDA adds:

"The Korean people keep accurate records of atrocities and compile lists of war criminals. These lists include not only General Parker, commander of the American Air Force in Korea, who cynically nicknamed airplanes as 'winged meatgrinders.' Hundreds of pages are occupied by the names of American flyers given by their prisoned accomplices. May these lines, written under bombs in the bloody light of fires, serve as testimony of an eyewitness at the international trial of American war criminals."

b. "In Pursuit of Profits": The munitions makers' hopes of profiting from the Korean war are increasingly emphasized. IZVESTIA titles an International Review "In Pursuit of Profits" and notes that "the capitalist monopolies... still speak of the hopes they place on the Korean adventure. These are hopes for new fabulous profits, hopes that the war in Korea will promote intensification of so-called 'business activity,' that it may soften the blows of the economic crisis."

Another IZVESTIA article, by V. Ivanov, correlates the atrocity and profiteering themes. It claims that greedy American businessmen are interested only in gaining more and more profit and disdain Korean hopes for liberty and independence. These merchants planned a speedy conquest of Korea and resorted to bombing of peaceful cities when the Korean people unexpectedly rallied to expel the invaders. The desire for profits was frustrated by this unexpected reaction, and "this is the reason for the businessmen's anger, for the savage air raids, for the destruction of houses and cultural institutions and for the desire to destroy Korea's entire economy."

Moscow customarily sympathizes with the American and West-European peoples who must shoulder a heavy burden of taxation to help pay for the industrialists' profits; and although there does not appear to be any

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reference to taxes as such, a 31 August commentary by "Litoshko, our New York correspondent," notes that housewives are forced to pay high prices for articles made scarce by war preparations or by deliberate manipulation on the part of war profiteers.

The Anglo-American conflicts theme is also brought into the profiteering context in a 30 August broadcast to the United Kingdom. The commentary claims that British troops arriving in Korea were greeted by Ambassador Muccio who "met them with a bombastic speech of greetings. This shows that rhetoric was needed to conceal the bitter truth from the people of Britain."

"The British troops in Korea will be nothing but cannonfodder in a gory adventure fomented by the U.S. imperialists in the Far East. Moreover, businessmen of the ilk of MacArthur and Muccio hope to rake in thousands of dollars from the blood of British soldiers sent to Korea by the Labor henchmen of the U.S. aggressors."

The broadcast goes on to claim that Britain will be charged high prices for rations for its troops and for hospitalization in American hospitals. "This is how U.S. big business is profiting from the blood spilt by the soldiers who have been sent to die in Korea for a cause alien to them, to die in the criminal interests of Wall Street."

c. The Atom Bomb: Continuing to avoid any extended discussion of atomic strategy in relation to the Korean war, current Soviet broadcasts make passing references to alleged American hopes that the bomb will be used. Ehrenburg's commentary on the peace campaign (discussed at greater length in Section B of this SURVEY) points out that "the Americans do not risk using the atom bomb "because it would create an unfavorable impression in several countries"; it attributes this "unfavorable impression" to the "effective barrier" represented by the Stockholm Appeal and the signatures thereto. Ehrenburg implies that the American failure to use the bomb in Korea is "the first success of the (peace) movement." But he cautions against undue satisfaction with this success:

"The criminals have not released the atom bomb over Korea, but this does not mean that they will not release it over Korea or some other country if the peoples relax vigilance. It does not mean that they are not perpetrating and will not continue to perpetrate foul villainies in the same Korea. It does not mean that they have renounced preparation of a new war and the unimaginable carnage which, in businesslike fashion, they call the 'third world war.'"

General Spaatz' alleged advocacy of the use of the atom bomb in Korea is highlighted in a brief commentary of 2 September. Characterizing Spaatz as a "gallant ancient warrior" who is dissatisfied with his peace-time job with NEWSWEEK, Moscow claims that he is an advocate of "the cannibal formula, 'one plane, one bomb--one city' which advocates the use of the atom bomb with unparalleled cynicism." Spaatz is said to be "adamantly opposed to mankind's demand for a peaceful settlement in Korea and is insisting that Korea should develop into a world war."

d. Military Operations: Soviet reviews of military operations in Korea are worded in somewhat general terms. Colonel Tolchenev dwells on the successful advances made by Korean troops and attributes delays to the increasing numbers of U.S. troops--he fails to acknowledge the arrival of Australian and British forces although the arrival of the latter is exploited in other contexts.

LITERARY GAZETTE reviews the two months of fighting in an article broadcast in the Soviet Home Service on 31 August. The review highlights the three principal phases of the Korean war, namely defensive action against invasion, counterattack, and pursuit of the enemy. The commentary claims that the pursuit phase has been slowed down somewhat by the intrusive actions of the United States, but it predicts eventual victory for the North Korean forces without specifying when that victory will take place. The victory is said to be assured, despite the superior technical equipment of the invaders, by the high morale of the North Koreans.

"The morale factor will be the decisive one. The U.S. interventionists are not capable of destroying the desire of the Korean peoples for freedom and independence. It is impossible to conquer a nation which fights for its liberation with the determination shown by the Koreans in their struggle against the U.S. invaders."

Other broadcasts point to the "sliver of land" on which the Americans are pinning their last hopes, and a Polish-language broadcast of 2 September, explaining that the American raids on the Yalu River towns resulted from frustration over the defeat being suffered in Korea, ridicules the American military position:

"The Korean troops are kicking the Americans about like mangy dogs. The war feats of the Americans pinned by the Korean bayonets to a tiny slip of coastline remind one of some nasty vermin stuck out for exhibition and humiliation on the point of a pin."

Other comment on military operations emphasizes the low morale of the American troops, which it contrasts with the enthusiastic fighting spirit of the North Koreans. This theme is prevalent in broadcasts to North America from both Pyongyang and Moscow, some of which resemble soap operas in their use of emotional appeals.