

Korea

KOREA: MARKED AVOIDANCE OF CURRENT ISSUES

Comment on Korea is distinguished by two things: its moderate volume in spite of recent dramatic developments and its avoidance of the specific nature of those developments. Attention to Korea is still relatively low--only 16 percent of all comment on foreign affairs. There is no reference to the controversy over the crossing of the 38th parallel, to Delegate Vishinsky's 2 October peace proposal, to the eight-nation proposal, or to U.N. debates.

The retreats of the North Korean forces are not acknowledged as such and the re-establishment of the Republic of Korea at Seoul is not mentioned even for purposes of condemnation.

Soviet broadcasts dwell on the atrocities committed by American forces and on the inhuman bombings, and they continue the recently revived emphasis on American preparations for the 25 June invasion of the North. They also point up the heroic resistance of the North Korean forces and the heavy losses being inflicted on the Americans near Seoul.

Although it might be expected that Moscow would continue to emphasize the war in Korean-language broadcasts and that these broadcasts might emphasize Soviet friendship for the Korean people, neither of these expectations is realized. Monitored Korean-language broadcasts ignore the Vishinsky proposal and confine their war references almost exclusively to Pyongyang communiques. There are references to American atrocities and to imperialist looting in the South but there is no concerted attempt to bolster the spirits of the North Koreans.

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