

KOREA: MOSCOW AVOIDS DISCUSSION OF THE GROWING CRISIS

There is still no explicit admission in available Soviet broadcasts of the seriousness of the North Koreans' military situation. Moscow reports the evasive Pyongyang communiques, but it has not noted the United Nations' troops approach to Pyongyang, nor has it broadcast any military reviews other than an optimistically and vaguely worded commentary on 12 October.

In contrast with this avoidance of military developments there is intense concentration on the eight-nation U.N. resolution on Korea which is roundly assailed as a symbol of American aggression. Moscow contends that the resolution only serves to further aggression in Korea, that it was illegally adopted, and that the majority of votes for the resolution does not represent the opinion of a majority of the world's peoples because the abstaining delegates actually opposed the resolution. The provisions of the resolution are not discussed and Syngman Rhee's dissatisfaction is not brought into the picture.

The question of Soviet assistance to the North Koreans is touched upon only lightly. Kim Il Sung's "no surrender" address is broadcast in a watered-down version which excludes his reference to Sino-Soviet material assistance. Stalin's brief note on the anniversary of Soviet-Korean diplomatic relations is broadcast repeatedly and there are commentaries pointing to the strong spiritual support the Koreans are receiving from friendly peoples in "democratic countries" including the USSR. But available broadcasts do not go beyond these tenuous references.

Moscow provides some food for speculation over the possibility of Chinese Communist participation in the war by publicizing the Chou En-lai address of 1 October and the subsequent statement by a spokesman of the Peiping Foreign Office; but it does not comment on either pronouncement. Nor does it comment on the Soviet protest over American violation of the Siberian air frontier; the official protest note is given a brief flurry of attention but there is no follow-up to this phase of the Korean conflict. Moscow also publicizes, but without benefit of Soviet comment as yet, the North Korean claim that the alleged American use of Japanese troops constitutes a violation of international agreements. Foreign Minister Pak's note to the United Nations is reported in TASS transmissions without comment.

Continuing and conventional attention is paid to such charges as American profiteering and atrocities, the heroic resistance of the Koreans, and the world-wide opposition to the American intervention. Moscow hints at increased partisan activity but is not explicit in these references. (A Prague broadcast is more explicit, however, for it claims that a large number of North Korean troops has disappeared into the ranks of the South Korean population; "for the U.S. aggressors this means concretely that they have in their rear a considerable potential guerrilla army the size of which they cannot even estimate.")

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