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FAR EAST SURVEY
30 AUGUST 1951

- A 1 -

NORTH KOREA

Changes in the Pyongyang line are principally reflected in intensity rather than in substance. Increased outspokenness on American duplicity and truculence compared to Communist sincerity in the cease-fire negotiations continues. Despite statements of pessimism over the possible outcome, however, Pyongyang remains non-committal on the ultimate course of the conferences. The few comments on the pending Japanese peace treaty link it to a sinister American conspiracy to revive Japanese militarism and imperialism as a tool of American aggression in the Far East.

American Responsibility for Kaesong Frustrations: While intensifying their charges against the Americans, Pyongyang broadcasts have not yet reached the point of implying that the negotiations are at such an intolerable impasse that their continuation would be futile. The stage is being meticulously set, however, for taking propagandistic advantage of the situation in which such an attitude might be expressed by the U.N. authorities. Allegations about the claimed U.N. bombing of the neutralized conference area are couched in terms of a "provocative action" and a "naked expression" of American designs to frustrate the truce talks. The U.N. charge that the Communists fabricated the incident is taken as clear evidence of the U.N.'s intention to terminate the negotiations. Surrounding these specific accusations are more general claims that the "crafty" American "plot" to break off the talks has cast a "gloomy shadow" over future sessions and that the alleged American interference with the Kaesong progress is dictated by those who are garnering monopolistic profits from the war.

In contrast, the Communist delegation is portrayed as trying to facilitate the talks' progress in every way. In this respect, Pyongyang's current propaganda differs markedly from that of Peking which has de-emphasized this theme ever since the Communists' manufacture of the Kaesong bombing incident.

Nothing New in the Liberation Anniversary Comment: Reportage and comment on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of Korean liberation by Pyongyang is lengthy, repetitious, and stereotyped. The great number of congratulatory messages and exchanges of delegations publicized by Pyongyang give the impression that the Soviet orbit is an area of solidarity, cooperation, and identity of ideals and purposes. There is also great emphasis on patriotic Korean themes in connection with the "fatherland" war.

The Kim Il Sung "report," rebroadcast in summary from Moscow, does not deviate from stock themes.

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- A 2 -

SOUTH KOREA: COUNTER-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA

Much of Pusan's comment consists of refutations of Communist charges about South Korean political despotism and American vassalage. Complementary to these refutations are vigorous defenses of American and South Korean institutions and aspirations. In his address on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of Korean liberation, for example, Syngman Rhee declares: "The so-called ideal country which the Communists are describing in their propaganda has been attained to some extent in the United States--which is opposed to Communism--rather than in the Communist states." Rhee also promotes the democratic ideal for Korea, with specific reference to the American precedents of multi-party politics, bicameralism, and direct presidential election.



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