

KOREAN WAR

Despite the discussion of Korea at the WPC sessions in Berlin, there is no overall increase in Moscow's attention. But there are elements in various WPC speeches which may foreshadow a settlement of the military truce and a revival of attention to political issues. The 3 July shift in the truce talks is not reflected in Soviet broadcasts; however, Peking broadcasts since that date appear to be avoiding comment which might jeopardize the secret sessions.

Moscow's treatment of the Yalu raids and the second anniversary of the war, on the other hand, closely conform to the Peking pattern. The raids are described as part of the effort to extend the war and to bring pressure on the truce negotiations.

WPC: Two-thirds of the attention to Korea at the meeting is devoted to BW charges. Yves Farge reviewed the evidence supporting the charges, while other speakers supported the ratification of the Geneva Convention. The first hint by Moscow that the BW campaign has failed occurs in Joliot-Curie's opening address which acknowledged that these accusations "may not have yet provoked the desired response everywhere." In other Soviet comment there is a broadening of the BW charges as witnessed by attention to the Security Council meeting. Emphasis is on the necessity to ratify the Geneva Protocol and on the danger of germ warfare in general with only minimal attention to the Korean war.

There are also indications in the speeches at Berlin of a revival of attention to political issues. Thus, Chinese delegate Kuo Mo-jo, made reference to eventual settlement of the entire Korean question on a fair and reasonable basis after the armistice has been reached. Joliot-Curie also injected a post-armistice note when he referred to the American delays in the truce talks as evidence that they are afraid an agreement in Korea would end their rule on Formosa and make more difficult their opposition to Peking's admission to the United Nations. While these remarks may foreshadow a settlement of the military truce and a revival of attention to political questions, Moscow does not broadcast the Joliot-Curie speech in Mandarin.

Truce Comment Avoids Current Reference: In general the comment on the truce negotiations dwells on the delaying tactics of the Americans and, on the other hand, the resolute intention of the Chinese and Korean delegation to work for a peaceful settlement. The American admission that 45,000 POWs were missed in the original screening is seized upon by Moscow as conclusive evidence that the U.S. claims of prisoner opposition to repatriation are false. However, no discussion of the day to day sessions is present, nor do the secret sessions now in progress receive any mention.

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Yalu Raid Provokes Mild Reaction: Soviet broadcasts on the Yalu raid are mild in tone by comparison with previous diatribes against BW and mistreatment of POWs. Moscow quotes extensively from the Central Telegraph Agency of Korea and NCNA reports; emphasis is on the destruction of the sources of peaceful power for both Manchuria and North Korea and the world-wide protests over this provocative and wanton bombing. No attempt is made by Moscow to bring in charges of violation of China's sovereignty however.

Relatively wide attention is devoted to the protests of the British and to the special debates in the House of Commons occasioned by the Laborite opposition led by Bevan. Listeners are told that the Laborites--who are really no different from the Government--are merely capitalizing on the growing public opposition to conduct of the war.

Anniversary Comment Reaches Unusual Peak: Like Peking, Moscow comment on the anniversary of the war rises sharply immediately preceding the anniversary date to a high of 171 commentaries, as compared to the 50 devoted to the occasion last year. Major stress is given the success of the Korean war in halting the American aggression in Korea and in upsetting the timetable for U.S. aggression in other parts of Asia and the world. The defeats suffered by the Americans in Korea have revealed to the world U.S. weakness and exploded the myth of U.S. superiority. As a result of these defeats the U.S. is said to have resorted in desperation to the use of BW and other atrocities, mistreated the POWs and delayed the truce talks.