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Korea

Again this week Moscow broadcasters offer nothing new in broadcasts to and about Korea. Standard propaganda themes are reiterated: e.g., U.S. perfidy in planning the election as a means of facilitating division of Korea and ultimate U.S. control of the peninsula, and the alleged "dismal plight" of southern Koreans. Danilov makes this latter charge current in an analysis of the recently announced land reform plan for the American zone but other broadcasts merely restate earlier discussions. Pyongyang broadcasts are more ebullient than ever in reporting South Korean approval of the draft constitution and the joint meeting of northern and southern leaders proposed for 14 April in Pyongyang and rejection of the 9 May election proposal.

a. "Deceitful, Dishonorable, and Ridiculous" Land Reform: In his 24 March commentary, broadcast in Korean, Danilov criticizes the land reform plan along stereotyped lines. He contends (1) that it is merely a scheme to secure Korean support of the U.S. in view of the pending elections; (2) that only 500,000 of the two million farmers will benefit; (3) it is a "land reform without land" since it involves only land held by the Oriental Development Company and its American successor, the New Korea Company; and (4) the terms of the proposal will impose on the farmers a 15-year peonage.

b. Old Charges Restated: In what is described as an article "for the guidance of agitators," the PACIFIC SEAMAN reviews the Moscow stereotype with reference to Korea. Transmitted in installments on 26 and 29 March, the article deals in familiar fashion with the draft constitution, the U.N. Commission, and the 9 May election. The constitution is "designed to make permanent the remarkable victories of the democratic and progressive forces of Korea" and as such has been "welcomed" on either side of the 38th parallel, it is pointed out. The 9 May election proposal is characterized as another step in the United States campaign to vitiate the Moscow declaration and Soviet attempts to ensure the progress of Korea. (Siberian press dispatch in Russian Morse to all stations and ships at sea.)

The same historical survey is found in a Davydov commentary, "American Falsifiers of History on Korea," transmitted by Irkutsk on 25 March. (English Morse for Far Eastern Commission, Russian Committee) The article purports to answer charges made in an article entitled "Korea: Land Divided" appearing in ARMED FORCES TALK. The article is described as "U.S. War Department propaganda" intended to "distort beyond all recognition the true events and facts relating to Korea." The commentary sums up familiar Moscow charges of American subversion of the Moscow Declaration

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and of "Soviet-American negotiations in Seoul" as well as denunciation of American proposals for a trusteeship for Korea and refusal to withdraw troops from Korea.

The "dismal plight" of Koreans, particularly young people, in the southern zone is recounted in a TASS dispatch of 28 March. (English Morse to North America) The article reports statements made to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA by the Korean delegate to the Calcutta youth conference. The delegate is said to have lauded the progress and privileges of those living north of the 38th parallel while condemning conditions in the American zone. The statement was made in Moscow where the delegates visited before and after the Calcutta session.

c. Pyongyang Reports Southern Approval: Statements and letters issued by South Korean organizations in approval of the draft constitution and rejection of the 9 May election proposal are reported in great volume in Pyongyang broadcasts. Organizations quoted as approving the draft include the Laboring People's Party, All Korea Farmers League, South Korea Democratic Women's League, All Korea League of Confucianism, South Korea Labor Party, and the South Korea Federation of Trade Unions. Groups which are said to have opposed the election proposal are the League of Sciences, South Korea People's Front, and the Myongsong Girls School in Seoul.

Southern approval of the proposed 14 April joint conference is noted in Pyongyang broadcasts which recount the negotiations, instituted by southern leaders, leading to the conference and report the statement issued by Kim Koo in which he declares that the Pyongyang session is "the only way to ... (save the fatherland)."