

KOREA: RADIO P'YONGYANG FILLS THE VACUUM

Korea

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Korean affairs go almost unnoted by Moscow broadcasters again this week. One monitored commentary, by Lomin, is a familiar recapitulation of North Korea's Soviet-sponsored advancement along the road to "independence" while the other is a repetitious, personal attack on Syngmann Rhee which appears to duplicate the one which was broadcast last week. Moscow broadcasters make no monitored reference to the electric power issue, and Radio Pyongyang is equally silent on this subject in monitored broadcasts.

Radio Pyongyang, however, is characteristically verbose on other topics. It devotes much broadcast time to reporting the evil results of American occupation in the southern zone, to reporting preparations for the 25 August election in the northern zone and the 15 August anniversary of the liberation, and to announcing details of such measures as that decreasing changes in higher education in the northern zone. Pyongyang also announces that it will broadcast Russian language lessons after 1 August and invites listeners to purchase the specially prepared reader.

The Soviet-controlled transmitter displays interest in non-Korean affairs and reports at some length, in what may be a verbatim repeat of a Moscow broadcast, world-wide Communist distress over the attack on Togliatti. A 20 July news program included items reporting protest messages from Communist groups in Finland, Holland, Poland, and China but omitted reference to a similar note which, according to both Moscow and other Pyongyang broadcasts, was sent by North Korean organizations.

a. America Is "Ruining" Korea; Americans Bomb Korean Fishermen: As documentation of its familiar allegation that the American occupation is "ruining" Korea, Pyongyang notes that the southern zone, previously a "rice bowl," is now forced to import rice. It also notes the alleged increase in venereal diseases and the continuing "wave of terroristic suppression." Other broadcasts criticize the American-sponsored elections, National Assembly, and Constitution; all are characterized as "country-ruining, anti-popular, and undemocratic."

Pyongyang makes particular propaganda capital of the American bombing of Korean fishermen. This "inhuman" act started a chain of other inhuman acts, Pyongyang asserts. First, no Koreans were allowed to participate in the "so-called inquiry commission." Second, Major General Doan deliberately attempted to deny that the boats were machine-gunned although he did "admit" they were bombed. This denial is a "self-evident" lie, the 17 July broadcast declares. General Doan's refusal to admit the exact amount of the indemnity paid each family is

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said to be still further evidence of American perfidy: "undoubtedly he is silent because only a nominal indemnity was paid in a manner suitable to the Americans themselves." Furthermore, General Dean is said to have refused to identify the guilty Americans or to announce what punishment they will receive. The American action, Pyongyang concludes, is "another big national insult to the Korean people."

"After having massacred the Korean people en-masse as live targets by indiscriminate bombing and strafing, they consider that the matter is closed by paying paltry sums of money to the bereaved family members. It is just like throwing a few pennies in settlement to the owner after shooting to kill dogs or pigs in someone's yard just for the fun of it."

b. North Korea Is Forging Ahead: In contrast to this sorrowful situation, Pyongyang reports in glowing terms the progress of the region north of the 38th parallel. Its new Constitution is held up as an example of a democratic document which is being enthusiastically welcomed at rallies throughout both zones of Korea. Details of the electoral preparations are announced and that event is contrasted with the 10 May balloting in the south. Kim Il Sung's stereotyped contrast of developments in the two zones, the thesis of his lengthy report at the recent meeting of the People's Council, is also reported. He offers no new evidence but merely reviews familiar assertions.

