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WEEKLY SURVEY
8 OCTOBER 1948

KOREA: WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS (CONTINUED)

Korea

The United States note deferring final action on the withdrawal of troops from Korea affords Soviet commentators an opportunity for a variation in their repetitious and stereotyped praise of the Soviet Union and denunciation of the United States. Prior to delivery of the U.S. note, Moscow radio contented itself with self-righteous praise of the Soviet decision and with denunciation of the United States' past performance in Korea. Since the note was announced commentators have added it to the list of evidences of American guilt and contend that it represents an attempt to evade the real issue.

As usual, Radio Pyongyang is train-bearer for Radio Moscow in furthering the anti-U.S. campaign. It extols Soviet "generosity," "good will," and "friendliness" toward the Korean people, and devotes a lengthy commentary to proving that the USSR is "the bastion of peace." This extensive praise of the Soviet Union is balanced by equally extensive criticism of the United States, which is said to be militant, imperialistic, and in all ways selfish.

a. Withdrawal Decision Praised: Commentators Danilov, Alexeyev, and Bronin retread familiar ground in current talks exploiting the Supreme Council's decision to withdraw Soviet troops. They recapitulate the record of Soviet beneficence to Korea--a record which has been recapitulated frequently in past months. Equally repetitious is their survey of alleged American deficiencies in South Korea. They allude to the southern zone elections and assert that they were marked by terror, coercion, and other forms of oppression. They go back even further to contend that the United Nations Korean Commission was illegal and established "unilaterally" by the United States. The three commentaries, all broadcast in Korean, also refer to South Korean approval of the Soviet decision as evidence of the incorrectness of the U.S. attitude.

b. The American Note: The U.S. note makes it clear that America has decided to "hide again behind the wall of the U.N., exert political pressure on the General Assembly, and gain support for its unlawful activities" in Korea, says Markov in a NEW TIMES article broadcast in the Soviet Home Service on 29 September.

The article rehashes familiar claims concerning the "democratic" Government in North Korea and Soviet solicitude for the Korean people. Markov asserts that the U.S. is unwilling to withdraw its troops since such action would be "abandonment" of its colonizing plans.

TASS distributes the main points of the American note in 29 September transmissions and evaluates U.S. policy as outlined in the note in the concluding paragraph:

"Thus the Government of the United States did not express its desire to withdraw the American troops from southern Korea simultaneously with the evacuation of the Soviet troops from northern Korea, and evaded a direct reply to the question put in the note of the Soviet Government."

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