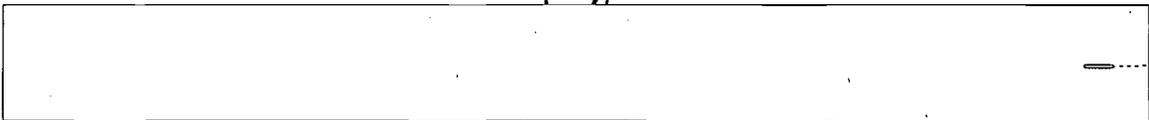


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WEEKLY SURVEY
18 AUGUST 1949

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Korea

KOREA: LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY; ATTACK ON THE U.N. COMMISSION

No matter what the context of Soviet reports on Korea might be--the liberation anniversary, the U.N. Commission, the new tax bill, or the defection of a southern coast guard unit--Soviet broadcasters come up with the same refrain: in the Soviet-sponsored North everything is glorious, in the South things are in "a wretched mess." Pyongyang, of course, is even more vociferous and voluble than Moscow; in an almost unlimited number of commentaries expressing Korean gratitude to the USSR for the liberation and for subsequent kindnesses, the inevitable contrast in conditions is reported in violently emotional terms. This approach even waxes militant in a pre-anniversary broadcast calling on South-Korea military units to rise up and end Syngman Rhee's traitorous abuse of the people.

a. Liberation Anniversary: Typical of Soviet comment on the anniversary is Krainov's RED STAR article, "A Memorable Day for the Koreans." He recapitulates the Soviet liberation of the peninsula from Japanese imperialists, points to Northern achievements in industry, agriculture, government, and culture, and sympathizes with South Koreans who are forced to armed rebellion to express their dissatisfaction with the American-dominated Rhee Government. (in Korean and Japanese, 15 August 1949) Other anniversary commentaries stress the growing friendship between the People's Republic of North Korea and the USSR, and reiterate Korean gratitude for the liberation and for the gift of a democratic government.

b. Attack on the U.N. Commission: The U.N. Commission is roundly denounced in an IZVESTIA article broadcast in Korean on 14 August and transmitted by TASS to Europe and North America on 12 August. The Commission is said to be a puppet of the United States, an illegal offspring of the U.N., and a trouble-making meddler in Korean affairs. It further suffers, says Moscow, from the fact that it has no contact with Koreans. Even the Commission's members are said to be aware of its failure and to be anxious to leave Seoul. The Syrian member is said to have been able to get away, but the Salvadoran delegate, even though he, too, pleaded ill health, was forced by American pressure to remain. The reason behind that pressure is stated clearly: Washington is compelled to conceal the failure of its policy in Korea by keeping the Commission in Seoul.

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