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SPECIAL REPORT
30 APRIL 1948

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Korea

KOREA: DENUNCIATIONS OF U.S. "INTERFERENCE" FLOOD THE AIR

Denunciation of American "interference" in Korea rises to a crescendo this week as both Moscow and Pyongyang broadcast speeches given by delegates to the joint North-South Korean conference in Pyongyang. All the speakers are said to have heartily denounced American occupation policies, American refusal to withdraw troops, and American insistence on the elections--which the delegates consider to be nothing more than a device to perpetuate the division of Korea.

a. "Koreans Denounce American Interference": The joint conference of northern and southern leaders, held, according to Moscow, from 19 to 23 April in Pyongyang, fits readily into the propaganda patterns followed by Moscow broadcasters. The meeting, and the speeches given, are reported in Soviet Home, Korean, Mandarin, and Japanese transmissions of the past week, in some detail. Along parallel lines, they praise the Soviet Union, whose beneficent guidance made possible the progress shown in the north, and denounce the U.S. for its oppression and retardation of the south. The 10 May election, opposition to which was the purpose of the meeting, is, of course, given prominence in the speeches and in the broadcast reports. But denunciation of the election is but a part of the general denunciation levelled at the United States. In connection with the election, the U.N. Commission is derided, but again primary emphasis is on the U.S. which is said to have "arranged" for the Commission so as to legalize its nefarious purposes in Korea.

A second purpose of the meeting, to demonstrate the unity of purpose of leaders in the two zones, is furthered via the reported statements of the leaders and in broadcast emphasis on speeches by southern delegates. For example, TASS reported on 24 April that five representatives of Pyongyang organizations took part in the debate on 23 April but that Seoul organizations were represented by 13 speakers. This same effort to "prove" the heartiness of southern cooperation and the impartiality of northern sponsors of the session is evident in subsequent reports which speak of talks, during a given session, by two northern and 11 southern delegates.

Although the various southern speakers are repeatedly mentioned by name there is, in the Moscow broadcasts, less attention to Kim Koo and Kim Kiu Sic than might have been expected. On 22 April, a Soviet Home service broadcast quotes at length from the talk given by Pek Nam Un, "leader" of the Labor Party in the U.S. zone. It then quotes the remarks made by "the leader of the Democratic National Front in South Korea," presumably Kim Kiu Sic, but fails to identify him by name. Similarly, a TASS report, published by PRAVDA on 24 April, makes only summary mention of a talk by Kim Koo. Hu Hun, however, receives appreciable attention. But, whoever the speakers, whether named or unnamed, they indulged, judging from Moscow's reports, in vehement criticism of the U.S. for the "decline" in the south, the refusal to withdraw troops, and the election proposal.

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The three concrete results of the meeting--a joint resolution "on the Korean situation," an "appeal addressed to the 30 million people," and a "letter of request" for the withdrawal of troops addressed to the Governments of the USSR and of the U.S.--have been reported by both Moscow and Pyongyang. The Soviet-controlled transmitter has devoted great volume to reports of these resolutions. Pyongyang also devotes great volume to the speeches given at the parley and, in at least two broadcasts, gives the full text of Kim Il Sung's 65-minute address. The post-conference rally, held 25 April in "Kim Il Sung Plaza" is described in some detail by Pyongyang which reports the resolution of approval adopted there, the "demonstrations," of the people, the handbills dropped from planes during the "demonstrations," and mentions that speeches were given by Kim Koo and Kim Kiu Sic. Moscow, too, reports the rally, in a Korean-language broadcast of 27 April quoting PRAVDA, but omits any mention of Kim Koo and Kim Kiu Sic.

This Moscow policy of minimizing references to the principal southern leaders is reflected in the omission of any references, in Moscow transmissions, to Kim Il Sung's party given on 25 April at which Kim Kiu Sic is said to have spoken. Pyongyang reports that the southern leader reaffirmed his opposition to the 10 May elections and noted the differences between the Pyongyang rally of 25 April and similar Seoul events all of which are "staged by terrorists." Kim is said to have further contrasted the two zones by declaring that the North was like a "rising family" while the South is like a "failing family." "He said that Koreans must dance to the tune of their own music, as at the Moranbong Theater, and not to the tune of American music," reports Pyongyang.

b. Moscow Denounced American Interference: "Impermissible interference" by the U.S. and the U.N. in Korean affairs is denounced by three Moscow commentators this week. Mikhailov, in a commentary broadcast in English, French, and German on 25 and 26 April, keys his remarks to the Pyongyang meeting and declares that the discussions there "confirm...the whole-hearted support" which the Soviet proposal for withdrawal of troops enjoys among the Korean people. The remainder of the commentary and the talks by Simolovsky and Danilov, broadcast on 21 and 23 April in Mandarin and Korean respectively, reiterate the familiar charges of American interference in Korean affairs and the growing intensity of Korean resistance to that interference. They allege that American occupation authorities are "forcing" Koreans to register for the southern zone elections and that the election is just another American device to promote the permanent division of Korea.

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