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WEEKLY SURVEY
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KOREA: SUPREME ASSEMBLY MEETS

Korea

Both Moscow and Pyongyang are preoccupied with the first session of the Supreme Korean People's Assembly which opened on 2 September in Pyongyang. The Assembly meeting is accorded close reportorial attention by both transmitters. Both transmitters, in broadcasts devoted to the third anniversary of the Japanese surrender, also berate the U.S. for its allegedly colonial ambitions and policies in Korea.

a. Meeting of the Assembly: Pyongyang's enthusiastic reportage of the opening ceremonies and deliberations of the Assembly is echoed by Moscow but with some restraint. Thus Pyongyang's 2 September proclamation that "today is the day when the Korean people seize all political power in their hands" is not found in Moscow's description of the opening session. Both transmitters, however, give statistics of the composition of the Assembly and Pyongyang even totals prison terms of delegates jailed by Japanese or American occupation authorities. Pyongyang's speculations on the significance of the Assembly session are replete with attacks on South Korean "pro-Japanese and traitors," both named and unnamed, and on the reportedly puppet-like status of the Seoul Assembly. Pyongyang also declares that the Supreme Assembly will see to it that "all" foreign troops are withdrawn--a declaration that Moscow does not echo in monitored broadcasts.

b. Third Anniversary of Japan's Surrender: "Conditions in South Korea today are worse than during the Japanese days," says Alexandrov in a familiar resume of Soviet propaganda concerning American occupation policies. (in Korean, 4 September 1948) The depressed state of living conditions in the American zone is summed up in the charge that "economic disruption, unemployment, dispossession of land ownership, bankruptcy of the farmers, hunger of the inhabitants" have been brought to Korea by American officials. Alexandrov's summation of the situation in the Soviet zone is equally familiar in its eulogistic praise:

"In the Northern zone, the Korean people have obtained all the political rights and democratic freedoms, enforced great democratic reforms, including the land reform, nationalization of industries and the labor law, laid the foundation for establishment of a democratic state, and have scored great achievements in rehabilitating the national economy, culture and arts, as well as democratizing all phases of the life of the people, decisively improving the livelihood of the laborers."

Pyongyang sums up all alleged divergencies in American and Soviet policies in a commemorative broadcast of 3 September. It claims that "the Soviet Union defends the peace and security of Asia when America is revising the aggressive power of Japan."

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