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WEEKLY SURVEY
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Korea

KOREA: WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS (CONTINUED)

Again this week Soviet broadcasters devote primary attention to applauding the Soviet decision to withdraw Red Army troops from Korea before 1 January. Last week the decision itself was exploited. This week Radio Moscow reports North Korean, Seoul, Austrian, American, and other reactions to the decision. The reported reactions include radio speeches, press articles, rallies and meetings, and speeches in the governmental assembly halls at Seoul and Pyongyang. True to pattern, Radio Pyongyang reports the reaction with even greater enthusiasm than does Moscow.

Although other topics are somewhat slighted, commentators discuss the constitution of North Korea and the allegedly American-sponsored terror in South Korea in implementation of the stereotyped theme of peace, prosperity, and progress in the north in contrast to oppression and poverty in the American zone. Commentators are currently exploiting American-Korean negotiations over the transfer of administrative functions as further evidence of American evil.

a. "The Stalin Foreign Policy" in Action: Moscow radio establishes a new record for repetitiousness this week in applauding the Soviet decision to withdraw troops. Not only do broadcasters repeat, for example, the message of appreciation from the Presidium of the Supreme National Assembly at Pyongyang; they reiterate endlessly the self-righteous phrases with which the withdrawal decision was greeted last week. IZVESTIA is quoted in several broadcasts as noting that the decision "is one of the most convincing examples of the way in which the lofty principles of the Stalin foreign policy are being realized in practice." This is the tenor of most of the extensive comment. (TASS, in Russian at dictation speed for provincial press, 25 September 1948)

Broadcasters constantly attribute all manner of virtues to the Soviet Union in its relations with smaller nations. At the same time, they charge that the United States, and the western powers, display nothing but greed in similar situations. Bronin, in an English-language broadcast of 26 September, follows this pattern in describing repercussions of "this noble act of the friendly Soviet people." He describes Soviet policy vis-a-vis Korea as being "consistently friendly and generous" and asserts that "the camp of reactionaries" resorts to "malicious slander" to conceal its "bewilderment and irritation" when it describes the decision as "propaganda and a maneuver." Bronin asserts that the stability of the North Korean regime--based as it is on land and other social reforms--will "guarantee that complete law and order will prevail throughout Korea during and after the withdrawal of foreign troops

In most of these broadcasts referring to troop withdrawal, no direct reference is made to the General Assembly session or to the pending Temporary Commission report. A Soviet Home Service broadcast of 24 September, however, includes the UP report that U.S. authorities feel the decision places the United States "in a difficult position at a time when the U.N. General Assembly will begin the examination of the Korean problem."

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