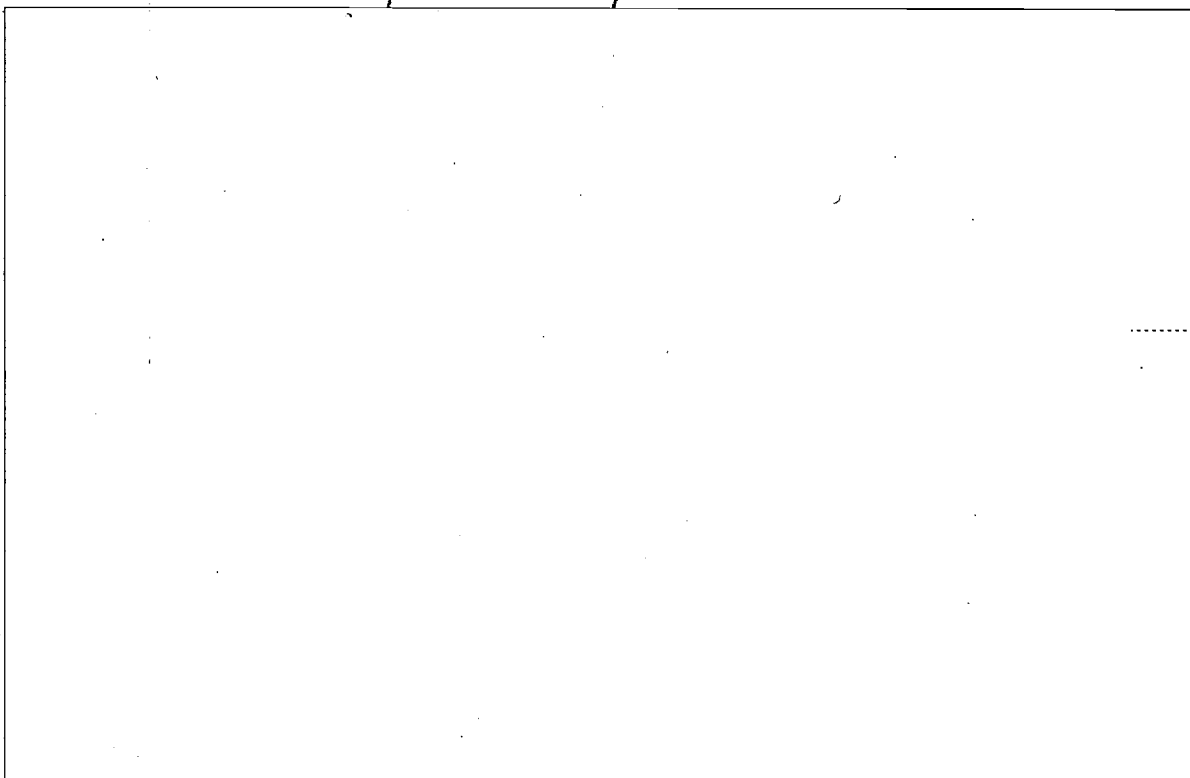


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KOREA: MOSCOW IGNORES "ELECTION FERVOR"

*Korea*

Consistent with its practice of ignoring the elections in North Korea, Radio Moscow speaks grandly about the world peace movement and other general subjects while Radio Pyongyang's election "fervor" mounts to the 30 March climax. Standard appeals for the "consolidation" of the "true peoples' regime" and the ouster of the South Korean "traitors" continue to represent Pyongyang's electioneering. The Soviet-Korean cultural-economic agreement, though appropriately ballyhooed by Pyongyang, is dismissed by Radio Moscow with a few reports on Korea's "gratitude."

a. The "Atmosphere of Political Fervor": Pyongyang's broadcasts this week are mainly given over to a deluge in preparation for the 30 March elections to the Peoples Committees, which, it is implied, will cover South as well as North Korea. With the regularity of a metronome, Pyongyang and the "peoples candidates" reiterate the following major propaganda themes in anticipation of the elections: (1) the elections will "consolidate" the "true peoples' regime" of North Korea, which expresses the will of all Koreans for U. S. troop withdrawal, unity, peace, and democracy; (2) life is terrible in South Korea under its fictional and unrepresentative Government; (3) the Soviet Union has staunchly supported Korean democracy and independence by withdrawing its troops and concluding the economic and cultural collaboration agreement; and (4) the Americans and the U. N. Commission are doing precisely the opposite, and Koreans must "drive" them out.

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A fifth major theme, equally familiar, is North Korea's economic progress; the Secretary-General of the South Pyongyang Provincial Chapter of the Peoples Front, for example, reports propaganda directives to convince the people of the "victory of democratic construction in the northern half of the Republic," and to gear production and agricultural campaigns to the elections. Radio Moscow implicitly contributes to this objective with a commentary on "the great industrial progress in North Korea," by Alexandrov. (in Korean, 28 March 1949)

Concerning alleged election participation in "the southern half of the Republic," Pyongyang continues to be vague. Its electioneering in broadcasts to the south consists of appeals for "rehabilitation" of the Peoples Committees, denunciations of the "traitors," and the "drive them out" theme.

Warnings that the U. N. Commission will try to "frustrate" the "peoples' elections are woven into the above-mentioned election pattern. The "plot" of the Commission to provide an excuse for continued American occupation is a favorite allegation. This "plot" receives no detailed exposition, but, in addition to complaints that the Commission rubber-stamps the Americans and "traitor Syngman Rhee and company," one current broadcast attempts to implicate the Commission in "atrocities" on Cheju island. "...Syngman Rhee burned down the dwellings on Cheju island," as the Commission "placed its dirty feet" on Korean soil; Pyongyang says in its evening hour for South Korea (23 March). Another attack on the Commission, beamed to the South, includes Pyongyang's most explicit claim this week regarding South "resistance":

"The true character of the new Commission has been perfectly exposed, and the peoples' armed guerrillas are expanding the sphere of their activities against it. By their efforts, the Peoples' Committees are being rehabilitated in the southern half. ... The new Commission will bring about nothing but a failure more dismal than that of the temporary Commission. ... " (28 March 1949)

b. "Peace" and the "Cultural" Agreement: Moscow and Pyongyang broadcasts are roughly synchronized on the subjects of the world peace movement and the Soviet-Korean cultural agreement, announced last week. Moscow broadcasts to Korea on election day (30 March) report Fadeev's speech at the New York Cultural and Scientific Conference for world peace, and review Korean response to the cultural agreement. TASS alone notes the North Korean elections in a dispatch which reports Korean preparations for the big day and the rally in honor of Candidate Kim Doo Song. (in English Morse to North America, 28 March 1949)

Pyongyang's broadcasts on the cultural agreement are appropriately reverent:

"The conclusion of an agreement with the Soviet Union regarding cultural cooperation between the two countries guarantees a rapid cultural development of our Fatherland. We are now in a position to absorb more

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of the benefits of Soviet culture. Thus we will be better able to frustrate the aggressor policy of American imperialists in South Korea and overthrow the Syngman Rhee puppet Government." (29 March 1949)

In answer to a listener's request that the agreement be explained "point by point," Radio Pyongyang reviews merely the first of four agreements, which, it says, provides for scientific, cultural, and technical exchange. "What is credit?" Pyongyang's listener asks next. "In plain language, we borrow money from the Soviet Union," Pyongyang replies. (28 March 1948)

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