

15 JUNE 1950

KOREA: UNITY APPEAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT

Korea

The 7 June appeal for unification of Korea issued by the Democratic Front has just about saturated Radio Pyongyang's output. Monitored newscasts have repeatedly noted the following components of the campaign to exploit the new appeal: the appeal itself--including its attacks on America, Syngman Rhee, and the United Nations--and the program of action for unity involving North-South consultations without outside interference, a national election, and the calling of a national legislative session on 15 August; the enthusiastic popular response to the appeal assertedly evident in the North and in the South--despite the repressive measures taken by the Rhee regime; the 10 June incidents at Yohyon station, the description of which varies in details from that reported in the NEW YORK TIMES on 12 June; the decision to send emissaries bearing copies of the appeal to southern "democratic" groups and the subsequent arrest of the Northern emissaries. All these developments are reported repeatedly and at length; the appeal, for example, was reported every half hour in broadcasts of 9 June.

Monitored Soviet broadcasts have not yet commented on the above developments although they have reported them in somewhat abbreviated form. Such delays between reports of and comment on events of this kind are not uncommon.

Preoccupation with the unity appeal does not prevent Pyongyang's broadcasters from continuing to ridicule the 30 May elections--without going into detail on the outcome--and from reviving the campaign to oust the U.N. Commission. Moscow also ridicules the elections and, in conventional terms, denounces American militarism in the South.

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The offer to "exchange the patriotic fighters Kim Sam Yong and Lee Chu Ha--who have been arrested by the South Korean authorities--for Cho Man Sik (now) in North Korea" is reported by Pyongyang without comment or explanation. The exchange is said to have been proposed by the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Front--which issued the unity appeal--but no further comment is offered.