

Korea

KOREA: THE SOIL IS BURNING UNDER THE FEET OF THE AMERICANS

The volume of Soviet radio comment on Korea continues to decline sharply and Soviet broadcasters replace reports of military operations with accounts of partisan activities and with emphasis on Soviet-Korean friendship. (The North Korean attacks near Hambung are reported only vaguely as "defensive battles" which halted the enemy advance; these reports do not indicate any desire to exploit the attacks as a sign of North Korean resurgence.) The claim that the soil is burning under the feet of the Americans appears repeatedly, as does the claim that Seoul is not yet conquered. Both are offered as proof of the Koreans' heroic resistance, as evidence of partisan activities, and as evidence of the ultimate victory of the North Koreans.

There are recurring, conventional references to American brutality, profiteering, and long-term preparations for the conflict. For the first time since 25 June there is a commentary directly and specifically attacking Syngman Rhee as an individual. Moscow reviews Rhee's career of subservience to the Americans and credits him with participating in the alleged preparations for the war. It does not mention re-establishment of the Republic of Korea, nor Rhee's discontent over U.N. plans for the future administration of North Korea. In fact the commentary glosses over the current political situation just as communiques and military reviews gloss over the current military situation.

There is an increase in references to Soviet-Korean friendship and in assurances of Soviet support for the Korean peoples. There is special attention in Korean-language broadcasts to the Vietnam people's efforts to liberate their country. Moscow identifies the liberation struggles of the Vietnam and Korean peoples in a manner that suggests a desire to reassure the Koreans that their struggle is not a solitary one and that the "camp of peace" is not just a paper structure. Korean-language broadcasts are being increased by seven hours per week--from 17.50 to 24.50--and this increase also suggests the Moscow radio's desire to reassure the Korean people with regard to Soviet-Korean solidarity.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 14-Jan-2010