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FAR EAST SURVEY
24 MAY 1951

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NORTH KOREA: AMERICAN AGGRESSORS RESORT TO FORGERY; BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE

The campaign against American aggression, the major component of Radio Pyongyang's broadcast output in the period under review, is intensified by reference to the recent "forged documents" submitted to the U.N. by the American command in Korea and by Foreign Minister Pak Hon Yong's message protesting American use of bacteriological weapons in the Korean war. The Ridgway documents, "completely and thoroughly exposed" as false by Pak Hon Yong, elicit an outburst of indignation against the American "forgers." Commentaries picture the presentation of the documents as a U.S. contrivance designed to shift the responsibility of aggression to the North Koreans. Typical is the charge that the U.S. was compelled to resort to forgery "in the face of approaching doom" and "in an attempt to deceive world opinion indignant over the pillage of Korea by the American troops and ... demanding a cessation of armed intervention in Korea." One commentary of 21 May declares that Ridgway's promotion to full general "was made for his contributions in the forgery of documents." A statement on 17 May mentions one other attempt of the U.S. imperialists to "divert attention from reality by branding China as an aggressor in Korea."

U.S. Emulates Japanese Bacteriological Criminals: The familiar denunciation of U. N. atrocities is provided by Pyongyang in a new context occasioned by Pak Hon Yong's 8 May dispatch protesting American use of bacteriological weapons. Pyongyang alleges that the U.S. is following Japanese bacteriological techniques used in the war against China, and asserts that MacArthur used Japan as an intermediary in the mass production of bacteria. Other comment imputes responsibility for the incidence of smallpox in North Korea to the spread of the germ by the Americans during their temporary occupation. Pyongyang comments that the "bestial acts of the American invading troops against the Korean people have done nothing but enhance the fighting spirit of the Korean People's Army units."

Radio Pyongyang continues to devote considerable attention to the campaign in behalf of "everything for the front and everything for victory" initiated 3 May to alleviate the shortage of war materiel. Firm confidence in ultimate victory is the keynote in all broadcasts. Together with the appeal to the Korean nationals, broadcasts continue to express gratification for the aid received from the Soviet Union and China. Pyongyang military communiques on the current situation carry only general statements on the continuing success of the People's Armed Forces and the Chinese volunteers.

The U.N. embargo against China is reported in a news item quoting TASS, but Pyongyang avoids further comment.

SOUTH KOREA: EVILS OF COMMUNISM; POLITICAL CONFUSION

Pusan broadcasts on the current situation continue to direct attention, in various contexts, to the evils of Communism in contrast to the noble principles of the U.N. Specific statements denounce Stalin's enslavement of "small nations," report increasing rebellions within the Communist orbit and predict the "inevitable collapse" of Communism.

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In connection with the disturbed political situation, broadcasts report the election of Kim Sung Soo to the office of vice president, but offer no comment on the circumstances which induced Li Si Yong to submit his resignation. On 15 May Pusan carries a statement by Rhee assuring the people that the "confusion" in home politics will result in no great change in the "political picture" and that "everything will work out smoothly." Another effort to ensure internal stability comes in a statement by the Public Information Office asserting that Rhee's refusal to become a presidential candidate has nothing to do with the attitude of either the National Assembly or any agency of the Government and that "not a single protest in the National Assembly against the reelection of President Rhee has been reported."

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