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FAR EAST SURVEY
20 DECEMBER 1951

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NORTH KOREA

Departing from its previous reliance on NCNA, Pyongyang initiates comment on the intolerable U.N. demands; the comment follows conventional patterns, but on occasion, is more vituperative than are Chinese broadcasts. There are lengthy testimonials concerning the magnanimous treatment of prisoners of war and the prisoners themselves are said to denounce American delaying tactics in the negotiations.

Derisive comment on South Korean and Japanese affairs continues along familiar lines. The recent explosion at a Pusan arsenal and the anti-guerrilla operations are incorporated in familiar denunciations of collusion between the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee puppets. Pyongyang also points to collusion between Syngman Rhee and Shigeru Yoshida against the wishes of Koreans, the "sworn enemies" of reactionary Japanese ruling circles.

No Worthwhile Progress in Truce Talks: Pyongyang expresses sharp indignation over American duplicity, and, in contrast to past performance, reacts quickly to truce talk developments. Contending that no worthwhile progress had been made regarding inspection when the exchange of prisoners was taken up at American insistence, Pyongyang expresses exasperation over American skepticism regarding the counterproposals of Korean and Chinese delegates. It comments acidly that the Communists patiently gave clearcut answers to "idiotic" questions. The Americans are said to have revealed their true intentions in their refusal to clarify their position on the Communist replies and in their insistence upon confining discussion to the American proposals of 27 November.

Pyongyang sees no reason why troop rotation and arms replenishment are necessary if there is to be no fighting during an armistice, unless the enemy wishes to "enjoy hunting." Pyongyang sarcastically observes that replacements might be needed to study the beauties of Korea or to review the traces of enemy atrocities. It claims that the real purpose of the demand for inspection behind Communist lines is the desire to subvert North Korea and insists that inspection is not necessary. Since neither the Koreans nor any other peoples are deceived by American chicanery, Pyongyang indignantly declares, the enemy's deceptive strategy amounts to nothing more than the "hallucinations" of "idiots and drunkards."

Pyongyang sums up its attitude toward inspection in the following belligerent pronouncement: "It is hardly necessary to reiterate that the Korean people never will tolerate any interference with the internal affairs of our country--particularly the crawling into our presence of our sworn enemy, the Yankees--not to speak of the fact that the condition which directly threatens our rear--which the enemy side insists on preserving by retaining their armed forces in our rear--must be eliminated during an armistice, or all responsibilities arising therefrom must be borne by the enemy side." American charges that Communist inspection proposals are "pregnant" with aggressive designs are dismissed as malicious.

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"Humanitarian Spirit" Regarding War Prisoners: Denouncing American proposals on the exchange of prisoners as absolutely unacceptable, Pyongyang professes that the realistic Communist proposals emanated from a humanitarian desire to enable prisoners of both sides to enjoy the greatest comfort and to facilitate their homecoming.

In rejecting Communist proposals, the Americans are said to be making unreasonable and "ambiguous" demands. One of the "most sly designs" of the American proposal is said to be an attempt to retain Communist prisoners as hostages.

Pyongyang's "analysis" of the American proposals charges that Communist prisoners receive vicious treatment and that the Americans falsely accuse the Communists of refusing inspection by representatives of the International Red Cross in the hope of laying the blame for delaying the truce talks on the wrong side. U.N. charges of Communist mistreatment of war prisoners are said to represent an attempt to secure an advantageous bargaining position at forthcoming discussions; moreover, it is said that the Americans deliberately initiated the propaganda of falsehood knowing that the Communists would never accept their unreasonable demands.

Pyongyang further contends that the mistatements about Communist treatment of prisoners conceal the enemy's own atrocities against prisoners which would be brought to light by an actual exchange. In laying the onus of mistreatment upon the enemy, Pyongyang resurrects familiar charges about the use of Communist prisoners in atomic and bacteriological experimentation, and adds that American interrogation officers torture prisoners in order to extract military secrets from them.

South Korea, a Dantine Inferno: "In a nutshell," says Pyongyang, the so-called "mopping up" operations against Communist guerrillas in South Korea amount to nothing more than wholesale murder and plunder. While Pyongyang rejoices over the stubborn resistance of Communist guerrillas in the Cheri San area, it denounces South Korean authorities for mounting large-scale offensives with air support against them. The ROK Government is said to resort to terror to conceal defeats elsewhere. This is contrasted to the benevolent attitude of the North Korean regime which invites spies and terrorists to surrender, and promises sincere penitents, who "confess" their crimes and mend their ways, forgiveness regardless of their past deeds.

Pyongyang documents its descriptions of growing unrest in South Korea by citing numerous incidents of sabotage by dissatisfied workers and soldiers, which are violently suppressed by the frightened authorities. The explosion which leveled the Pusan arsenal on 30 November is attributed to mutinying ROK forces. Immediately after this, the authorities are said to have tortured thousands of innocent victims. Resistance to conscription is said to reflect the Koreans' lack of interest in the struggle of political ideologies and their longing to return to their homes.

Rhee-Yoshida "Collusion": The recent Japanese ROK conferences are denounced as an attempt to sell Korea out to the Japanese. Pyongyang charges the Yoshida Government with forcibly registering Korean nationals

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residing in Japan at Rhee's explicit request, proving that the deportation of Koreans to Japan is progressing satisfactorily. It charges that under the Korean-American Mutual Assistance Pact, Syngman Rhee is obligated to provide 100 million sok of food for the Japanese armed forces as the price of joint ROK-American-Japanese cooperation. What "angers" Pyongyang the most is that under these "American" arrangements, Japanese bacteriological warfare experts, including the war criminal Ishii Shiro, were sent to Korea to conduct tests upon war prisoners.

SOUTH KOREA

Pusan focuses on the mopping up operations against Communist guerrillas, particularly those in the Cheri San area. The leveling of the Pusan arsenal by saboteurs is exploited as a demonstration of the need for greater vigilance. The truce talks are given scant attention, although a KYONGYANG SINMUN editorial is cited as saying that the division of the country by a cease-fire line will bring another "heartache" to the people who "hunger" for unification.

"Airtight" Envelopment of Guerrillas: The Communist guerrillas are said to be falling into a trap as the National Defense forces close in on all sides, and their remnants are being driven deeper into the mountains where they will meet their final end. If the guerrillas surrender and repent their past mistakes, Pusan declares, the Government will "unconditionally" forgive them. If not, the most ruthless measures are and will be taken to exterminate them.

The Minister of National Defense declares that the current operations are intended to eradicate "this dangerous root and branch" in order to insure a peaceful and pleasant life for all citizens. Pusan declares that as long as the guerrillas infest the country, safety of life and property, and the guarantee of unrestricted travel are impaired. Citizens of the Cheri San area are warned to render special cooperation with the defense forces involved in the operations, although the penalties for any failure to do so are not spelled out.

Arsonist in Mufti: The explosion which leveled South Korea's largest arsenal on 30 November is attributed to the work of an "enthusiastic" member of the North Korean Labor Party, who came into South Korea disguised as a refugee. According to Pusan, he was instructed in November 1950 to assassinate Government officials, collect military secrets, and sabotage key installations. In return he was promised an important position in the North Korean Government. On 29 November, Pusan declares, he "finally decided" to carry out his instructions. Although extensive damage is admitted, Pusan announces that all the details of the conspiracy are known and the culprits have been apprehended; moreover, it is promised that the guilty will be immediately tried and punished "appropriately."