

KOREAN WAR

USSR SURVEY

21 Feb 52

Comment on the Korean war continues to be routine and is concentrated in the North American and Korean beams. The only Home Service commentary is a review of the military situation by PRAVDA's military observer, Colonel Tolchenov, who claims that U.S. air supremacy in Korea has been dissipated, and that at the present rate of progress it would take American troops 20 years to reach the Yalu. Tolchenov claims that the United States has not given up the idea of preparing for a new large-scale attack, and is, in fact, preparing such an attack so as to exert pressure on the negotiators. He concludes that "it is perfectly clear to any reasonable person that the military venture is doomed to inevitable disaster."

There is an unusual amount of attention, mainly in the North American beam, to prisoners of war and to the allegedly deliberate American attempt to falsify accounts of treatment they receive. Moscow charges that Ridgway was embarrassed by the photographs of healthy war prisoners which appeared in the American press, and so claimed that they were not typical.

The anniversary of the Korean Army is not mentioned in broadcasts in any European beam nor is it commented on in the Home Service. The comment is almost exclusively non-military and dwells on the ceremonies in Pyongyang and on a general review of the Army's history.

Moscow avoids any direct comment on the truce negotiations and makes no reference to the American refusal to consider the USSR as a member of the "neutral" truce team.

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