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T W O C A M P S

THE KOREAN WAR

Moscow's stress upon the implications of the Koje and Pusan disorders, with the inevitable linkage to the negotiations, raises the level of Soviet comment on the truce talks to the highest point since they began. Although Peking continues to insist that agreement on an armistice is still possible and can be attained quickly if the Americans will adopt a more reasonable attitude, Moscow demonstrates little optimism concerning the possibility of a truce. Although BW remains a consistent factor in the general denunciation of American bestiality, as a point of solitary concentration it has been virtually eclipsed by Moscow and Peking's almost exclusive preoccupation with the prisoner issue.

Americans Want to Wreck Talks, Kindle a New War: Moscow, Pyongyang and Peking continue to demonstrate a great deal of coordination in exploiting the Koje and Pusan disorders, and their almost monolithic concentration on the POW issue as a whole has raised the level of attention to the subject to a point approaching the highest figure attained in the BW campaign.* Moscow employs practically the entire galaxy of Soviet commentators to derive the implications of the Koje affair. Virtually exhausting the roster of its major commentators Moscow quotes the comments of Zhukov, Moskvina, Zaslavsky, Leontiev, Viktorov, Kotov, Kozhevnikov, Kudryavtsev, Krainov, Nikitin, Tkachenko, Mikhailov, Babenko and Strelnikov, and others. In addition Moscow presents widely disseminated editorials from TRUD, PRAVDA, and IZVESTIA. In developing the BW campaign this great effort was not evidenced. All show a remarkable degree of single-mindedness in declaring that present American bestiality, as further substantiated by the prisoner disorders, is a logical advance from the use of biological and other unconventional weapons, and is a further indication of a distaste for peace, the relaxation of international tensions, and the subsequent curtailment of monopolistic profits gleaned from war.

All three Communist radios insist that U.N. intractability on the repatriation issue shows a desire to wreck the talks and to prepare a new aggressive war. The Communists insist that the Koje disorders reveal the true nature of "voluntary repatriation" and that the Dodd/Colson imbroglio testifies to the basic inhumanity of the Americans in their treatment of prisoners. The Soviet LITERARY GAZETTE notes especially that the Pusan disorders took place in a camp ostensibly reserved for those prisoners who had elected to remain out of Communist hands, while IZVESTIA declares that Colson was sacked for his "idle chatter" rather than for his admitted persecution of prisoners.

* For a more detailed analysis of the early reaction to the Koje affair see FBIS, Survey of Far East Broadcasts, 22 May 1952.

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Western Sources Document American Guilt: In developing the propaganda, Moscow and Peking avail themselves of American official and unofficial expressions of dismay at the Dodd and Colson action, quote American and foreign press comment concerning U.S. military and diplomatic ineptitude, and note the U.N. "satellites" resistance to involvement in the Koje affair. Specifically Moscow, and to a somewhat lesser degree Peking and Pyongyang, refer to recent Western comment to prove that the events have:

1. immeasurably undermined the United States' waning prestige in Asia;
2. virtually confirmed that the treatment at Koje has been inhumane, and that conditions in the POW camps were contrary to all accepted criteria for the treatment of prisoners;
3. cast doubt upon U.S. willingness to achieve an armistice in Korea.

Moscow also quotes those Western observers who have begun to look askance at American obstructionism in the talks, and who feel that the whole American attitude in the negotiations needs to be examined.

Koje a Successor to Oswiecim, Buchenwald, Maidanek: Marinin declares that Koje will go down in history "for the same reason as Buchenwald, Oswiecim and Maidanek," while the LITERARY GAZETTE adds that "millions of peace-loving people will not allow international law to be replaced by the law of the Wall Street jungle and the Hitlerite bandits." In an English-language broadcast, Moscow adds that the "gradual conversion to Hitlerite methods" was shown by the Americans' rapid rehabilitation of the Hitlerites and the recent attempt to "condone" the Katyn massacre. The Soviet Satellites especially are quoted as declaring that the Koje atrocities rival the worst excesses of the Nazis.

Bulgarians, Czechs Say Americans Will be Driven from Korea: While Chinese and Soviet sources have been extremely circumspect in their references to retaliation for the Koje atrocities, both Peking and Moscow have quoted Satellites sources to the effect that the Americans would eventually be driven from Korea. The possibility of military reprisals for the persecution of prisoners has not been raised in any comment quoting a purely Chinese or Soviet source. Nor has Moscow reacted to the U.N. suggestion for post-armistice "re-screening" of prisoners with Communist participation. Peking, while failing to mention that the Communists would be allowed to take part in such a "re-screening," has categorically rejected the plan as a process that would lend a facade of legality to a patent infringement upon the rights of prisoners.

EW Overshadowed by Prisoner Concentration: Attention to the charges that the Americans have been waging bacteriological warfare, which have fluctuated widely during the last six weeks, has now been almost totally eclipsed as a point of concentration. During the second week of the period

under review only 15 Soviet items were primarily concerned with BW, by far the smallest number since the campaign began. Peking and Pyongyang have shown a comparable decline. Only four-tenths of one percent of the comment in the Chinese regionals discussed BW as the central topic, and in the international services, where the subject has been at a relatively high level since the initial peak, barely one percent of all items were on BW. Pyongyang continues to stress BW solely in relation to appeals for improved sanitation efforts.

However, within the greater framework of the assault on American bestiality in which the POW charges loom largest, BW remains a consistent element of reference as another factor of American depravity. It may well be that the BW charges will be revived after the present furor has subsided. A World Peace Council session to plan a campaign against the American use of biological weapons has been set for June and this may serve as the peg for a renewed impetus to the campaign.

Peking More Hopeful of a Truce: Although many of Peking's more violent diatribes against the Americans are mitigated by a reiteration that a truce can still be attained if U.N. will adopt a more reasonable attitude, Moscow's references to the possibility of agreement are fewer in number. Peking continues to refer to the Communist proposal of 2 May as providing the necessary basis for a quick and reasonable agreement. The proposal, which reduced the number of truce inspectors to four and provided for the return of between 116,000 and 132,000 prisoners--with POW's resident in areas held by the enemy permitted to return home directly without repatriation--has apparently never been mentioned by Moscow.

Neither Moscow, Peking nor Pyongyang has had anything to say about Ridgway's address to Congress. Nor has there been any specific comment on General Clark's appointment to succeed Ridgway.