

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~USSR SURVEY
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T W O C A M P S

KOREAN WAR: BW Displaces Other Comment

Moscow devotes virtually all of its comment on the Korean war--153 out of 169 items during the second week--to the International Scientific Commission's report on bacterial warfare. This exceeds by far the attention given to previous reports released by the IADL and a Chinese Commission in April. Departing from previous patterns the current report is rebroadcast widely on 16 and 17 September, and then after a lapse of a week it is broadcast even more widely. This pattern may indicate that the report may be regarded as more credible than previous ones. Qualitative treatment of the ISC report is similar to the handling of the IADL report in that Moscow shows a reluctance to initiate independent comment on the findings. An exception to this pattern is a PRAVDA editorial on 28 September which restates the findings of the ISC as confirmatory evidence of U.S. guilt.

Moscow, Peking Differ in Treatment: Although Moscow's attention to BW has more than doubled during the second week under review, Peking's comment, originally higher than Moscow's, has now decreased 75 percent. News items to the Soviet domestic audience have also followed this declining trend. Peking has consistently made wide use of the statements admitting participation in BW by U.S. prisoners O'Neal and Kniss to document the new report on BW. These reports are being used heavily especially in English-language broadcasts. Moscow, on the other hand, has shown a reluctance to make use of these voluminous and detailed confessions, even in its English-language reports, and has made only passing reference to "U.S. pilots," who are not named.

Peking's greater reliance on these infinitely detailed confessions as well as on the technicalities of the official ISC report, the latter broadcast by Moscow in summary form only, may indicate that Peking is more concerned with establishing a firm scientific and legal base for the BW charges. Peking's technical documentation of the charges may be intended for use in a future trial of those responsible for the alleged atrocities.

APC Consideration of War Criminals Trial: Related to this possibility is an article by Pak Den Ai of Korea, broadcast by Pyongyang but not mentioned by either Moscow or Peking, reporting that the Korean delegation to the APC will advocate "handing over for trial by the peace-loving people the American napalm, chemical and bacteriological weapons-criminals and their collaborators." Mention of the possible trial of war criminals has appeared marginally throughout the atrocity campaigns, while Peking on 15 July laid the basis for this eventuality by specifically excluding war criminals from those prisoners to be repatriated in Chou En-lai's announcement of Chinese adherence to the Geneva Conventions of 1925 and 1949.

Moscow Avoids Discussion of Methods of Investigation: There is virtually no discussion of the methods used in the ISC investigation in Moscow comment, perhaps indicating a reluctance to discuss what is undoubtedly a weak spot in the ISC report. This sensitivity is further revealed by prompt TASS reaction to the 26 September press conference of the British member, Professor Needham, in London concerning the investigation. Under questioning of Western reporters

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Needham apparently admitted that the ISC was denied the right of investigating at first hand BW raids which were alleged to have taken place during the Commission's stay in China and that the Commission placed complete reliance on the evidence of BW presented to the Commission by Chinese scientists. TASS, in an overt attempt to counteract the effect of these admissions, at once reports that "most of the questions directed to Needham were antagonistic" and that a number of journalists "were particularly unscrupulous in trying to twist the phrases of the report ... and Needham's own answers." The report added that "all but the most prejudiced" were convinced of Needham's "absolute integrity" and were impressed by "the overwhelming weight of evidence brought forward."

Link To APC Established: The possibility that the release of the ISC report was designed to serve as a buildup for the Asian Peace Conference, now slated to begin on 2 October, is furthered by inclusion in the PRAVDA editorial mentioned above of a statement by Kuo Mo-jo to the effect that the APC "will protest against germ weapons." This is the first explicit linking of the ISC investigation with the APC by either Moscow or Peking, although past references to the agenda of the peace meeting indicated that BW would be discussed.

Comment On Other Atrocities Declines: Commentaries devoted to the continuous U.S. bombing raids over North Korea have now declined from a peak of 36 the first week of September to only one during the week 22-28 September. TASS reports appear more frequently and continue to stress the civilian and peaceful nature of the target areas, but these reports are not made the basis for independent Moscow comment. Moscow has not mentioned the bombings in its broadcasts in Korean for ten weeks.

The departure of General Boatner from Korea occasions a sudden but unsustained spurt in attention to U.S. mistreatment of Communist prisoners. Statements of Boatner are interpreted to provide substantiation for the familiar Communist charges that the United States is torturing, murdering, and generally mistreating Communist prisoners. The recent release of 11,000 South Koreans who were forced into the North Korean army is attacked as a "unilateral" action testifying to U.S. intentions "to extend the war in Korea." The liberated prisoners will "be forced to join the Syngman Rhee army."

In line with its usual avoidance of current truce negotiations, Moscow has not as yet commented on General Harrison's three alternative proposals for settlement of the POW question, but an NCNA release foreshadows ultimate rejection of the proposals by stating that the question is a matter of principle and that no "maneuvers" can provide a solution.

South Korean Draft: South Korean topics, which receive marginal and scattered attention from Moscow, are the subject of several recent commentaries. The draft of South Koreans, effective 1 September, produces comment reviewing South Korean dissension within U.N. ranks and predicting the effective opposition of and desertion by South Korean youth as in the past.