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FAR EAST SURVEY
18 DECEMBER 1952

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THE K O R E A N W A R

Comment on the war sharply declined immediately after the passage of the amended Indian resolution, but reverted to the previous week's high following the announcement of General Eisenhower's trip to Korea. The following points recapitulate comment during the last two weeks:

1. Peking's official rejection of the Indian proposal followed anticipated lines in assailing the plan as illegal, unreasonable, and the result of American pressure.
2. The Pongam "massacre" is described as another confirmation of the Americans' deliberate destruction of prisoners wishing to be repatriated, and as an indication of their unequaled moral depravity.
3. Perhaps in an attempt to counter the adverse public opinion generated by the Communist rejection of the Indian proposal, both Peking and Pyongyang have revived germ warfare charges.
4. Although Moscow has thus far failed to comment on General Eisenhower's trip to Korea, both Peking and Pyongyang have reported it as further proof of an American intention to expand the war rather than seek peace, and as part of the general plan to have Asians fight Asians.
5. Noting recent speculation that South Korean troops may be called upon to man a shortened defense line won after a limited offensive to a point just south of the 40th Parallel, Peking promises that any such enterprise will fare no better than the abortive Kumhwa offensive which cost the U.N. more than 60,000 casualties and which failed to gain an inch of ground.
6. MacArthur's claim to have a plan to end the war brings a quick rejoinder from Peking, which recalls the fate of the previous "radical and aggressive" solutions advocated by the General.
7. References to actual battle operations have decreased, but there are continuing reports concerning mistreatment of prisoners and violations of the truce area and of convoys traveling to Pyongyang. Peking reports that Antung Province in Northeast China has again been attacked by American planes.

Indian Resolution, Imposed by American Pressure, Illegal and Unreasonable:
The Chinese Government's official rejection of the amended Indian proposal, transmitted 14 December in a message addressed to the President of the U.N. General Assembly, was notable only for its untempered denunciation of American "moral depravity." Otherwise it proceeded along previously anticipated lines in assailing the proposal as illegal, unreasonable, and the result of American pressure on the delegates. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, in whose name the message was sent, restated China's position that no proposal which accepted the principle of "nonforcible repatriation" would be countenanced by the Chinese and Koreans, and urged acceptance of the Soviet proposal as the only instrument capable of effecting a quick and equitable peace.

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The statement went to considerable lengths to refute the "completely irrational" contention that prisoners do not want to be returned home, and Peking demonstrated considerable sensitivity to the possibility that prisoners, even under neutral surveillance, might still refuse repatriation. Chou dwelt at length upon the bestial measures used by the Americans to extort refusals and in an extension of previous charges that Syngman Rhee and Chiang Kai-shek agents were being used to keep recalcitrant prisoners in line, declared that such agents were being infiltrated among the prisoners to coerce them into refusing to be repatriated. Chou admitted, too, that some POWs may have been so intimidated and "broken in spirit" that they could not be made to accept repatriation.

Arab-Asians Unwilling to Oppose Soviet Proposal: Although Peking glossed over the fact that the Indian proposal received a virtually unanimous endorsement, the fact that 13 Arab-Asian nations abstained on the Soviet proposal was stressed as an indication of their unwillingness to be associated with its rejection, an act so demonstrative of an aversion to peace, Peking continued to evidence some circumspection in regard to India's intentions, but Pyongyang declared that in accepting the American amendments India had demonstrated acquiescence to an enlargement of the war.

Pongam Massacre Premeditated Plan to Prevent Repatriation: After a 72-hour delay Peking reacted violently to the Pongam incident, characterizing it as another proof of America's bestiality and determination to prevent the return of uncooperative prisoners. In denouncing the "massacre" as one of a long series of premeditated actions intended to make repatriation impossible, Peking seems to be unconcerned about the credibility of a charge which implies that the Americans, who want to convince the world that POWs do not want to be returned to their Communist masters, deliberately prepared such an incident to coincide with the Communist rejection of a resolution based on "no forced repatriation." A PRAVDA article, broadcast by Moscow in an unusually prompt reaction, avoided the contention of premeditation, stressing instead the further confirmation of American depravity and distaste for peace.

Revival of BW Charges Perhaps Intended to Counter Criticism: Perhaps in an attempt to counter the adverse public opinion generated by the summary rejection of the amended Indian proposal, both Pyongyang and Peking have revived the dormant germ-warfare charges. Peking has broadcast a vicious denunciation of American biological criminality ostensibly written by one of the American fliers who last summer provided a minutely detailed account of his involvement in germ warfare. Pyongyang, for its part, has broadcast the purported confessions of two additional American officers concerning their participation in germ and chemical warfare subsequent to 7 July. Peking has not as yet mentioned these confessions, and has never mentioned any incident of germ dissemination subsequent to last May. Pyongyang, Moscow and Peking have in the past demonstrated an atypical failure to coordinate their exploitation of such confessions. Neither Peking nor Pyongyang has yet reported the confession, which Moscow publicized during the height of the denunciatory campaign, of Lt. Robert Gilarol, an American flier who confessed his part not only in waging germ warfare in Korea but in the dissemination of Colorado beetles in East Germany.

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Korean Trip Proves Eisenhower Wants to Extend the War: Although Moscow has not as yet mentioned the President-elect's trip to Korea, both Peking and Pyongyang have viciously assailed it as a further proof of a desire to extend the war rather than end it. Peking notes that Eisenhower did not think it necessary to consult with General Harrison on the possibility of resuming the truce negotiations, and that the stress has been not on peace, but on the "better picture obtained of the terrain and the military and economic possibilities." PEOPLE'S DAILY in a widely reported editorial of 9 December said that the Korean visit "had nothing to do with ending the war" and that adherence to the Geneva Convention on POWs would have made it unnecessary. The spate of "belligerent" statements issued in the wake of the trip, it is contended, reveals that the Americans still adhere to the discredited principle of "military pressure," and Eisenhower is warned to take note of the fate which has befallen other proponents of such a policy. The President-elect's purportedly belligerent statements are also related to the plan to use Asians to fight Asians, in claims that the General hopes to buttress the Americans' war-battered economy while minimizing American casualties by having Asians fight each other.

Offensive to Shorten Defense Line Doomed to Failure: Noting recent speculation that a limited offensive may be waged to win a point across the narrow waist of Korea just south of the 40th Parallel which can be defended by South Korean forces without American help, Peking pointedly recalls that Van Fleet's Kumhwa offensive cost the U.N. more than 60,000 casualties without the gain of a single inch of terrain, and promises that any other ill-conceived campaign will have no greater success.

MacArthur's New Plan Will Fare No Better Than Others: Peking quickly reacted to General MacArthur's statement that he had a plan to end the war. It notes that the General has a well-established predilection for radical and aggressive solutions, and predicts that any new adventure will share the fate of the "end the war" campaign of 1950. MacArthur's taste for aggressive action is said to be very much in keeping with the philosophy of the incoming administration, and Peking considers that he will find a receptive ear in the new President.

American Planes Again Invade Chinese Territory: References to actual military operations have declined, although Peking continues to report the heavy casualties inflicted in the Kumhwa area. American military planes are said to have again bombed and strafed village areas in Antung Province in Northeast China, although the only casualties reported were 47 injured.

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N O R T H K O R E A

Price Reductions Decried by State: The latest North Korean directive aimed at alleviating home front conditions calls for a 20-50 per cent reduction in the price of commodities stocked by State institutions and cooperatives. The reductions, conventionally hailed as the result of the Party and Government's consistent concern with the people's welfare, are said to have a major bearing on stabilizing and improving the people's livelihood. Major credit for the reductions is given the "unceasing economic aid extended by the peoples of the great Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and other People's Democracies," especially with regard to industrial products. No attempt is made, however, to give a detailed accounting of the aid rendered by the Communist bloc.

Greater Farm Production Held Key to Material Welfare: Pyongyang continues to broadcast that bumper crops are being harvested throughout North Korea and that large donations of paddy are being received for the armed forces. However, increasing attention is now being paid to preparations for next year's harvest. The efforts of the Government to improve the lot of the farmers and to stimulate agricultural production are emphasized, but there are warnings that "unless the farmers themselves make ever-more vigorous efforts to increase their agricultural output, their material living standards can never improve, despite the consideration and aid of the Party and Government." Pyongyang has rarely equated increased food production with the material welfare of the individual farmer, nor admitted so explicitly the inadequacy of Government measures to bring about increased food production.

U.S. Racial Discrimination Cited by South Korean Defector: The defection of Ku Kyong Am, Second Lieutenant in the South Korean Air Force, on 4 December has been exploited by Pyongyang as "an expression of the indomitable spirit and loyalty to the homeland of the Korean youth." Ku himself, praised for his feat and awarded prizes and distinctions by the North Korean Government, appeals to his former comrades to rise up and throw out the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee traitors. He denounces the "racial contempt" of the Americans toward other U.N. troops, South Korean included, and this charge is echoed in other Pyongyang comment urging resistance to the South Korean draft, "if you do not want to be reduced to cheap cannonfodder in the interests of the American imperialist brutes who are indulging in racial discrimination." This vituperative comment is directly linked to Pyongyang's denunciation of the alleged intention of the United States to use Asians to fight Asians.

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