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USSR SURVEY
19 MARCH 1953

Korea
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K O R E A N W A R

Kim Calls Korean War a Class Struggle. Avoids Mention of Unification

A Kim Il Sung article in PRAVDA eulogizing Stalin and Soviet leadership and broadcast as part of the Moscow effort to present evidence of Satellite solidarity during the transition period, receives wider broadcast attention than any of the other PRAVDA articles except that of Mao Tse-tung. Kim extols Stalin who "has become the flesh and blood of every Korean family." He refers to the 1945-48 period of Soviet occupation as "a short-lived golden age" which "created favorable conditions" for founding a national state, gave Koreans freedom from exploitation "without a national war," and convincingly demonstrated that the "Soviet Union sincerely sought the prosperity of the Korean people." Kim's comment on the Korean war, however, refers only to Soviet moral assistance, a distinction drawn consistently in the past. Kim also limits his reference to military aspects of the war, and ~~does not~~ mention of Korean dependence on "Stalinist military science" which was accorded special praise in comment on the February anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

In contrast to previous Communist identification of the Korean war as part of the world peace struggle, Kim for the first time identifies the war as an "extremely intense" manifestation of the class struggle as dictated by Stalin's teachings. He writes that victory is assured by the leadership of a "party of the Lenin-Stalin type" which "utilizes the experiences of the advanced revolutionary parties." This unusual characterization of the Korean war may be an indirect bid for greater support from the Soviet Union.

Kim also promises a victory in which "the flames of war threatening to engulf the neighboring countries and the whole world will be isolated," but makes no mention of the goal of unification of the Fatherland which normally appears in the victory context. Neither did Malenkov in his address at Stalin's funeral mention Korean unification; he referred only to the Korean's defensive struggle.

U.S.-British Bloc Prevents Peaceful Solution of War: Moscow devotes continued attention to the U.N. discussion of the Korean issue, broadcasting Gromyko's 11 March speech 33 times despite preoccupation with events connected with the death of Stalin and Gottwald. Vishinsky's 2 March speech was broadcast 129 times, exceeded only by attention to his 18 October 1952 address. Comment on the present U.N. deliberations on Korea is largely confined to TASS reviews which report routinely that "the U.S.-British bloc has applied its every effort to prevent adoption of any decision aimed at the peaceful settlement of the Korean question." The conclusion of General Assembly Korea debate provokes similar comment and TASS reports that only five votes were recorded in favor of the Soviet proposal to "liquidate"

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the U.N. Relief and Rehabilitation Commission which is virtually "an appendage of the American military command in Korea."

The first concrete example of the peaceful aims of Soviet foreign policy as enunciated in the 9 March speeches of Malenkov, Beria and Molotov is provided explicitly in a Leontiev commentary broadcast only to the home audience on 15 March. Leontiev--a leading Soviet commentator--cites the Soviet U.N. proposal to end the Korean conflict as a demonstration of the Soviet desire to strengthen peace and repeats that "the Soviet Union is deeply interested ... in the quickest end to the war in Korea." The implication that the Soviet Union does not intend to abandon its firm stand on prisoner repatriation, however, is contained in Leontiev's reminder that "the aggressors" rejected Soviet proposals and insisted on "forcible detention and nonrepatriation of thousands of Chinese and Korean prisoners of war."

Soviet and U.S. Korea Policies Contrasted in Anniversary Comment: The fourth anniversary of the conclusion of the USSR-North Korean Economic and Cultural Agreement, accorded attention in a secondary PRAVDA editorial on 17 March, serves as a vehicle to contrast once again the record of the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union toward Korea with the aggressive and oppressive intentions of the Americans. A RED STAR article by Bozhenko, reviewed by TASS, stresses the unprecedented military defeat suffered by the Americans in Korea which has shattered the legend of their "omnipotence."

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