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WEEKLY SURVEY
24 DECEMBER 1948

Korea

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KOREA: VOLUNTIOUS COMMENT ON FAMILIAR TOPICS

Again this week Radio Moscow and its Pyongyang satellite wax verbose on the subject of developments in and concerning Korea. The extensive commentaries retread familiar ground in proving that the USSR is a friend and the United States an enemy of the Korean people. They document this premise with references to the U.N. deliberations on Korea, to the prosperity of the northern zone, to the social and economic depression of the south, and the venality of the United States. As was the case last week, both Moscow and Pyongyang avoid any emphasis on the U.N.'s recognition of the Seoul Government; the U.N. deliberations are discussed at some length--but always in a context of U.S. pressure on servile delegations.

a. U.N. Deliberations: USSR Delegate Malik's speech during the debate on Korea is still the mainstay of both Moscow and Pyongyang; it is broadcast repeatedly. Pyongyang takes its cue from Moscow and emphasizes the alleged illegality of U.N. debates, the servility of the Temporary Commission, and the puppet-like stature of the Syngman Rhee Government. It reiterates the indignation reportedly aroused in both zones by the U.N. action and contends that "the Korean people absolutely oppose the U.N. unlawful resolution concerning the Korean issue." (18 December 1948)

Moscow offers nothing new on the subject. IZVESTIA's review of the General Assembly session is transmitted to Asiatic listeners and Markov makes an exhaustive study of the Soviet White Paper; but these commentaries merely go over the ground covered last week. Pyongyang continues to overlook the Soviet White Paper on Korea.

b. Aid Agreement "Proves" U.S. Is Venal: The recently-signed agreement for U.S. aid to Korea is dismissed by Moscow with the same indifference that marked references to it last week. It is held to be just another "step of the American imperialists who are destroying South Korean economy." (in Korean, 16 December 1948) Both Moscow and Pyongyang report the dissatisfaction expressed by some members of the National Assembly over terms of the agreement. Pyongyang emphasizes this aspect of the pact and the implicit revelations of American-Syngman Rhee venality.

c. South Koreans Fight Oppression: Moscow and Pyongyang find new alleged evidence to document their claim that the American-supported Rhee Government is debilitating the Korean economy. The aid agreement is cited in this context, as are the allegedly inflated state of the currency and the charge that American officials are conniving to deprive Koreans of badly needed steel supplies. (Pyongyang, 16 December 1948)

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Social debilitation of Korea is also repeatedly alleged. In a 15 December broadcast, Pyongyang contrasts the allegedly free state of education in the north with the "chaotic" situation in the south. Residents of Seoul are said to be finding educational facilities not only costly but inefficient.

The familiar claim of wide popular opposition to the Government is reiterated again as Pyongyang goes over and over the reported events of 30 November. Moscow, too, reports details of the purported "insurrection" and of the subsequent persecution of opponents of the regime.

d. Prosperity in the North: With more detail than has been characteristic in the past, Pyongyang reports various indications of North Korea's presumably burgeoning economy.

Agriculture

The North Korea livestock industry shows tremendous progress. The number of heads of cattle registered a large increase along with an overall development of the agrarian economy. The number of heads of cattle for the three quarters of this year, compared with last year, showed an 18.9 percent increase for cows and oxen, 28.2 percent for sheep and 80 percent for goats. Oxen have increased in number to 16.5(?) percent compared with 1945; and a large number of farmers who used to resort to their own labor are now employing cattle-power in their work. (Pyongyang, 16 December 1948)

Farmers of... Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province, who owned only one ox per 24 families at the time of the liberation now own one ox per 3.7 families. In the past, there were more than 47,600 families in North Hamgyong Province who did not have any cattle but today practically every farm family owns cattle. According to findings as of 5 November, North Hamgyong Province fulfilled 370.2 percent of its annual quota for (increasing the number of heads of) cows, oxen, sheep and goats. (Pyongyang, 16 December 1948)

The Pyongyang radio has announced that cattle breeding is undergoing a rapid development in North Korea. In a recent period there has been a considerable increase in the total number of large-horned cattle, draft cattle and sheep. The number of cattle-breeding farms is growing throughout North Korea and at the same time the number of cattle-breeding experts is being increased. (TASS, in English Morse to North America, 18 December 1948)

During three quarters of the year, ranchers and farmers throughout North Korea fulfilled 117.8 percent of the annual quota for increasing the head of sheep designed to produce wool in large quantities for the textile industry. They are reaping from 3,090 grams to 5,800 grams of wool per sheep. (Pyongyang, 16 December 1948)

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Agriculture (Contd.)

Enjoying extraordinary bumper crops under the correct leadership of the People's Committee and striving for fall sowing and plowing in a move to insure large yields for next year, all the farmers of North Pyongan Province launched a movement to complete at the earliest date their tax payments in superior crop. The farmers of Chasong County were the first in the Province to complete their tax payments as of 25 November, followed by the farmers of Cholsan County on 29 November and the farmers of Taechon, Pak-chon, Yongchon and Pyoktong counties on 30 November. (Pyongyang, 15 December 1948)

Farmers of South Pyongan Province completed the payment of tax in kind for late crops by (17?) December and farmers of South Yangyong Province "offered patriotic rice." Farmers of North Pyongan Province also completed payment of tax in kind for late crops. Farmers of North Korea are now busy producing straw (bags), cord, matting, and so forth. (Pyongyang, 19 December 1948)

During the past 3 years arable land in North Korea has been greatly increased in area and in volume of agricultural output. Besides expending a huge sum for agriculture, the Government has granted a period of grace to farmers for tax payments and has loaned seeds to poor farmers. Under land reforms, the farmers are free to dispose of surplus crops and with money derived from them are buying many things which add to their comfort. (Moscow, in Korean to Korea, 22 December 1948)

Seedlings of lemons and tangerines have been shipped from Georgia to North Korea to restore citrus groves destroyed during the Japanese occupation. These seedlings have been tested for resistance to cold and plant diseases and are of a high quality. (Tiflis, in Russian to the Georgian SSR, 17 December 1948)

Irrigation projects in North Hamgyong Province and South Hamgyong Province have made great progress. (Pyongyang, 19 December 1948)

Industry

Most of the North Korean factories and mines have already accomplished their annual quotas for this year and are still continuing their efforts for the 2-year economic program, particularly in the field of construction and technical. The successful performance of the 2-year program is to bring about a great development of industry, agriculture, and so on. At the end of 1950 the production of North Korean industries will be far beyond the highest percentage achieved by the Japanese before the liberation, especially in the field of machine and textile manufactures. (Pyongyang, 18 December 1948)

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Industry (Contd.)

Local industry of North Korea which has exceeded its annual production program by 3 percent is making large-scale preparations for the accomplishment of a 2-year plan of development of the country's national economy. The construction of new factories and the reconstruction of old ones is in progress. Much attention is paid to the training of engineering personnel. (TASS, in English Morse to North America, 17 December 1948)

Workers under the jurisdiction of the local Industry Control Bureau of the Ministry of Industry fulfilled their annual quotas 103 percent by the end of September. For the 2-year program they are not only striving for increased production but are also making efforts in their maintenance projects and in their supplementary (dole) to the State enterprise. In rubber, clothing and food branches, the workers are reinforcing the two-shift system while making strenuous efforts for technical training so as to insure both quantitative and qualitative improvements. They are also striving for increased production of paper. (Pyongyang, 15 December 1948)

Local industry workers are making efforts to expand the network of factories in areas where the laboring people are concentrated and to insure (maintenance) and the expansion of facilities. Furthermore, they will train and station senior and junior engineers and technicians at the various factories. (Pyongyang, 15 December 1948)

The People's economic program for this year has brought about successful results in the field of textile manufacture. Most of the textile factories have carried out the expansion of equipment and the improvement of working conditions along with the established schedule. Particularly, they have done their best for technical education and for the education of female workers. The improvement of labor productivity is the most important achievement of the North Korean textile manufacturers. (Pyongyang, 17 December 1948)

MINCHU CHOSUN reports that workers of the Sinuiju... factory fulfilled their annual production quota by 100 percent on 14 December. In an effort to fulfill their annual quota for the present year successfully the workers of the factory made vigorous efforts in response to the appeal of the Sinuiju textile mill. (Pyongyang, 18 December 1948)

Business registration which began 20 November is going on with State and Cooperative organizations, as well as private enterprises enthusiastically participating in it. Under the provisions for business registration, the license system for commerce and industry, heretofore enforced, is superseded and State organs, cooperative organizations, as well as private enterprises

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are able to manage their enterprises freely by registering with the competent municipal or county People's Committee. The enforcement of the business registration system guarantees the implementation of the Government's platform which provides for the encouragement of the initiative of private entrepreneurs, particularly in the field of light industry. (Pyongyang, 15 December 1948)

Transportation and Communications

Railroad construction work which was started this Spring has been nearly completed. Upon completion it will cover 160 kilometers. The construction work of the electric railroad between Pyongyang and... (unintell.), between Yangdok... (unintell.) will be completed by 25 December. Also, construction work on the electric railroad on the Manpo line has made remarkable progress. (Pyongyang, 19 December 1948)

MINCHU CHOSUN reports that workers of the State-managed Orang shipyard have fulfilled their annual quota as of 5:30 pm on 25 November. Behind this brilliant triumph of the workers of the shipyard there had been fierce production competition campaigns launched between the workers of the machine section, construction section and the repair section of the shipyard. Now the workers of the shipyard are launching a vigorous year-end production campaign. (Pyongyang, 18 December 1948)

MINCHU CHOSUN reports in the 15 December issue that a telegraph and telephone equipment factory (location unidentified) has succeeded in manufacturing a new telephone receiver, superior in quality, which can be mass produced. Work has already been started for mass production. Han Yak Song, an engineer of the factory, and Ma Ju Yong displayed initiative in manufacturing the telephone receiver, overcoming many difficulties and succeeding in reducing production costs as well. In the near future, large quantities of the new telephone receivers will be distributed to urban and rural areas. (Pyongyang, 15 December 1948)

Power

The Chongjin Transformer Station, during the Japanese days, had a capacity of 22,000-kilowatt hours, but in August 1945, when the Japanese were defeated, they destroyed all the installations including several 40,000-kilowatt transformers. It was no easy task to rehabilitate the installations. However, workers and engineers of the station worked hard and by September of that year had reconditioned a 115,000-kilowatt transformer, thus beginning transmission of electricity to North Hamgyong Province. By 1947, the transformer station had a capacity of 50,000-kilowatt hours. By 15 November, the workers and engineers of the Transformer Station had reconditioned and installed a 100,000-kilowatt transformer. (Pyongyang, 15 December 1948)

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Natural Resources

According to a report in MINCHU CHOSUN the (Makho?) coal mine, North Hamgyong Province, fulfilled its annual production quota 100 percent by 6:30 on 11 December. In a move to achieve the fulfillment of the 2-year program, they are now making an all-out effort to fulfill their additional quota before the end of the year. (Pyongyang, 18 December 1948)

MINCHU CHOSUN reports that workers of the State-managed Munpyong refinery have fulfilled their annual production quota on 10 December by 100.7 percent. Workers of the refinery had already fulfilled by 156 percent, at the end of the second quarter, their quota for the production of... (unintell.) lead, an item which they began to produce for the first time this year. They also fulfilled as of 25 September their annual production quota for electrolytic copper by 100 percent. (Pyongyang, 18 December 1948)

Miscellaneous

MINCHU CHOSUN in the 15 December issue reported that the North Korea Consumers' Union, which is playing a great role in the low price policy which attempts to improve the material livelihood of the people, launched a year-end sales assault campaign for the period from the 10 through the 25 December. The North Korea Consumers' Union shops have been selling superior goods at prices far lower than market prices, a thing greatly welcomed by the general public. Rice is sold at the State price of 390 won per large mal and salt at 5 won per (kun) to workers. (Pyongyang, 15 December 1948)

On December 19, 1946, the Social Insurance Law was promulgated throughout North Korea under the leadership of General Kim Il Sung. As a result of this law the laboring people have successfully accomplished their annual quotas for 1948 and have started preparations for the 2-year program. The working conditions and livelihood of the North Korean people are assured by this law. (Pyongyang, 18 December 1948)

In a move to make the 2-year program a success, a board must be launched to disseminate the political and economic significance of the program to the laboring people.... Efforts must be made to organize the patriotic fervor of the laboring people for the preparation of the 2-year program. Factories must organize production conferences to arouse the production desires of the worker more than ever before. Production labor must be... and outmoded production methods renovated. Welfare facilities, including bath houses and nurseries must be improved and the cultural requirements of the workers must be met satisfactorily. (Pyongyang, 11 December 1948)

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