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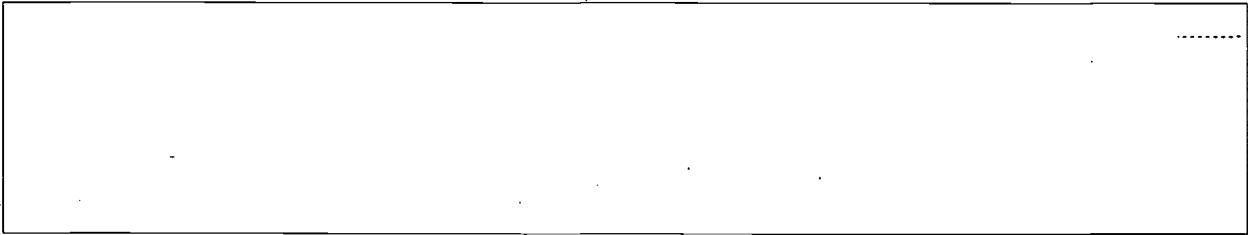
KOREA: "MEANINGLESS" STATEMENTS ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS

Current American-Korean discussions of the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea are dismissed by Radio Moscow with the remark that the discussions are meaningless since they are concerned only with plans for withdrawal and not with actual withdrawal. Other commentaries contrast the People's Committees and the budgets of North and South Korea in familiar exploitation of the thesis that the difference in conditions in the North and South is that between black and white. Moscow also reports, via TASS dispatches, deliberations of the People's Assembly, including Kim Il Sung's report on his activities in Moscow and the significance of the new Soviet-Korean treaties.

Radio Pyongyang adheres to its stereotyped pattern of echoing the Soviet line on such events as the world peace congress, the anniversary of Lenin's birth, and the contrast between North and South Korea. The 27 April session of the Soviet Korean Friendship Society is presented as further evidence of Soviet beneficence to the Korean Republic.

a. Muccio "Corrects" Syngman Rhee on Troop Withdrawals: In an anonymously-written commentary of 22 April Moscow asserts that "the Americans are planning to formulate some plans which will enable American troops to evacuate South Korea but are not planning the evacuation itself." The insincerity of American statements "implying that the Americans are planning to evacuate" is said to be demonstrated by the fact that the U.S. rejected the Soviet proposal and the Korean demand for withdrawal of troops in 1947 and 1948. This is said to prove that "the actual aim is to continue the occupation."

b. The Role of the People's Committees: Commentator Kojina analyzes the recent North Korean elections in a 23 April Korean-language commentary which claims that the part played by the People's Committees in North and South Korea is typical of the difference in occupation philosophies of the United States and the USSR. American "rejection and suppression" of the People's Committees is said to demonstrate that, to the colony-minded Americans, "the People's Committees are something to fear and are dangerous to them." The People's Committees of North Korea, on the other hand, are said to have received the wholehearted support of the USSR which is interested only in establishing the People's Republic as a sovereign, prosperous nation.



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