

WEEKLY SURVEY
25 MARCH 1949

- I 5 -

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KOREA: "SOVIET-KOREAN FRIENDSHIP IS STRENGTHENING"

Korea

Both Moscow and Pyongyang devote appropriate fanfare to the announcement of the People's Republic's "first equal rights agreement with a great power"--the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation--the text of which was announced from Pyongyang and Moscow on 21 March. The treaty itself and the complementary economic agreements are said to reveal the USSR's truly friendly attitude toward all small nations and to prove that the People's Republic is a sovereign state.

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- I 6 -

Both Moscow and Pyongyang continue to report the activities of Kim Il Sung and party who are reported to be in Leningrad en route home. Their departure from Moscow was as ceremonious as their arrival. In addition, they report the growing strength of the "partisan" resistance movement in the south and Moscow sympathizes with residents of Cheju-do for the dreadful state of affairs alleged to result from American imperialism.

Pyongyang, as always, exhorts listeners to "drive out" American troops, Syngman Rhee, and the U.N. Commission and to prepare for compulsory education and spring plowing.

a. Agreement for Economic and Cultural Collaboration: The 20 March announcement of the signing of the Agreement on Economic and Cultural Collaboration and the three supplementary agreements is followed on 21 March by the announcement of the text of the Agreement. The agreements on trade, credit, and technical assistance are not given in full.

Following reports of the text, Moscow broadcasts comment on the Agreement credited to IZVESTIA, PRAVDA, and NEW TIMES, and to Commentators Smirnov and Krainov. IZVESTIA is quoted as stressing the Agreement's implications for Korean sovereignty, i.e. it evidences "both the strengthening of national independence and the state sovereignty of the Korean People's Democratic Republic and the fact that the young Government of the Korean people won its place among freedom-loving and independent peoples. The fact that the Korean state stepped into the international arena, is an event in the lives of the Far Eastern peoples of no mean importance." IZVESTIA further points out the benefits that will accrue to Korea from the great cultural, industrial, and agricultural achievements of the USSR:

"The leading techniques of Soviet industry and agriculture, the experience of Soviet specialists will help the Korean people to attain bigger successes in the economic and cultural prosperity of democratic Korea, in strengthening her national independence and state sovereignty. This prosperity of independent democratic Korea will not be hampered by the imperialist forces which consider the Korean people, as well as the other peoples of the Orient as pawns in a game of aggression." (TASS, in Russian Morse to North America, 22 March, 1949)

PRAVDA sets the agreement in a frame of Soviet protection of Korean interests; it reviews debates in the U.N. and Joint Commission, and points to the withdrawal of Soviet troops, all of which are said to be examples of the friendly spirit demonstrated in the new Agreement. Korean gratitude for these friendly acts is said to be shown in the "thank you letter" to Stalin. (Moscow, in Russian Morse to the Far North, 22 March 1949)

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- I 7 -

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NEW TIMES is equally stereotyped in pointing out that "these agreements furnish fresh evidence of the triumph of the Stalinist policy of equality and friendly cooperation among nations invariably pursued by the Soviet Union." As did PRAVDA and IZVESTIA, NEW TIMES declares that the Agreement will be a "historic landmark" for Korea and the rest of the world. The three editorials also devote more or less attention to the familiar contrast of conditions in the North and South. (TASS, in English Morse to the Far East, 23 March 1949)

Smirnov and Krainov go over the same ground in commentaries broadcast in Korean and Indonesian on 22 and 23 March. They point out the historic significance of the Agreements, the benefits Korea will receive, and the manifest generosity of the Soviet Union.

Radio Pyongyang, as has been indicated, reports the joint communique and the text of the agreement; on subsequent days it reveals that the agreements "are welcomed" in North Korea and reasons that they represent "a fatal blow to the Syngman Rhee Government. The latter commentary, broadcast on 22 March, includes an exposition of the "historical" fact that "equality between capitalistic nations and small nations is impossible." It also contrasts the new agreement with the Economic Aid Agreement between the U.S. and South Korea and the latter is said to be "No more than a document putting down in black and white the economic privileges already possessed by the Americans in South Korea."

b. World Congress for Peace: Seemingly indicative of Radio Pyongyang's integration into the Moscow radio's campaigns is the treatment given the Paris Congress for World Peace. The North Korea transmitter reports the original call for the Congress, quotes favorable responses to the call from "democrats" in the European satellite orbit, and brings to its microphone officials of various Korean organizations all of whom reiterate their "absolute support" of the Congress and of the Soviet campaign for world peace. The Sunday Question Hour is devoted, on 20 March, to questions and answers concerning the Congress; the broadcaster points out, in conclusion, that the popular response to the call shows that "the voices opposing new war and defending peace are becoming louder and stronger so that the schemes of the warmongers will fail, as Stalin said."

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