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WEEKLY SURVEY
20 MAY 1949

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KOREA: SOUTH KOREA LOOKS TO THE NORTH

Korea

Radio Moscow and Radio Pyongyang have new evidence at hand to document their familiar claims concerning the superiority of economic, political, and social conditions in North Korea.

This evidence--which is exploited in stereotyped fashion--includes the defection of South Korean land and naval units, the North Korea Government's decision to draft a land reform program for South Korea, the letter from "democratic groups" in South Korea requesting formation of a "democratic front for the unification of the Fatherland," and the decision of the Central Committee of the North Korea People's Front to begin preparatory discussion of such a coalition front at a 25 May meeting. All four developments are repeatedly announced by Pyongyang and the original announcements are followed up with reports of the great joy and enthusiasm engendered in the hearts of all Koreans by the new turn of events. Radio Moscow is, as usual, more detached, and its TASS reports are somewhat briefer and less emotional in tone than are those of Pyongyang. It continues to attack the credibility of Seoul Information Bureau reports concerning the defection of South Korea naval units (in Mandarin, 17 May 1949) and to report increasing rebellion in the South.

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