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WEEKLY SURVEY
6 OCTOBER 1949

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KOREA: U.N. DEBATES; SOUTHERN DEFECTIONS; PEACE CAMPAIGN

General Assembly debates on the Korean issue bring about an increase in the volume of attention to Korea if not in the newness of accusations against America and Syngman Rhee. Moscow and TASS transmit heavily editorialized versions of Assembly sessions which are used as media for reiterating standard Soviet charges about the illegal character of the U.N. Commission and its attempts to aggravate the Korean conflict in behalf of American expansionists. The indictment also includes accusations concerning worsening conditions in the South and the increasing discontent of Koreans over the delay in unification and independence--a delay which is entirely the fault of the U.S., in the Soviet estimate. Western delegates' references to the Soviet-North Korean "threat" to

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South Korea are dismissed as "assertions usual for representatives of the Anglo-American bloc," while speeches of delegates from Satellite nations are quoted favorably and at great length.

TASS quotes Radio Pyongyang accounts of the increasing defections of South Korean military personnel and notes the intensifying drive for Korean independence and world peace. In reporting the defection of the "war vessel belonging to the Syngman Rhee Government," both TASS and Pyongyang quote the Captain as condemning the American advisors assigned to each ship. No reference is made to the whereabouts of the missing ECA advisors, nor is the vessel identified by name. Radio Pyongyang quotes two members of the ship's crew as expressing resentment over Korea's American-directed trade with Japan, over the "sale" of the maritime industry to Americans, over the costliness of American aid, and over the activities of the Government-controlled seamen's union. TASS quotes the remarks concerning activities of American advisers:

"On every ship of the South Korean fleet there are two American advisers armed with automatic guns and revolvers. Americans often beat the Korean sailors and sometimes even shoot them out of hand. These advisers perform the functions of the Captain and technician aboard the ship and hand over to the Syngman Rhee police sailors that protest against their arbitrary actions. The American advisers receive from the Syngman Rhee Government salaries 40 times bigger than Koreans and live a luxurious life." (in Russian Hellschreiber for Europe, 3 October 1949)

Radio Pyongyang furthers the propaganda campaign for peace by extolling the Soviet Union's leadership of the campaign, by reporting preparations for and observance of International Peace Day on 2 October, and by applauding Andrei Vishinsky's peace proposals at the U.N. Moscow, in turn, quotes Pyongyang on the 2 October preparations and festivities. The campaign for Korean unity and independence and for world peace are consolidated by both Pyongyang and Moscow, who report the Koreans to be striving with equal vigor for both goals.

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