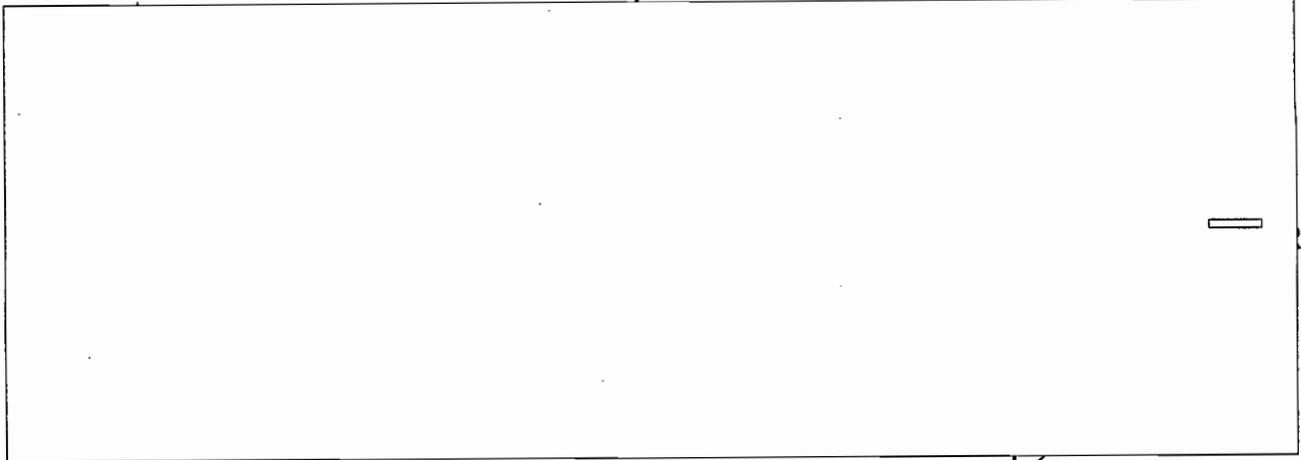


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WEEKLY SURVEY
8 JUNE 1950

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KOREA: ELECTIONS MARKED BY "FALSIFICATIONS, BRIBERY, AND POLICE TERROR" *Korea*

Having almost ignored the 30 May elections in broadcasts monitored prior to the event, Moscow now attacks them on the grounds that they were forced by the United States, were characterized by "falsifications, bribery, and police terror," and were rejected by the voters--who resorted to guerrilla action instead of casting their ballots. Pyongyang echoes these charges, but with less vehemence and enthusiasm than prevailed in its pre-election commentaries.

Moscow also revitalizes the attack on Syngman Rhee and claims that the President's "political philosophy is personal dictatorship, which he tries to cover with the escutcheon of democracy." These commentaries identify Syngman Rhee as the complete tool of the United States, and ignore American criticisms of Rhee's actions.

a. The Elections "Failed": Quoting "preliminary data" a TASS dispatch of 2 June claims that the elections "have failed" because there were fewer voters than in 1948 and because "a considerable number of voters who took part in the 'elections' under armed threat did not vote for candidates desirable in Washington." Other TASS accounts indicate that "the people of South Korea resolutely came out against the American policy of colonization, against the puppet Government of Syngman Rhee, against the so-called United Nations Commission for Korea, and for the unity and independence of the country."

These TASS reports and a Krainov commentary emphasize American dictation in the calling of the election--"Acheson told Syngman Rhee in the form of an ultimatum to hold them not in the autumn but in May this year"--without mentioning the circumstances behind the "ultimatum." They also emphasize that the election campaign was marked by "terror and oppression... Syngman Rhee himself admitted on the eve of the elections that over 100 candidates had been arrested."

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The extent of Syngman Rhee's defeat is outlined by Krainov, who claims that "the extreme reactionary National and National Democratic parties suffered complete defeat; only 22 candidates were returned from the National Party supporting Syngman Rhee, and only 23 from the National Democratic Party. The population of Southern Korea has once more stated that it can no longer tolerate the regime of the American imperialists and their mercenaries."

Krainov follows this description of Rhee's "complete defeat" with a familiar discourse on the depressed state of South Korea's economy:

"Four fifths of the plants and factories of Southern Korea are idle. United States businessmen have inundated Southern Korea with their unwanted stocks, and only those industries are being developed which are working for military orders exclusively. As a result of the activities of the American monopolies and their local mercenaries, the number of unemployed in the country is now more than three million."

The commentary makes no reference to inflation or to the state of the currency.

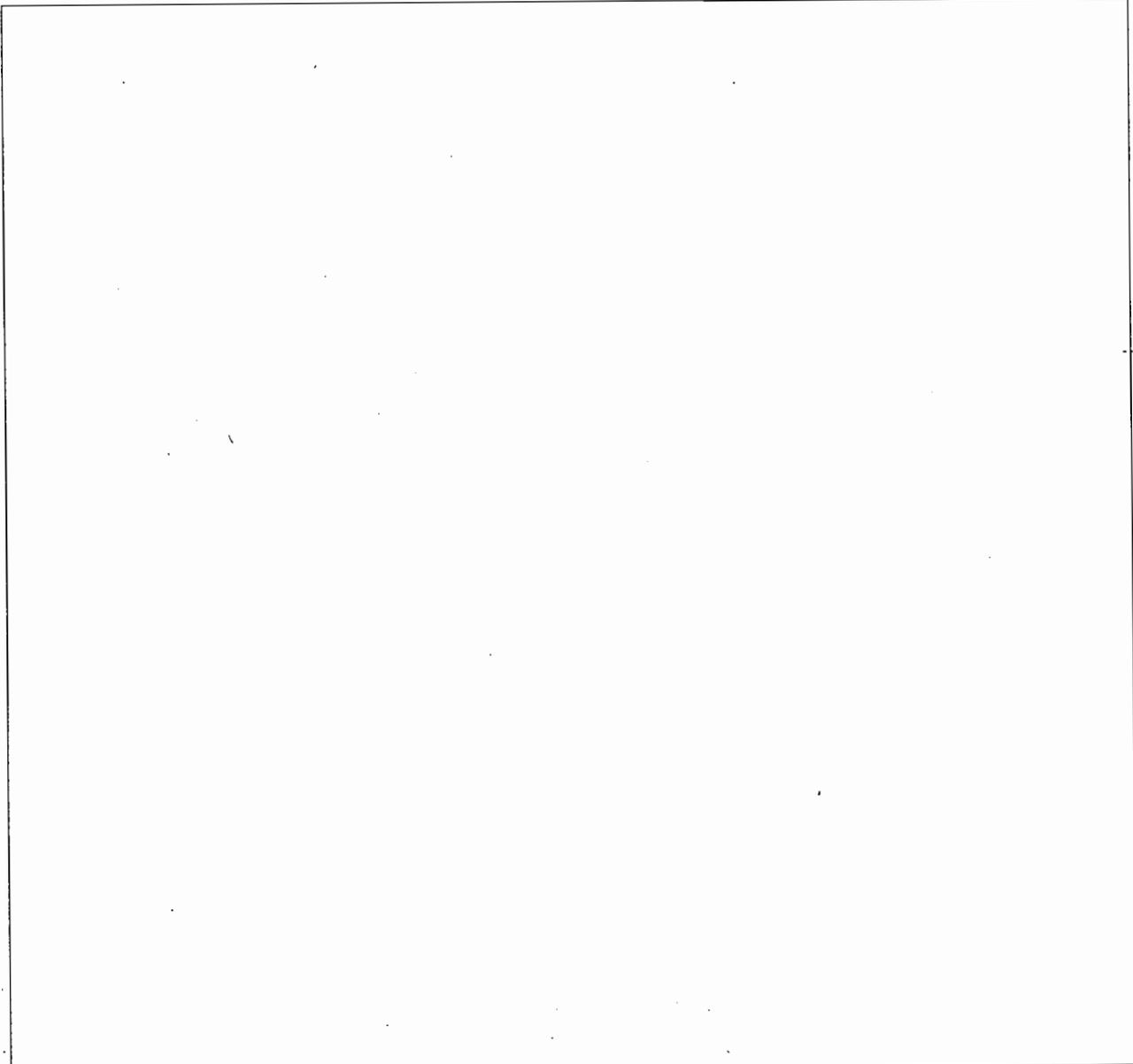
Pyongyang's post-election comments concentrate on the efforts put forth by Southern "patriots" to "frustrate the second country-ruining election which is being forced under Washington's orders." The people are said to have coupled their refusal to vote with "election-day struggles" which are reported in some detail.

b. Syngman Rhee, "The Traitor to the Korean People": Mikhailov's 1 June commentary identifies Syngman Rhee with Chiang Kai-shek, Elpidio Quirino, Mohammed Hatta, and "the foul traitor Tito" as "traitors to their own people and loyal dogs of American imperialism." Mikhailov examines Syngman Rhee's career in somewhat more detail than has been customary in recent months; he notes Rhee's participation in the Korean Emperor's "star chamber council," his cooperation with the Japanese, and his subservience to the Americans and claims that all these stem from Rhee's "fierce hatred for the working people" and from his desire for personal power. "His political philosophy is personal dictatorship, which he tries to cover with the escutcheon of democracy. He is prepared to brand as a Communist and destroy anyone who dares to oppose him." Rhee resorted to slander of the Soviet Union for he thought "that was the horse that would take him directly to Wall Street."

This commentary, too, makes familiar reference to the depressed state of South Korea's economy. It claims that Syngman Rhee initiates incidents along the 38th parallel "designed to stir up internecine warfare." The righteousness of the Soviet position on Korea--as outlined in the Moscow Conference in 1945 and in the proposal for withdrawal of troops--and the widespread popular support for the Soviet position are reiterated.

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c. Soviet-Korean Friendship: The "close friendship" between Korea and the USSR is one of "the instances of socialist inter-relationship of democratic countries" says Moscow in reporting an article appearing in FOR A LASTING PEACE, FOR A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY. The article reviews Soviet aid to Korea, especially machinery, materials, and "highly qualified scientific and technical cadres" and quotes Kim Il Sung as acknowledging Soviet aid and as specifying factories and installations which have benefited from that aid.



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