

KOREAN WAR

Atrocity Charges Renewed in Vienna Comment: During the second week half of the comment on the Korean War deals with the Vienna Peace Congress proceedings. Most of the speeches on Korea, delivered by a galaxy of personages claiming familiarity with the war, repeat charges of alleged American atrocities. However, Chen Wen-kwei, chief of the medical service of the Chinese Volunteers, in addition to reviewing past BW evidence, asserts that the United States is still resorting to the use of bacterial warfare, and cites reports of BW activity as late as last October. 24/11/52

The speakers were obviously chosen to lend the greatest credibility to the charges. Examples of this are Monica Felton, a British peace partisan who has made several visits to Korea; Dr. Pessoa, member of the International Scientific Commission which returned a report on BW in September; Ducharme, a Canadian claiming to have been a member of the Canadian detachment in Korea; and Chen Wen-kwei.

The final resolution calling for a ban on bacterial warfare contains no formal charges of its use in Korea, and other alleged atrocities are avoided altogether in the final resolution.

Danger Inherent in Negotiations Admitted: Joliot-Curie's admission of the difficulties and dangers inherent in negotiated compromise--an allusion both to the Korean truce talks and to East-West negotiations in general--does not occasion compensatory comment to minimize the problem or promise a firmer basis for future agreement. Joliot-Curie had admitted that in negotiation "the search for a compromise acceptable to all is difficult and lengthy" and further, that protracted negotiation "would permit the warring parties to strengthen themselves and that in the event of a failure, hostilities would be revived more murderously." Kuo Mo-Jo, on the other hand, warns against a policy of appeasement.

U.S. Barbarity Revealed by Pongam: Moscow responds promptly to reports of the Pongam prison camp incident of 14 December, but accords it a third less attention than given to the Koje incident in May. The highlight of comment is furnished by a PRAVDA editorial, broadcast widely on 17 and 18 December, which reports the incident as new evidence of American barbarity and full exposure of the hypocritical attitude of the United States in the U.N. Much ado is made of the fact that the victimized prisoners were guilty only of singing patriotic songs and had made no effort to escape or riot. Moscow makes no threats of reprisals nor is there any concerted attempt to exploit the incident as evidence of a U.S. intent to expand the war. Instead Pongam is said to give new impetus to the people's desire for an immediate end to the conflict.

The Soviet proposal calling for United Nations' condemnation of the Pongam incident elicits a PRAVDA editorial which asserts that the U.S. suffered a "moral and political defeat" despite the vote. Specific mention is made of the Arab-Asian bloc's failure to sustain the U.S. position.

Brief Mention Accorded Expansion of War: Moscow continues to avoid mention of the recent Eisenhower visit to Korea, and devotes only marginal attention to the alleged U.S. intention to expand the war, a theme both Peking and Pyongyang have used widely in comment on the Eisenhower visit. TASS on 14 December carries a report from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that U.S. generals are planning a spring offensive, use of the A-bomb, reinforcement of American and satellite divisions and a coastal blockade of China. A similar TASS release on 20 December cites a NEWSWEEK interview with Senator Bridges who allegedly endorsed the bombing of Manchuria, use of atomic weapons, and greater reliance on Korean, Japanese, Filipino and Chinese Nationalist troops. Nothing of this nature has been noted in voice broadcasts.

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