

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~USSR SURVEY
14 MAY 1953

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G L O B A L A F F A I R S

KOREAN WAR: Declining War Comment Not Replaced by Peace Topics

Soviet comment on Korean developments dropped to a low of four commentaries during the first week of this SURVEY period and totalled only eight commentaries during the second week. Radio Moscow continues to avoid intrusion into the pattern of Korean events. Only one independent comment on the truce and prisoner repatriation issues has been noted since resumption of the Panmunjom talks, a Borzenko item on 6 May containing graphic description of the mistreatment of the sick and wounded Communist prisoners being repatriated. Moscow reportage is restricted largely to summarizations of NCNA accounts and Western press releases which in the main are transmitted as news dispatches or TASS transmissions. Operating under these self-imposed restraints, Moscow presents a current, though not a detailed, picture of Korean events. There has been no apparent attempt to substitute comment on peace-linked domestic Korean topics for the fast-disappearing war comment.

Moscow's de-emphasis of the Korean war differs from the normal attention accorded the war by Peking and Pyongyang. In addition, Moscow does not attack the American truce position directly as do the Asian transmitters, but resorts to oblique criticism in citing the opposition of British Labor leaders such as Desmond Donnelly and Aneurin Bevan. U.S. press "distortion" of the treatment given U.N. prisoners in North Korea is also attacked indirectly in reference to statements of returned British prisoners reporting "excellent" treatment while in Communist prison camps.

Moscow, as in the case of the return of British and French civilian internees, reports briefly the release by North Korea of the U.S. civilian internees, and also notes the concern in the U.S. over the number of American prisoners presumed to have succumbed to Communist indoctrination.

TASS on 12 May repeats the NCNA account of the alleged U.S. bombing raid on Antung and Lakushao.

PEACE CAMPAIGN: Support for a Five Power Pact

The PRAVDA editorial on Molotov's reply to the letter from the Vienna Peace Congress Special Commission urging the signing of a Five Power Peace Pact anticipates U.S. objections to such a pact because it "would allegedly undermine the authority of the U.N. organization." A widely broadcast Leontiev article on the Soviet reply says that the United Nations would be strengthened by such cooperation.

Moscow exploits the official satellite letters to the Vienna Congress Commission through a PRAVDA article by Plyshevsky which is broadcast in most major languages. French, Austrian, and Indian Peace Committee gestures of support for the Commission's appeal get separate TASS attention.

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