

26 Nov 1948

KOREA

Monitored Soviet broadcasts display but fragmentary interest in Korean affairs. Three commentaries, occasional TASS dispatches, and infrequent Moscow news reports constitute the total of available monitored transmissions this week.

Radio Pyongyang, however, continues its usual maximal treatment of all events and developments. It comments at great length on the alleged venality of "traitorous," vicious, terroristic Syngman Rhee, reports the continuing send-off parties for departing Soviet troops, and notes the deliberations of the Korean People's Democratic Government. Attention is also devoted to the progress of fall plowing, to the North Korean youth meeting--at one session of which Kim Il Sung is said to have publicly thanked the Soviet Union for its unselfish assistance--and to successive "acts of violence" committed against the rebellious people of South Korea by the American-trained Rhee police.

On 23 November an observation to the effect that the election of Truman was no "miracle" represents Pyongyang's reaction to the recent election. Truman's victory is attributed in part to his promise to repeal the Taft-Hartley Law.

a. Syngman Rhee Is a Discomfited "Pygmy": A RED STAR article by Chaplygin, broadcast in Korean on 17 November, dwells on the uneasiness of Syngman Rhee--as revealed by Rhee when he allegedly admitted that "even the Assemblymen whom he personally had bribed came up to oppose him." An English-language version of the same thesis quotes the President as admitting opposition from "his own agents" in the Assembly. The commentary repeats familiar assertions regarding Rhee's alleged "fear" of Korean public opinion and his supposedly puppet-like subservience to the United States.

b. America Wants to "Subordinate" Everything: The U.S. is intent on subordinating everything in South Korea, Davidov charges in a 20 November Korean-language commentary. The commentary reiterates the stereotyped claim that American intransigence broke up the Joint Commission on Korea.

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c. Syngman Rhee Needs American Troops: The subject of troop-withdrawal is kept alive by Moscow this week in an 18 November Korean-language commentary which boasts of the fact that the Soviet Army is withdrawing from the northern zone because the People's Democratic Government needs no foreign protection. This is contrasted with the situation in the American zone. Moscow argues that Syngman Rhee could "hardly" stay in office without armed American protection. The commentary reaches the familiar conclusion that the Korean people are rising in dissatisfaction with this policy and the Rhee Government.

d. "The Revolt in Southern Korea": TASS "explains" the October "revolt" in the American zone in a summarization of an article originally appearing in the Hongkong FAR EASTERN BULLETIN. (in Russian at dictation speed to the USSR provincial press, 23 November 1948) The article is said to have reported that American-trained Korean police rebelled in protest against their dispatch to Chejo-do where a "people's regime" has been "set up by the population of the island." The article notes that by 26 October some 12 thousand persons were participating in the "rebellion," and adds that "it has not been known so far which of the towns are in the hands of the rebels still." The article and various Pyongyang broadcasts attempt to refute Seoul efforts to minimize the unrest in South Korea and elaborate on the uneasiness this unrest causes the American-sponsored Syngman Rhee Government.