

THE FAR EAST

The Korean War: American Popular Opposition to the War

Attention to the Korean war during the two weeks under review reaches its highest peak since 12 December 1950, when Moscow carried out an intense attack on President Truman for his remarks on the possible use of the atom bomb. (See SURVEY, Vol. III, No. 44)

MacArthur Dismissed for "Failure": During the period of 17-23 April, Moscow discusses the replacement of General MacArthur in 115 commentaries, alleging that the General was dismissed for his failure to win the aggressive war in Korea. Actually, says Moscow, there is no disagreement between MacArthur and the Administration, since both desire to extend the aggression in Asia. In the last of the two weeks under review, comment on MacArthur decreases to 10 items, broadcast only in the Asian beam, and no new lines are introduced.

Comment on Operations Light; America's "Premeditated Invasion": The increase in comment on Korea is not linked to the new Communist offensive, which is given only scattered attention aside from Moscow's relays of the Pyongyang HQ communiques. Continuing the pattern of recent weeks, more than half of Moscow's comment on the Korean war is directed to U.S. listeners and concentrates on two themes: profiteering and popular opposition to the war.

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Moscow encourages this popular opposition to the war by broadcasting emotional messages from POW's adjuring all wives and mothers to "put a stop to the senseless waste of American lives 5,000 miles from American shores." These themes are also directed to Western European audiences, but are outweighed in the European beam by commentaries which present "documented proof" of America's "premeditated invasion" of North Korea.