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WEEKLY SURVEY
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Pyongyang in a 11 August commentary which synthesizes the Soviet stand. Responsibility for the division is placed squarely on the United States in a Moscow broadcast of 16 August which claims that "division will have a fatal effect" on Korea; and "the United States and only the United States is responsible for such a division." (in Arabic) The commentary outlines the preliminary steps to the formation of the Government starting with the American "aim" to convert South Korea into a colony.

"With this aim in view the American authorities arranged for elections which lacked freedom and democracy. These false elections resulted in the formation of the so-called National Council at the head of which a confirmed reactionary was appointed. The Council up to expectations approved the reactionary constitution hostile to the people and democracy."

Commentator Danilov sees proclamation of the Government as one in a procession of American anniversary perversions of the will of the Korean people. He points out the first anniversary of the liberation was marked by the American occupation with a "bloody" attack on democratic elements; the second was greeted by "an order... to arrest all the leaders of leftist political parties and social organizations." Thus, proclamation of the new regime falls into place as just another attempt of the United States to further its own desires in spite of Korean determination to establish an independent nation. (in Korean, 17 August 1948)

Other commentaries treat the proclamation as but a minor phase of the anniversary celebration. A Korean-language commentary by Alexandrov on 15 August and a Soviet Home Service press review of the same day both play up the special meetings and other commemorative events held in Pyongyang and elsewhere and relegate the Syngman Rhee Government to a minor place in the overall scheme.

KOREA: ANNIVERSARY IN THE NORTH; DIVISION IN THE SOUTH

Korea

Proclamation of the Korean Government in Seoul on 15 August, which coincides with the third anniversary of the end of Japanese rule, receives less attention from Moscow broadcasters than the anniversary itself. The new Government receives passing mention as a further step in the American-sponsored division of Korea; but the greater share of wordage is devoted to proving the superiority of conditions in the north three years after the liberation.

Pyongyang docilely follows suit in praising northern accomplishments, denouncing the divisive American policy, and preparing for the coming elections in the Soviet zone.

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