

~~RESTRICTED~~WEEKLY SURVEY
11 MARCH 1949

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*Korea*KOREA: WITH KIM IL SUNG IN BRIGHTEST MOSCOW

Radio Moscow's monitored references to Korean affairs are confined almost exclusively to the peregrinations of Kim Il Sung and the other members of the People's Republic Cabinet now in Moscow. Radio Pyongyang, however, does not appear to share this single-mindedness; the Cabinet officers' activities are reported briefly and sporadically but with nothing like the concentration shown by Moscow.

Instead, Pyongyang exhorts the Koreans, in familiar fashion, to "drive out" the American Army, the U.N. Commission, and Syngman Rhee. It reports preparations for the pending elections, and deliberations of the farmers' conference, and makes the usual dire predictions about the fate of South Korea under the leadership of "puppet" Syngman Rhee. International Women's Day is observed with a spate of ebullient commentaries and reports pointing out the happy state of women in the People's Republic and in the USSR.

a. Delegation to Moscow: Radio Moscow and TASS report the activities of Kim Il Sung's party in a variety of Home Service, Korean and Mandarin broadcasts, and English Morse transmissions to Europe, the Far East, and North America.

They report that the party was met by Molochkov, chief protocol official, at the Soviet-Korean border and escorted to Moscow where it was met, at Ryazan Station, by a group of Soviet officials including Mikoyan, Gromyko, and "other responsible persons." Kim's arrival speech, with its references to Korea's "everlasting gratitude" to the USSR, is broadcast in the Soviet Home Service on 3 March and in Korean on 4 March. Kim is quoted as explaining his presence in Moscow:

"The presence of the Korean delegation in Moscow is aimed at expanding and strengthening the mutual relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the USSR in political, economic, and cultural affairs. I trust that our (visit) will make a great contribution to general peace and security."

The party's subsequent activities are reported by Moscow, TASS, and Khabarovsk. On 4 March they are said to have visited Lenin's tomb, the Kremlin, Soviet kolchozes, and various Moscow landmarks--including the subway. Of the latter, Kim is said to have written the following "in his sightseeing log":

"Such a magnificent construction blends naturally with the matured, most progressive skill and the artistic accomplishments. The subway is also a creative work of the people in the Stalinist era."

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On 5 March the visitors were received by Stalin and Shvernik. Also present at the meeting with Stalin were Vishinsky, Shtikov, and Chu Yong Ha, Korean Ambassador to the USSR. Andrei Gromyko was also present at Kim's meeting with Shvernik. On 6 March the group resumed its sightseeing tour; it visited the Tretyakov Art Gallery and attended a performance of Glinka's "Ivan Sussanin" at the Bolshoi Theater. On 7 March it visited the Stalin Auto Works where it inspected the forge, foundry, and assembly shops; "members of the delegation watched with great interest the work of the conveyor for the assembly of trucks." (TASS, in English Morse to Europe, 8 March 1949) On 8 March the Koreans visited the Lesniye Polyany State Farm and attended the celebration of International Women's Day at the Bolshoi Theater.

Commentator Krainov offers the visit as proof of the "good will" between Korea and the USSR in a Korean-language commentary of 9 March. The commentary "exposes" America's colonial policy in Korea and praises the USSR's "liberation" policy and quotes Kim's report of "great achievements" under the Soviet aegis. A Mandarin-language of 9 March pairs the Kim visit with the Korean letter of thanks to Stalin as evidence that Korea is aware of and grateful for the benevolent Soviet attitude.

b. 31 March Elections: As has been customary, Radio Moscow refrains from any substantive comment on the pending elections; TASS reports that Radio Pyongyang has announced the nomination of candidates (in English Morse to Europe, 4 March 1949) but monitored voice transmissions have not mentioned the balloting.

Radio Pyongyang continues to use the election as another occasion for exhorting South Koreans to resist and as the inspiration for increased production drives in Korean industrial establishments.

c. Farmers' League Convention: The fourth convention of the Farmers' League and the third anniversary of the land reform are exploited by Radio Pyongyang which gives detailed coverage of the former and extolls the latter and the progress it has brought. Deputy Premier Kim Chaek's speech to the convention--which is both repetitious and familiar in content--is reported in full as are the talks of delegates and League officials.

TASS reports the convention in a brief dispatch of 5 March while Moscow commemorates the land reform anniversary in a 7 March Mandarin-language commentary pointing out the increases in production which have taken place since 1946.

d. Conditions in the South: Moscow and Pyongyang tell the story of conditions under the American occupation in stereotyped fashion again this week. Moscow's commentator Smolensky insists that the United States is concerned to "enslave" South Korea so as to turn it into a "colony and military base" (in Korean, 2 March 1949), while Pyongyang brings a clerk and a housewife before its microphone to denounce the "hireling" Syngman Rhee and the dastardly Americans. TASS also notes "wholesale arrests" and the "spreading... guerrilla movement" in 5 March transmissions.

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e. Conditions in the Soviet Union: Radio Pyongyang, on 1, 3, 5, and 9 March, broadcasts commentaries by repatriated Korean soldiers who reached Hungnam in January. The commentaries place heavy stress on the "freedom and happiness" of the Soviet people and the "consideration" and "kindness" shown to the Japanese-conscripted troops during their stay in the USSR.

f. International Women's Day: The praiseworthy condition of women in the Soviet Union and in North Korea is pointed out by Moscow and Pyongyang in broadcasts commemorating International Women's Day on 8 March. In Korean-language commentaries on 7 and 8 March Moscow contrasts the "vile" conditions of women south of the 38th parallel with the "great accomplishments" of women in the north.

Radio Pyongyang reports the commemorative events held in North Korea. It also broadcasts a "housewife's" appeal to women in the South to "intensify" the "struggle" in commemoration of the day and a speech by the Vice Chairman of the North Korea Democratic Women's League which pays homage to the Soviet Union and bemoans the "grim" living conditions in the South.

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