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WEEKLY SURVEY
15 APRIL 1949

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KOREA: THE SOVIET UNION IS FAIR

Korea

Soviet broadcasters, almost solely concerned with Korea's external affairs, argue that the recently concluded Soviet-Korean treaties point up the startling difference between the foreign policies of the United States and of the USSR. The Atlantic Pact, the proposed Pacific pact, and U.S. treaties with South Korea are presented as documentary evidence of the standard claim that American foreign policies are characterized by a spirit of aggression and by a desire for superiority over other nations. On the other hand, foreign policies of the Soviet Union are said to be characterized by fairness and a desire to aid other nation--as witness the new treaty with the People's Democratic Republic. Such claims are not new in Soviet broadcasts to and about Korea; but currently they appear to be receiving increased emphasis.

Radio Pyongyang continues its respectful adulation of the treaty with the USSR. It also continues to exhort all Koreans to drive out U.S. troops, the U.N. Commission, Syngman Rhee, etc. Representatives of Christians, Buddhists, composers, theatrical workers, and propagandists appear before the microphone this week to voice these exhortations.

a. A Fair and Mutual Treaty: Assertions concerning the fairness of Soviet foreign policy, as demonstrated in the treaty with Korea, are emphasized in at least four monitored commentaries this week.

Smolensky states the Soviet radio's position concisely in a 6 April Korean-language commentary. Claiming that "the treaty between the Soviet Union and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is based on equality," he points out that "there is not even the slightest hint of equality and mutual benefit for the treaty nations in the servile treaty concluded between Syngman Rhee's puppet Seoul Government and its American masters." The contrast in attitudes is also demonstrated in the trade between the nations:

"Of the Soviet goods to be shipped into North Korea, industrial equipment, petroleum products, and coking coal--badly needed for the development of Korean national industries--will take special place. ... The Americans are shipping fertilizer, textile goods, and other products to South Korea--all of which were previously produced in great quantity in Korea."

In an 11 April Korean-language commentary, "Friendship With the Soviet Union Is a Guarantee of Freedom and Independence for the Koreans," Moscow also discusses the new Soviet-Korean treaty. It emphasizes the "principles of racial equality and independence," of "sovereign existence and national progress" allegedly involved in the pacts. Soviet "fairness" to all nations is also emphasized in an 8 April broadcast from Khabarovsk, while a 12 April broadcast from Moscow maintains that "the principle of racial inequality" dominates American foreign policies.

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b. The Atlantic Pact Is Unfair: Pietersky exploits Korean protests against the Atlantic and Pacific pacts in a Korean-language broadcast of 7 April. He points to Soviet withdrawal of troops and American failure to do so as further examples of the differences in policies.

Korean protests over the Atlantic Pact and the Pacific pact "now being planned" are said to stem from opposition to the "new Anglo-American scheme of brothers killing brothers." Syngman Rhee's approval of both pacts is said to be completely contrary to the "collective opinion held by several tens of thousands of Koreans."

c. Korea and the United Nations: The 8 April Security Council deliberations on the "Seoul puppet Government's" application for U.N. membership are reviewed by TASS in a 10 April transmission to North America and are commented upon by Pietersky in a 13 April Korean-language broadcast. The TASS account quotes extensively from Delegate Malik's remarks-- with special emphasis on Malik's quotations from Mark Gayn's account, in JAPAN DIARY, of the "vicious... police state" existing in South Korea. TASS claims that Warren Austin "could not refute the facts cited by the Soviet delegate."

Pietersky reviews the deliberations from the time the application was filed and claims the question was presented to the Membership Application Committee only because "Austin mobilized his hand-raising machine." He claims that the Seoul Government "obviously" cannot be considered the lawful representative of Korea since it was put into office by special elections, while the Pyongyang regime was established on the basis of "nation-wide democratic elections." Typical of commentaries extolling the Soviet-Korean treaty, Pietersky also includes an invidious exposition of the difference between Soviet and American policies concerning Korea.

d. Kim Il Sung Returns to Pyongyang: Both TASS and Radio Pyongyang report in some detail the arrival in Pyongyang of the Kim Il Sung mission to Moscow. The delegates are said to have acknowledged their gratitude for Soviet hospitality and Soviet fairness in messages to Stalin and Vyshinsky. TASS, reporting these messages, quotes passages in which Kim reiterates that the Soviet treaty is "fair" while the South Korea treaty with the U.S. is servile. There are repeated references in the TASS accounts to the claim that the Soviet-Korean pacts are "based on the principles of mutual respect and national sovereignty."

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