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WEEKLY SURVEY
23 JUNE 1949

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KOREA: WHAT'S BEHIND THE TRUMAN AID PROPOSAL

Economic and military implications of President Truman's request for 150 million dollars in aid for South Korea are explored in commentaries of 15 and 16 June. The 15 June talk, broadcast in English to North America, picks up Truman's reference to economic conditions in South Korea and, quoting Robert Oliver and press accounts, goes into some detail to prove that "even the gloomy picture Truman painted of the situation in South Korea is brighter than the real state of affairs." The commentary alleges that Syngman Rhee is responsible for the "awful straights" in which South Korea finds itself; the "puppet government" is said to have used the money given in the past not to improve the economic situation but to turn Korea into a strategic base, "to place it under the merciless heel of the Wall Street monopolists." And Truman, in proposing further aid, "is seeking to promote" these same "questionable aims."

In a Korean language broadcast of 16 June Krainov points to Truman's "frank" admission that the funds will be used to "quash Communist movements in Asiatic countries" and lambastes Syngman Rhee, "this running dog of the

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American monopolists" for his dependence on American support. The commentary closes on an ominous note:

"Everyone knows the nature of United States loans. Everyone knows what happened to people in Marshallized countries."

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