

KOREA: SOVIET STAND APPLAUDED

Korea

Self-righteous praise for the Soviet stand on the associated issues of troop withdrawal and elections in Korea keynotes Moscow broadcasts on developments there this week. News reports and commentaries exploit speeches made at the Pyongyang conference of 19 to 23 April and at subsequent political sessions in the northern capital--all of which laud the position of the USSR and roundly condemn that of the U.S. on these two issues. The stereotyped contrast between North and South appears again this week in broadcasts comparing the state of farmers in the Soviet and American zones.

a. Koreans "Absolutely Support" Soviet Proposals: Commentators Danilov, Danigu, and Krainy turn to the joint conference of northern and southern Koreans, held 19 to 23 April in Pyongyang, for source material. (In Korean, 30 April, 3 May; Soviet Home Service 3 May 1948). The commentaries reported the unanimous support of "all representatives" for the Soviet proposal that troops be withdrawn, and the "praise" given by southern representatives for the "democratic achievements" of north Korea. Krainy, in the Home Service broadcast of 3 May, sketches in the role of the U.N. in the 10 May election plan, a role which he claims was engineered by the United States in violation of the rights of Koreans. Krainy also describes Korean resistance to the U.N. Commission and the election preparations, and contends that the balloting was postponed from 9 to 10 May because "the Americans are trying to keep large numbers of workers from participating in the elections."

Continuing the policy noted last week of minimizing references to Kim Koo and Kim Kiu Sic, Moscow makes but passing references to their participation in the joint conference and events subsequent thereto. In contrast, extensive quotations are made from the speech by Kim Il Sung in which the northern leader "criticized" the United States and urged unification of Korea. (In Japanese, 29 April 1948) Similarly the speech given by Kim Du Bong at the extraordinary session of the People's Assembly of the Soviet zone held 28 and 29 April in Pyongyang is reported at length. The session was reportedly attended by 40 representatives of southern Korea, but TASS does not indicate whether they took any active part in the deliberations. The Assembly "unanimously approved" the draft constitution, it is declared. (TASS, in English Morse to Far East 4 May 1948)

Southern participation is also reported in the 30 April conference of party leaders in Pyongyang. TASS claims that the American zone was represented by the leaders of 26 parties but fails to mention any of them by name. The conference issued a communique in which the leaders reaffirmed their support

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of the Soviet proposal for withdrawal of troops and declared that they "will not recognize the results of the election." (TASS, English Morse to Far East, 4 May 1948)

b. Generals Hodge and Dean "Lie": Recent statements by Generals Hodge and Dean are answered by Davidov in a 3 May commentary broadcast in Korean. Hodge's claim that "only a very few" oppose the election is said to be a "lie" because "all the members of the South Korean People's Front oppose it. Even Kim Kiu Sic and other rightists oppose it." General Dean is said to reveal his "lack of confidence" by accusing southern "democrats" of "agitating opposition" to the elections.

c. Northern Farmers "Are Masters of Their Land": Korean-language broadcasts on 3 and 4 May report the happy state of farmers in the Soviet zone who "are working for themselves, not for exploiters." These broadcasts point up the Soviet claim that land reform in the north has "liberated" farmers with the result that production has increased and farmers are enthusiastically working to "consolidate the achievements of democratic reforms." The contrast in conditions in the south is made explicit in the charge that "in south Korea the farmers are still being exploited" and that the meager rations are lagging behind.