

USSR AND EUROPEAN SATELLITES

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11. The current campaign by the USSR and its satellites appears to exceed in scope previous campaigns which the Communists have conducted in connection with various types of alleged U.S. "atrocities" during the Korean war. Although apparently taking its lead from its Sino-Korean allies, the USSR seems to be taking a more active role than was the case previously, with the satellites and international Communist front organizations also contributing their share. It should be noted that during the DM campaign, Soviet press coverage of the Korean truce talks has declined. However, Soviet-satellite comments give little indications of the effect of the DM charge on these talks.

~~A. SCOPE OF CAMPAIGN~~

12. (1) Soviet participation. Beginning on February 25, the Soviet press almost daily carried dispatches telling of Sino-Korean charge and reactions to alleged US use of bacteriological warfare (BW). <sup>Dr. USSR's</sup> Soviet propaganda, like that of its Asian allies, put the locus of alleged US activities first in North Korea and then in Manchuria (since March 8). March 10 appeared to mark a new and intensified phase in the Soviet campaign <sup>when</sup> as Soviet delegate Malik repeated the Sino-Korean charges in his speech before the UN Disarmament Commission and both Pravda and Izvestiya devoted full pages to a Moscow meeting on March 12 protesting against alleged US use of BW. The meeting passed a condemnatory resolution and was accompanied by ~~propaganda giving~~ <sup>representative</sup> statements by Soviet intellectuals on US "criminal behavior". There were unconfirmed press reports that other meetings were being held elsewhere in the USSR.

13. (2) Satellite nations. Moscow's Eastern European satellites have contributed considerably to the campaign in the form of editorials, several protests. The International Red Cross on March 13

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announced the receipt of protests from the Hungarian, Polish, Rumanian, and Bulgarian Red Cross Societies. The Bulgarian National Peace Committee sent a cable to the UN on March 8. Meetings of protest have been reported in Poland, Rumania, Hungary. Communist-sponsored rallies are also in full swing in France and Italy.

14 ~~(A) Front Organizations.~~ All the leading international Communist front organizations have contributed their formal statements of protest: the WFTU (February 29), World Peace Council (March 8), WIDF (March 10), the WFDY (March 12), the Asian Liaison Bureau of the WFTU (March 14). The WFTU and WIDF statements were sent to the UN. In addition, as reported by the Soviet press on March 5, an investigating commission sent by the International Association of Democratic Jurists arrived in North Korea on the previous day. The Soviet press on March 17 carried reports from Pyongyang that the committee had witnessed US use of BW in North Korea.

CONTENT

15 ~~Actions taken~~ In the main, the statements confine themselves to protesting the heinousness of alleged US behavior and calling for worldwide protests against the US and an international ban on BW. Several protests call for punishment of those responsible while the WFTU and Bulgarian Peace Committee cables to the UN included calls for an end to the Korean war.

16 ~~Relation to Korean War.~~ The Soviet statements have charged <sup>that the</sup> ~~US~~ <sup>that the US intends</sup> ~~use of BW~~ <sup>US intentions</sup> because of US failure to win the Korean war, and ~~US intentions~~ to expand the war and/or to prolong the negotiations. For example, Soviet legal expert Kerovin, on March 6, gave the first reason, while Soviet international law expert, Koshernikov, was quoted on March 16 to the effect that

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"the use of bacteriological weapons means that the aggressors intend to extend the war, to entangle Peoples China in it as well as other Asian countries. This treacherous act throws additional light on the position of the American delegation at the truce talks in Korea."

17. On US Denials. Soviet and satellite statements attempt to brush aside Secretary Acheson's denial of March 4, <sup>his</sup> and offer to submit to an impartial international investigation. Soviet Academician Grekov at the Moscow meeting of March 13 said that the Acheson statement reflected the "growing indignation ... which has been spreading over an increasing number of people in Asia and Europe, as well as in the US," that the Secretary "probably" hoped that "in the Geneva Red Cross there are people who would carry out any of his orders," and stressed US silence on the question of banning BW.

18. BW Details. The Soviet press has transmitted Sino-Korean reports as well as dispatches from Soviet correspondent Tkachenko in North Korea giving alleged details verifying the Sino-Korean charges. Embassy Moscow reported that it was these alleged eye-witness accounts which impressed Moscow citizens. In this connection, the Soviet press account of the international jurists' commission <sup>tried to lend further credence</sup> ~~verisimilitude~~ to the charges by claiming that "certain Western jurists" had themselves witnessed US use of BW in North Korea. Among the satellites, the Hungarian press in particular was vivid in its descriptions of the type of bombs, the nature of the germs, etc.

19. Other Charges Against US. <sup>In the campaign</sup> ~~The US~~ <sup>has been called</sup> ~~was said to be~~ worse than Hitler or the Japanese imperialists. <sup>have</sup> ~~References~~ <sup>been</sup> ~~were often~~ made to previous Japanese plans to use BW, plans which the US reportedly <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ now incorporating into its own activities.