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VOICECASTS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST RADIO

a. Background: Before the end of World War II the Chinese Communists began their radio propaganda war against the Kuomintang Nationalist Government from a transmitting point announced as Yen-an, then the capital of Communist China. With Yen-an's fall on 19 March 1947, Chinese Communist broadcasting was transferred, without a break in transmission, to somewhere in North Shensi.

After the Communist capture of Peking, the North Shensi station was immediately relegated to a position of less than secondary importance. In its place, the Peking New China Broadcasting Station was set up as the center of Communist radio propaganda. Associated with it is a loose network of stations in many major cities, among them Harbin, Mukden, Sian, Hankow, the Central Plains, Shanghai, Nanking, and Canton. These stations carry Peking broadcast material and, in addition, present news of local interest.

b. Sources of Broadcast Material: The NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, the official Chinese Communist news-gathering agency, provides all Communist radio stations with news. It is also probable that some of the news items with a Soviet satellite are supplied by TASS which, as far as is known, is the only foreign news agency which is permitted to operate in Communist China.

c. Dialects and Languages Used: The Yen-an and North Shensi Broadcasting Stations originally broadcast only in "putunghua" or "Kuo Yu," which literally means the "common language," that is, the type of Mandarin spoken in the Peking area.

Although this dialect presents certain difficulties to the announcer in pronunciation and intonation as well as in the use of local expressions which vary to a greater or lesser degree in other parts of China, the Communists probably chose this dialect for their radio propaganda because it is the most widely spoken dialect. Later, Japanese and English language voicecasts were added; but no other Chinese dialects were used until Peking came under Communist control in March of 1949. The Harbin station was the first to carry the Cantonese dialect, but dropped it when the Peking station began broadcasting Cantonese and other local dialects.

Early in 1949, following the capture of Nanking and Southwest and Southeast China, the New China Broadcasting Station expanded its operations to include daily broadcasts in the Cantonese, Chauchow, and the Amoy dialects. The news carried on these additional voicecasts is generally a more condensed version of the news broadcast in Mandarin.

The Chinese Communists' radio propaganda is noteworthy for its simplicity and clarity of language and the avoidance of the literary language so often found in Nationalist voicecasts which are quite beyond the grasp of the masses. The Communists appear to have adapted the language of their broadcasts in such a manner as to make them as understandable as possible to the average Chinese peasant and worker.

The scripts of the newscasts are prepared in the simple, clear, and effective "Pai hua"--the modern version of Mandarin in its simplest form. This dialect was introduced about thirty years ago as the best available common denominator for the unification of the various Chinese dialects. It is also the one which has been most widely taught and studied in Chinese secondary schools over the past twenty years. (It would probably take the average Chinese student six to eight years to learn the Cantonese dialect, but only two or three years to become conversant in the common "Pai hua." The Nationalist radio, on the other hand, still clings to its less intelligible literary style which is stilted, platitudinous, and beyond the grasp of most Chinese who have not had a secondary education.)

Although the Communist radio uses long sentences, it breaks them up into intelligible phrases of simple words. Only broadcasts made directly by important Chinese Communist Party officials would be unintelligible to the average listener; and then the substance of such broadcasts is rewritten and rebroadcast in simpler terms by competent station announcers.

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The Communist news and commentaries appear to be written with the least literate person in mind. The announcers move down to the level of the masses by meticulously explaining any uncommon words in their broadcasts.

d. Announcers: Communist radio announcers give the appearance of being well-trained and well-educated. Although the substance of their material is directed by the Party line, they present it in straightforward, unemotional fashion. Generally, Communist radio announcers appear to be more concerned with clear enunciation of each individual word than with inflecting words, phrases, or sentences in a manner that might appeal to the emotions or literary tastes of the radio audience.

Women announcers seem to be preferred to men in Communist China. To many (and perhaps most) Chinese listeners, a woman announcer has a crisper and clearer delivery and more precise tonal inflections which generally make for a more effective broadcast.

e. The Written Word: Recently, a continuous improvement in the preparation and writing of news commentaries has been noted. The better choice of words for the general listener and the simpler sentence structure are the more noticeable of such improvements.

All observations made [redacted] indicate that the scripts for the voicecasts are written by a staff of writers, although it is likely that a few or even one person passes final judgment on the finished copy. 25X1

f. Technical Qualities of Peking Station: The Peking station's transmitting (Morse) and broadcasting (voice) facilities, which were captured from the Nationalists, have proven far superior to those of the old North Shensi station. This was reflected in the increased intelligibility (reception-wise) of the Communist broadcasts after the Peking radio station fell into the hands of the Communists.

Further, the Communists have greatly improved the station's operation as compared to its operation by the Nationalists. This is evidenced primarily in the much-reduced number of Peking breakdowns. Since the Chinese Communists are known to have few radio technicians capable of keeping a large radio station in excellent operating condition, it appears probable that they may have called in foreign technicians to maintain the station. In any event, its greatly improved maintenance is an indirect testimony to the importance accorded mass communications by the Chinese Communists.

g. Portrayal of Leaders: The Communists appeal to the masses by picturing Mao Tse-tung, Chu Teh, and their other leaders as common men who are only interested in the masses, whereas the Nationalists have played up Chiang Kai-shek as somewhat of a god. The Nationalist leaders have remained on somewhat of a pedestal out of reach of the Chinese masses; but a Communist leader is pictured as "one of the boys."

PEKING'S "NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY" MORSECAST TO NORTH AMERICA

Technically the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (NCNA) transmitters have been improved from the unstable ones which frequently went off the air in the daily two-hour transmission from Yen-an a few years ago. Currently, NCNA's dispatches go out over stable, three to five-hour automatic tape transmissions from higher-powered transmitters in Peking. (Although there still are occasional breaks in the code transmissions from the Peking Communist station, it is believed that these breaks may possibly be due to line troubles between the studios and the transmitter, which probably is located outside Peking.)

Also, although the old transmitter of Yen-an and North Shensi was often drowned out by louder signals, the new transmitters in Peking remain loud and clear [redacted] long after most other signals from the Far East have faded out with the coming of daylight at the receiving station. 25X1

The operators at the Peking NCNA station seldom cut a wrong letter in the transmitting tape.

During the past four and one-half years, the NCNA transmission has steadily improved in

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its news style until today it is far better written, punctuated, and edited than any foreign newscast received. Four years ago this program had such an involved style that it often was difficult to discover the meaning of some of the long and complicated sentences, and sometimes the editor would have to give up and say "as received." Peking's NCHA Morse transmission is now received complete with definite and indefinite articles, meticulous punctuation, and carefully paragraphing so that it may be forwarded to Washington with less editing than any newscast ever received.

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There is strong evidence that after the copy is transmitted it is carefully checked for the smallest details, as the operator on completion of a program often (until recently) sent minor corrections to his copy which usually did not in any way change the meaning of the text.

If the copy is written originally in Chinese and then translated into English, which appears likely, then the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY translators do a remarkably good job. The rather involved Chinese Communist ideological jargon appears in free-flowing English. And the texts as received in English Morse have always been found quite accurate, when compared with the original Mandarin-language broadcast of the same item.

The consistently well-edited transmissions and the similarity in style of almost all of the copy would indicate that either one editor carefully checks over all of the copy, even when it carries the by-line of a so-called "field correspondent," or a few editors with similar news backgrounds carefully check all copy before transmission.

It almost always takes the Communist NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY about two or three days to comment on important events.

RADIO MOSCOW'S KOREAN-LANGUAGE BROADCASTS

This review is based on daily programs monitored at 0300, 0430, and 0715 EST. The first two programs emphasize international affairs, whereas the third stresses news of more particular interest to Koreans. The propaganda line in all three, however, is that the Soviet Union wishes to unite Korea and rid it of the so-called interfering American imperialists.

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a. Commentaries: Moscow's Korean-language broadcasts follow the Soviet radio's general policy of including one commentary in each program. The commentary subjects range from diatribes against Anglo-American warmongering and imperialism to praise of the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union's leadership in the camp of peace. On such occasions as the convening of the Paris World Peace Congress and the anniversary of the October Revolution, on-the-scene recordings of Moscow celebrations are usually given in place of the regular commentaries.

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At least one commentary each day is devoted exclusively to Korean affairs. Frequent themes are: (1) the Soviet Union is the liberator of the Korean people; (2) the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is the sole legal government representing the people of both North Korea and South Korea; (3) the South Korean Government is the puppet government of Syngman Rhee, who is a traitor to Korea and a tool of the United States imperialists; (4) the United States hopes to transform South Korea into a colony and a military base in the Far East to be used against the people's liberation movement and the Soviet Union; (5) the United Nations Commission on Korea is an instrument of Wall Street and is carrying out the schemes of the imperialists.

The Moscow radio also praises the democratic reforms and the economic progress that allegedly have led to a higher standard of living for North Korea than for South Korea. Numerous reports on guerrilla activity in South Korea also are said to indicate how deeply the South Koreans hate the United States.

b. News Items: Except for somewhat more attention to Korean events, the substantive pattern of Moscow's Korean-language news items is otherwise generally undistinguishable

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from Moscow's news items broadcast in other languages.

There is a considerable time lag between news events and Moscow's Korean-language reporting of them. The lag appears to be greater than is true of Moscow's broadcasts to Western Europe. This is true even in news of great interest to Koreans. For example, the assassination of Kim Koo, chairman of the Korean Independence Party and past president of the Korean Provisional-Government in exile, was not reported until 28 June 1949, two days after it had occurred. Even quotations from the Pyongyang radio or the Chinese Communist NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, usually given with a TASS credit line, are broadcast at least two days late.

c. Announcing: During the past few years there has been a noticeable improvement in Moscow's announcing of the three programs monitored [redacted]. About two and one half years ago, for example, the programs were aired by one Korean-language announcer who spoke Korean with a decided Russian accent. Now, however, there are two announcers who speak Korean as if it were native to them.

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Two of the three monitored Korean-language programs are broadcast by a male announcer who reads his scripts carefully and pronounces his words distinctly. His tone is even and he paces himself well. He sounds like a well-educated Korean.

The third Korean-language program is broadcast by a woman announcer who sounds somewhat less educated than the man and whose broadcast style is less professional. Usually she becomes excited and raises her voice, especially when reading passages denouncing the American imperialists in South Korea, Syngman Rhee, or other representatives of capitalist countries. She does not pace herself well and gives the listener the impression she wishes to cram every possible word into her broadcast, with the result that she sometimes mispronounces words in her haste.

The sentence structure of all the monitored Korean-language items is generally consistent and would be intelligible to almost all Koreans.

KHABAROVSK'S KOREAN-LANGUAGE BROADCASTS

a. Content: Although most of Khabarovsk's Korean-language broadcasts are repeats of broadcast items originated by Moscow, the Khabarovsk station appears to have some freedom in initiating commentaries of its own, particularly on Asian affairs and economic developments in the Soviet Far East.

b. Announcing: The Khabarovsk announcers have poor radio voices, speech mannerisms which would not attract the Korean listener, a halting delivery, and a pronunciation of Korean which would indicate that they are not native Koreans.

The news scripts have a vocabulary which is simple enough to be understood by all Koreans. But unusual grammatical constructions and unidiomatic expressions are frequent.

MOSCOW'S JAPANESE-LANGUAGE BROADCASTS

On the average, Moscow's Japanese-language programs devote from five to seven minutes to Soviet news, about five minutes to international news, two or three minutes to music, and from ten to twenty minutes to commentaries.

Among the deviations from the general time allotments for various news categories were the prisoner-of-war messages which were first broadcast early in 1947 and continued until October of 1949. These messages consisted of the names and addresses of prisoners of war together with reassuring messages from them. These messages have been given only once--on 2 November 1949--since they were generally discontinued in October 1949.

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Recently a month's end program hitherto only broadcast irregularly has become a regular feature of the Moscow's Japanese-language broadcasts. In this feature, the announcer asks listeners to send in requests for programs or questions to be answered. In spite of the announcer's suggestions, however, only a very few listeners' requests have been answered, and those consisted of such innocuous questions as those concerning the role of women in a country like the USSR or comparisons of the Japanese and Soviet governmental systems.

The Moscow radio has often deviated from the regular broadcast pattern with such special features as "The Woman's Hour," "The Youth Hour," and a Sunday evening concert hour.

Although Moscow's Japanese-language propaganda themes follow the general Soviet propaganda pattern, there appears to be greater attention to the Japanese scene than in Soviet broadcasts beamed to other audiences. As everywhere, however, attention is called to the perfidy of the American imperialist warmongers who in the case of Japan are turning it into a military base for their nefarious purposes.

a. Announcing: All of the Japanese-language announcers currently used by Radio Moscow speak the language as if they were native Japanese.

Japanese monitors believe one of the women Japanese-language announcers 25X1 is Yoshiko Okada, a famous Japanese actress who went into exile in the early thirties. This particular announcer has an extremely dramatic manner of broadcasting. She uses the typical masculine style used in the Japanese press rather than the polite feminine style of Japanese with its frills and honorifics - "gozaimasu." (It is not considered good form for a woman to speak the masculine style of Japanese.) Although it cannot be conclusively stated that Yoshiko Okada is one of Moscow's principal Japanese-language announcers, it is known that she is with the Soviets and connected with the broadcasts from the USSR. The announcer believed to be Miss Okada has frequently come on the air with such announcements as, "this is Yoshiko Okada's impression of the October Revolution."

Moscow's poorest Japanese-language announcer is a man who at the end of each sentence drops his voice to such an extent that he often renders the entire sentence unintelligible.

b. The Japanese Style Used by the Moscow Radio: The style of Japanese used by the Moscow radio leaves much to be desired. The Japanese sentences ramble on into long series of phrases and clauses which often cover half a typewritten page. Such sentences often would appear to be almost unintelligible to the average Japanese listener, or at least difficult to follow. In the Japanese language, the subject with its modifiers, the object with its modifiers, and other sections of the sentences are given before the verb. And as a result of Moscow's exceedingly long sentences, a Japanese listening to the Moscow radio would have the confusing challenge of listening to and remembering a half-page sentence before he could understand what had actually been said.

There are, however, some differences in the styles of Japanese used over the Moscow radio. Some of the translators appear to translate more freely, thereby producing a more acceptable newscast than others who translate quite literally and produce a more stilted broadcast. Generally, however, the over-all translating could not be considered good, in spite of the fact that some translations are far better than others.

VIET MINH'S ENGLISH MORSECASTS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

a. General Characteristics: The Viet Minh station's English-language transmissions are limited almost exclusively to items of Indochinese interest. Daily reports from North, Central, and South Vietnam go into the minutest detail in reporting on the guerrilla activity against the French. Even details like "one French soldier was wounded and a dozen pairs of shoes were captured" merits mention on these Viet Minh transmissions. Weekly and monthly summaries of the progress of the guerrillas against the French are also given. What little foreign news appears is usually of direct concern to Vietnam and is given from both a nationalistic and Communist viewpoint.

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The operators of the Viet Minh station seem to be primarily concerned with giving their listeners every scrap of information about the progress of the struggle against the French, even if it means sacrificing current coverage for the sake of news months old. For example about two years ago when the fighting was heavy around Hanoi, the station went off the air in the middle of a transmission and was presumed to have been captured. About seven months later the transmissions were resumed with the announcement that the station had been bombed and that it was then operating in a new location somewhere on the Tonkin border. It then proceeded for the next several weeks to bring its listeners up to date on the war developments with a summary of all events which had taken place since the station was bombed.

Recently the propaganda blasts at the French centered on the attack by the French on the Vietnam center of Catholicism, Phatdiem. The Viet Minh reports emphasize the faith of the victims and picture the French as anti-religious.

The language used on the Viet Minh transmissions is often crude and extremely frank to the point of being objectionable. Many details of the rape and murder allegedly committed by the French would not be printable in the United States. The transmissions are also replete with such grotesqueries as "heartfelt afflictions" for the victims of the French.

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Generally the Viet Minh English Morse transmissions are the worst received from the Orient; they have more misspelled and misused words and poorer grammar than any other station.

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RADIO SEOUL'S KOREAN-LANGUAGE BROADCASTS

Although the Seoul radio stresses local news, it includes a few international highlights from the AP, UP, INS, REUTERS, or AFP, in each broadcast. The local news items usually cover comments and press interviews with President Rhee, Premier Lee, and other ranking government officials.

The news script is broadcast by a male announcer and is written in an intellectual prose and complex style which would appear to be over the head of the Korean man-in-the-street. As a matter of fact, the style sometimes even baffles professional Korean translators.

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Judging by the monitored broadcasts, the newswriters for the Korean-language programs use both Chinese characters and the more easily understood Korean alphabet in the preparation of their scripts.

It appears that Radio Seoul does not aim its broadcasts at the average listener as consistently as does the Soviet radio.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VOICE BROADCASTS FROM THE FAR EAST

a. Saigon in English: The Saigon radio's newscasts consist almost entirely of foreign news items. A typical program might begin with a Hong Kong or China item, followed by one or two items from India, and a sprinkling of internationally datelined news from such countries as Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Britain, the Philippines, and the United States. Local Indochinese news is played down.

The Saigon radio does not appear to be a very well-managed station or to take particular care in its presentation of its English programs. For example, this station's English programs, although scheduled for broadcast at 0500, actually begin any time from 0453 to 0502.

Little care also seems to have been taken to select announcers who speak fluently and without objectionable foreign accents. A woman announcer who makes most of the Saigon radio's broadcasts has a rather Anglo-French accent. Sometimes she pronounces common Chinese place names in such a manner as to make them virtually unidentifiable until the monitor has been able to check the item with other broadcasts from India or Singapore. One out of every five or six broadcasts is made by a man who is a more competent announcer. He, too, has a French accent.

b. Bangkok in English: Bangkok's English-language broadcasts are about equally divided between domestic and foreign news. The announcers use a slow, painful, sing-song English which is usually almost unintelligible. One of its programs consists of talks on such subjects as Siamese legends or instructions on the care and feeding of tropical fish.

c. Singapore in English: Singapore's news coverage parallels that of the BBC in London, except for the fact that most Singapore broadcasts begin with the latest figures in the bandit extermination campaign in Malaya. Singapore's announcer's follow the BBC's style of straight, unemotional news presentation.

d. New Delhi in English: About three-fifths of the items in the All-India radio's English-language newscasts are devoted to domestic events; the remainder are concerned with Far Eastern and other international developments. Speeches by such Indian leaders as Nehru and Patel are presented in extreme detail--even such addresses as those made in connection with the laying of cornerstones.

Indian announcers appear to have high professional standards and seldom mispronounce words in their crisp, British accents. In general, the All-India Radio adheres to the practices characteristic of the BBC and gives an outward appearance of complete impartiality. Its selection and structuring of the news presented, however, are done in such a way as to defend and further India's interests without appearing to do so.

e. Pakistan in English: The Pakistan radio's English-language broadcasts devote about three-fourths of their news items to domestic events and the rest to Far East and world developments.

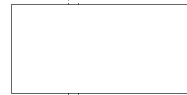
A typical program of Pakistan might include: a long report on an international Islamic economic conference; reports on the opening of new factories and terminal buildings at airports; a few denials of Indian statements (in the event of any India-Pakistan altercation), and some short foreign news items. A typical program contains about 30 different items.

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The Pakistan radio does not give as much of an appearance of impartiality as does the All-India Radio. In altercations with India, for example, it quotes statements from the Pakistan press that hit hard and directly at Indian policies and statements.

Foreign news that is broadcast by Radio Pakistan usually comes from REUTERS and is presented in a straight news style.

Pakistan's announcers have a British accent superimposed on what appears to be one of the local tongues. The result is a shorter, more clipped accent than that characteristic of the All-India radio announcers; the Pakistan announcers are somewhat more difficult to understand.

f. The Nationalist Chinese Radio (while at Chungking) in English: The Chungking radio devoted about ninety percent of its coverage to news of Chinese origin or of direct bearing on the civil war. A typical broadcast began with a statement by a government military spokesman on developments at the various civil war battle fronts, followed by a report about plans made by the executive Yuan, and a few reports from Macao or Hong Kong.

Although there was some admission on the part of the Nationalist radio that the Kuomintang government had its back to the wall, this was usually a qualified admission. War communiques reported that the Nationalists had met and repulsed the Communists in a certain sector, or that the battle in some other area had reached a stalemate. This type of reporting has continued from before the days of announcements that Shanghai would be another Stalingrad.

The Chungking radio announcers who broadcast the English-language programs spoke English so poorly that an untrained ear would at first conclude that the news was not being given in English. The English used by the Chungking radio contained many errors in grammar, poor sentence construction, and poor paragraph construction which sometimes required detailed study by editors before its sense could be determined.

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