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SOURCE Hsing-tao Jih-pao.

DISCUSSES RELATIONSHIP OF KOREAN WAR TO A THIRD WORLD WAR

The following editorial represents the definitely pro-Soviet policy now adopted by the Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao. There is no masthead to ascertain whether or not there have been personnel changes on the staff. However, the paper does not, as yet, carry a registration number from the Canton Military Control Commission. The only two Hong Kong papers carrying such registration numbers at present are the Wen-hui Pao and the Ta Kung Pao.

The present stage of the conflict between North and South Korea has not arisen from an essentially internal conflict, but from the expansion of the conflict between the US and the Soviet Union. The conflict resulted from the fact that the South Koreans were compelled to take a passive defensive attitude in answer to which the North chose an active offensive across the whole border at once into the territory of South Korea. This consideration would lead to the conclusion that the camp of people's democracy and socialism had decided to wage a pitched struggle against imperialism in Korea. However, this is not actually the case.

Wars are carried on by political governments, and they are based on certain socioeconomic systems. The Soviet economic system is built on socialism. The Soviet Union is not in danger of privation within its own territories. It does not require colonies or foreign markets. The socialist system does not need, as does the capitalist system, to resort frequently to foreign war in order to relax its internal conflicts.

One viewpoint is that socialism and capitalism must inevitably be in conflict. However, the Soviet Union does not wish to use her military strength or the power of world revolution to overcome capitalism. She firmly believes that time is on her side and that as time passes she will become stronger and the capitalist areas weaker. Therefore, her basic policy is to preserve her political power and carry on a peaceful economic race with the capitalist countries and thus win over or overcome the whole world. However, a militarily defensive policy must be aided by an aggressive political policy. A really peaceful policy is not one that merely waits in fear for the lightning of war to

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strike, but it encroaches on the defense lines of the imperialists and strengthens and expands its own war potential. Applying this principle to the present instance, the aggression of North Korea is merely an item in the defensive policy of the socialistic people's democratic camp.

To carry out this sort of policy it is necessary to make a sudden concerted attack in strength at a weak point of the enemy and, without provoking a general conflict, exploit it before he can gather his strength. South Korea was admittedly a weak point in the anti-Soviet orbit. The arbitrary division of the country at the 38th Parallel was opposed by both North and South Koreans of democratic tendencies. Syngman Rhee and his landlord party was opposed by all the workers and had no chance for survival. There was practically no distinction between his government and that of the Chinese KMT in its inefficiency and corruption.

The Forum, British Labor Party weekly, pointed out that the Rhee government was not worthy of any support from the West. General Hodge, the former American military governor, expressed himself as certain that South Korea was an indefensible spot. While some US officials now declare that the withdrawal of US occupation troops from South Korea was an egregious error, it was apparent that the Korean people were opposed to a continuation of the military government. The fact that the US only supplied the Rhee government with military equipment suitable for internal security purposes is evidence that the US believed that to furnish Rhee with high-quality military equipment would be the same as handing it over to the North Korean Communists.

The Soviet Union, aware of this attitude, grasped this golden opportunity to have the People's Republic overthrow the Rhee government, knowing that should the US directly intervene she would find it very difficult to secure the loyalty of the Koreans either to the Rhee government or to any US-sponsored regime, and should she not intervene, her prestige in all Asia would suffer a body blow. The US's strength would at the same time be dissipated.

While the US may be able to stabilize Europe by following the capitalistic line, in the Far East conditions are much different. Here imperialism and national liberation aspirations are in serious conflict. The Soviet is exploiting the idea of liberation to the fullest extent by supporting the CCP's claim to a seat in the UN, by declaring that she would not interfere in the Korean conflict, and by supporting the Viet Minh against Viet Nam. She realizes that the support of revolutionary programs is essential to her existence. But to say that the USSR supports liberation movements in the Far East is not equivalent to saying that she is ready to throw down the gauntlet to the US there in a military sense. She only wants the North Koreans to eliminate one of the US's Far Eastern bases. She is not ready to retreat entirely from the UN. She wants a place to employ criticism as a weapon. She will support the anti-imperialist antiwar struggle among workers outside her borders, but this struggle is really intended to promote peace. She does not yet desire war; in fact, she still wants to avoid it.

Although the US had long since decided that she and the Soviet Union could not exist together in the same world and was vigorously preparing for war, the Korean invasion took her entirely by surprise. While her military strategy was offensive, her political policy was defensive, in exact contrast to the policy of the Soviet Union. She desired to avoid all small diversionary conflicts until her strength was wholly mobilized. For this very reason it is the policy of the Soviet Union to wear the US out with small conflicts from Iceland to the Philippines and from Alaska to the Bosphorus.

During the first 2 weeks of the Korean conflict, representative US spokesmen, both military and political, all played down the likelihood of the Korean affair developing into a large-scale conflict. It is hardly likely that these sentiments were expressed merely for window dressing, but more likely represent

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their true sentiments. At the same time, the great clamor outside and inside the Congress indicates that the US is distressed. This distress seems to arise from the fact that the US's military preparations are not completed and the time for an all-out struggle has not arrived. The Korean squabble throws her plans off balance.

There is not sufficient determination to fight, and yet not to fight would bring about an intolerably floundering sort of situation. So the US took the action through the Security Council, condemning North Korea and ordering the Navy and Air Force to aid South Korea. Senator McCarran demands breaking off relations with the USSR and her satellites in order to recover the US's world leadership while at the same time avoiding a general war. This idea reveals the fact that the US is not ready for an all-out effort. The clamor from other Western nations for the use of a few A-bombs to settle the Korean affair indicates that these countries hope the affair can be settled between the US and the USSR without dragging them into it.

Utterances like Hoover's call for the expulsion of the Soviet Union from the UN, and Senator Tyding's pronouncement that while the US should make a strong campaign in Korea but should not get bogged down there, are simply another way of saying that the US should not allow pin pricks to divert her from her main military objectives. The US weekly, United States News and World Report, after setting forth the comparative strength of the US and the Soviet Union concludes by saying that should the war be staved off, military and economic strength should be increased. Should the war come soon, one side might win militarily, yet both sides would be completely exhausted economically.

The US authorities, while severely taking the Soviet Union to task for aiding North Korea, felt confident that the USSR would not take overt action, and so used these charges to arouse the people of the US and the world. While committing only naval and air forces to the action, they loudly proclaimed the great danger of the incident to world peace. Only thus could they arouse their people to commit all the material resources and manpower to preparation for war and lead the capitalistic countries to prepare quickly. The action of the Security Council and Lie's appeal to the member nations had the same purpose.

The US underestimated too greatly the strength of North Korea. (The strength of the laboring masses is often immeasurable on a material basis.) The naval and air forces were insufficient to save Rhee's government. The land forces committed later were also constantly defeated. Heavy bombings and coastal blockades were also unavailing. US defense chief Johnson wryly admitted that the North Koreans fought like devils. MacArthur constantly called for greater powers and more men and materiel, and stated that if the Korean battle were lost, the US would be finished in Asia. But, the passing days only more fully revealed the real gravity of the situation. Truman acknowledged that the US, with insufficient men and supplies, was meeting a force, well supplied and excellently led, that would require a heavy commitment of men and means to overcome. He called on the country and all the Allied nations to commit themselves rapidly to building up their economic and military strength in order to maintain their position as free nations.

Stock prices immediately responded to the Korean incident and stocks of companies making munitions and chemicals went up, as well as prices of rubber and other critical war goods. However, the US government recognized that though an all-out war could not be avoided and though the Korean incident might hasten it, plans for meeting the situation must be carried out in an orderly manner. The Congress took speedy action on extending periods of military service and on extension of the selective service. In steel manufacture,

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voluntary controls are still considered sufficient. Civilian defense measures are being speeded up under Symington's leadership, but will still take time to develop.

The question of manpower and resources controls is still left unsettled. A conflict is on over the matter of total or partial mobilization. One thing that holds the authorities back from rapid mobilization is the laboring classes. The poor masses have not yet been entirely anesthetized by the anti-Soviet and anti-Communist doctrine and completely bound to the Wall Street war party's chariot. Consequently, the White House authorities have to go slow, and while the war situation is still not too tense, prepare the minds of the workers to be soldiers and the operators of industry to be officers, and to place military controls on production.

On 2 July the iron range area in Minnesota and the steel-producing areas in the Midwest and East were declared military restricted areas. On 8 July Truman ordered the Fifth Army to take over the strike-bound Rock Island Railroad. The commander of that army requested the Department of Justice to prepare the necessary laws to control labor. McGrath and Tobin are now in process of preparing such legal procedures.

In the meantime Wall Street is working to strengthen its hand with labor. Last year at a meeting of the Steel Institute, Secretary Sawyer of the Department of Commerce openly advised the capitalists to employ funds to buy labor leaders and make their financial path easy so that they would be willing to take risks in carrying on the anti-Communist struggle.

This policy has already shown fruit. One week after the beginning of the Korean conflict, the head of the CIO Seaman's Union petitioned the Senate for an appropriation of over 700 million dollars for a big ship-building program in preparation for an all-out war. On 10 July Green of the AFL stated that the Korean struggle must be won, and the chief of the CIO announced that the CIO would cooperate with the AFL. What reaction will these declarations bring from the laborers? This will depend on the efficacy of the anti-Communist propaganda. To promote its war campaign Wall Street seeks not only to crush Communism and the Communist Party, but seeks to silence all voices of liberty and democracy and all agencies that are opposed to certain laws.

The FBI, the Un-American Activities Committee, and the Taft-Hartley law have already exercised a great effect. As the war hysteria arises, even Henry Wallace, the so-called "blind follower of Russia" and "Communist fellow traveler," has announced that, while he holds no brief for the actions of either the US or the Soviet Union in the past, now that his country is engaged in a war which is also supported by the UN, he must stand on the side of his country. Many are of the opinion that this turnover on his part is evidence of the intention of the US to start a war.

The US is making use of the Korean crisis to test out the attitudes, viewpoints, and determination of the Soviet orbit countries and to frighten them. The response of the UN members to Lie's appeal to them to support the US-sponsored Security Council resolution must have been disappointing. While most of them expressed agreement and support in principle, they were not willing to go further than that. They are all standing aside to watch the Soviet-US struggle. This has revealed to the White House that it must exert much greater pressure to strengthen the anti-Soviet front.

Senator Knowland raised the question of what these powers meant by taking a diffident attitude toward the struggle. He said that the US does not need any other country's military aid; she only wants them to take a stand on her side. Democratic Senator Benton said that while the US does not need military aid, the offer of even small forces from other powers will make it clear that this is not an imperialist undertaking. He referred particularly to such countries as the Philippines and Pakistan.

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Here the writer lists the responses of the various nations to the call to aid in the Korean campaign with the inference that all that acted favorably did so under US pressure. He concludes that their reluctance to act favorably arose from the likelihood that they would gain nothing, on the one hand, and the opposition of the masses in the various countries which made their rulers cautious, on the other. He emphasizes that the colonial countries and weak countries were especially reluctant. He cites a statement of the Eire foreign minister to the effect that the South Korean forces were resisting the will of the people, and a statement of the New Zealand prime minister that the conflict was only an extension of the Soviet-US conflict in which New Zealand did not care to become involved. The writer cites the debate in the British Parliament as very significant in revealing the conflict of ideas in the British government in this matter.

Truman has shown his concern over the apparent apathy of the nations toward the US's actions in Korea in letters to leaders of Congress in which he has indicated that he believes a great campaign of propaganda must be conducted to change the attitudes of other peoples if there is to be any prospect of lasting peace at all. What Senator Benton has called the "ideological Marshall plan" is only another weapon of Wall Street to bring all peoples under its demoniacal control and lead them into the terrible throes of a third world war.

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