

FBIS 137 FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ANALYSIS NOTE AG/WA

COMMUNIST MEDIA TREATMENT OF KOREAN SITUATION

PYONGYANG

*Hylmd, McFarlane, LL  
Sent to SCO 126*

AUTHORITATIVE DPRK MEDIA COMMENT ON 21 AUGUST, AS WELL AS THE INITIAL PYONGYANG MEDIA REACTION TO THE U.S. FORCES REMOVAL OF THE DISPUTED TREE IN THE JOINT SECURITY AREA (JSA) EARLY ON THE 21ST, SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT PYONGYANG IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH AVOIDING A FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE SITUATION.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING PEACE IN KOREA WAS STRESSED IN A 21 AUGUST NODONG SINMUN EDITORIAL WHICH PROVIDED PYONGYANG'S MOST COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE INITIAL INCIDENT AT PANMUNJON IN THE JSA ON THE 18TH. THERE HAS, AS YET, BEEN NO OFFICIAL NORTH KOREAN RESPONSE TO THE U.S. ACTION IN THE JSA ON THE 21ST. PYONGYANG MEDIA'S FIRST MONITORED REACTION TO THE ACTION WAS A DOMESTIC RADIO NEWS REPORT AT 0800 GMT--SOME 10 HOURS AFTER THE EVENT--DESCRIBING IT AS A U.S. ATTEMPT TO "TRAP" THE NORTH KOREANS AND ECHOING EARLIER WARNINGS THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD ACT DISCRETELY. PYONGYANG RADIO AT THIS TIME IS CONTINUING NORMAL PROGRAMMING.

#### PRESS COMMENT

THE NODONG SINMUN EDITORIAL'S TREATMENT OF THE INITIAL 18 AUGUST JSA INCIDENT SEEMED SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRAINED THAN PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS OFFERED BY DPRK MEDIA. THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED ONLY THAT THE U.S. FORCES HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO "COMMIT AN ACT OF VIOLENCE" AND THAT "VIOLENT FRACAS ENSUED...RESULTING IN INJURIES TO BOTH SIDES." OTHER PYONGYANG COMMENT WAS EMPHASIZED THE POINT, OMITTED BY THE EDITORIAL, THAT THE NORTH KOREAN GUARDS HAD TAKEN "SELF-DEFENSE" MEASURES. (THE U.S. FATALITIES IN THE INCIDENT HAVE STILL NOT BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY DPRK MEDIA.) BOTH THE EDITORIAL AND A COMMENTATOR ARTICLE--PUBLISHED IN THE SAME PAPER AND BROADCAST AN HOUR EARLIER--STATED THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHED A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AND INITIATED MILITARY ACTIONS "AS IF" THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY. EARLIER COMMENT HAD CLEARLY CHARGED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD DELIBERATELY CAUSED THE INCIDENT TO SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR FURTHER MILITARY ACTION, AND HAD NOT LEFT ANY ELEMENT OF DOUBT AS TO WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAD REALLY INTENDED. ELSEWHERE, HOWEVER, THE COMMENTATOR ARTICLE DID REPEAT THE EARLIER CHARGES THAT THE INCIDENT WAS A "PREMEDITATED" U.S. PROVOCATION.

WHILE PYONGYANG MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO WARN THAT WAR COULD BREAK OUT "AT ANY MOMENT" AND TO APPEAL FOR COMBAT READINESS, THE EDITORIAL ALSO STRESSED THAT NORTH KOREA WAS A "PEACE-LOVING COUNTRY" AND THAT IT WOULD "MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PRESERVE AND CONSOLIDATE PEACE IN KOREA." THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE OF THE WORLD TO DIRECT "DEEPER ATTENTION TO THE CRITICAL SITUATION" IN KOREA AND TO TAKE "PROPER STEPS FOR CURBING AND FRUSTRATING" U.S. ACTIONS TO "START A WAR." THE KYONGSUNG SINMUN COMMENTATOR ARTICLE SIMILARLY CALLED FOR WORLD SUPPORT TO THE "JUST STRUGGLE OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO PRESERVE PEACE IN KOREA AND THEIR NATIONAL DIGNITY." THE EDITORIAL ALSO CLAIMED THAT SUPPORT AT THE RECENT NONALIGNED SUMMIT FOR THE DPRK POSITION TO FORCE A U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND REALIZE THE "INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION" OF THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN A "TELLING BLOW" TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE EDITORIAL AND THE COMMENTATOR ARTICLE BOTH REFERRED TO THE ORDER OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER--REVEALED IN THE ARMY'S SUPREME COMMAND REPORT OF 19 AUGUST--FOR ALL UNITS TO BE IN "COMBAT READINESS." AT THE SAME TIME, THE EDITORIAL ECHOED OTHER PROPAGANDA IN CALLING ATTENTION TO NONMILITARY DUTIES, URGING THE PEOPLE TO DEVOTE THEIR ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC TASKS AND TO ACCELERATE "SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION."

#### REACTION TO KISSINGER

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CALL FOR DPRK EXPLANATIONS AND REPARATIONS FOR THE 18 AUGUST INCIDENT WAS FIRST ACKNOWLEDGED BY PYONGYANG MEDIA IN A 21 AUGUST DOMESTIC BROADCAST AT 1040. THE COMMENTARY, CARRIED SHORTLY AFTER BY KCNA, DENOUNCED KISSINGER'S DEMANDS AS A "NEW PRETEXT FOR DIRECTLY LIGHTING THE BLASTING FUSE OF WAR." THE NEWS AGENCY'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ACCOUNT OMITTED SOME OF THE COMMENTARY'S STRONGEST LANGUAGE WHEN IT DID NOT INCLUDE THE RADIO'S OBSERVATION THAT, RATHER THAN DEMAND AN EXPLANATION, THE "U.S. IMPERIALISTS" ARE THE "CRIMINALS" WHO SHOULD "KNEEL BEFORE THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND APOLOGIZE FOR THE PROVOCATIVE ACT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE CARRIED OUT." KCNA ALSO OMITTED THE RADIO'S CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD REVEALED ITS "INTENTION TO RESORT TO FORCE IF THE DEMAND IS NOT MET."

#### MOSCOW, PEKING

THE FIRST MONITORED SOVIET ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE 18 AUGUST INCIDENT CAME IN A MOSCOW RADIO REPORT, WIDELY BROADCAST TO FOREIGN AUDIENCES, WHICH NOTED NEWS AGENCY REPORTS THAT FOLLOWING AN "INCIDENT" IN THE DMZ THERE HAD BEEN A "CLASH" WHICH HAD RESULTED IN "SEVERAL DEATHS." THE MOSCOW REPORT WENT ON TO CITE KCNA AS CLAIMING THAT THE CLASH WAS PROVOKED BY THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH KOREA IN ORDER TO "AGGRAVATE" THE SITUATION IN KOREA. MOSCOW NOTED THAT U.S. FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA AND ROK FORCES HAD BEEN PUT ON ALERT BUT FAILED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NORTH KOREAN UNITS HAD ALSO BEEN ALERTED. THE STATEMENT MADE NO MENTION OF STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD OR SECRETARY KISSINGER ON THE INCIDENT BUT CLAIMED THAT "PENTAGON OFFICIALS" HAVE PUT OUT STATEMENTS "FULL OF THREATS."

PEKING MEDIA HAVE NOT REPORTED ANYTHING NEW ON THE KOREAN SITUATION SINCE KCNA EARLY ON 21 AUGUST FIRST ACKNOWLEDGED THE JSA CLASH BY REPORTING THE KCNA AUTHORIZED STATEMENT OF THE 19TH, THE DPRK REPORT OF THE 19 AUGUST MAC MEETING WHICH DISCUSSED THE INCIDENT, AND THE WPA SUPREME COMMAND REPORT.

21 AUG 2031Z SGG/RB