

Reports On Futility To Halt Tide Of Communism In Asia

Editor's note: After six months on assignment in Russia, Canadian Press reporter Bill Boss last spring went to Asia on leave and as a private individual. Back in Canada after several months in countries with which he became familiar during three years as CP correspondent with Canada as CP correspondent in Korea, Boss wrote four stories summing up his views of the area, and by the West in its effort to halt the tide of communism. These stories are presented by CP as Boss's personal impressions. The first is a general view of the Asian situation.

By BILL BOSS

Western prospects of salvaging something from the growing Communist hold on Asia seem hopeless to this observer.

The frittering away of lands and people and their progressive absorption into the Communist network seems as inevitable as the day after tomorrow.

DEFINITE PROGRAM

With 100 years' experience in propaganda, party organization and discipline, terrorism and grassroots appeal marshalled behind a definite program, the Communists know where they are going, what they want to do and how to set about it. They march to a timetable.

They have the accomplishments of 35 years' work in the Soviet Union and five in Communist China as a starting point. What the West considers intolerable demerits — notably the disappearance of personal freedom — count for little in Asia, where millions crave land on which to grow their own rice, and shelter and clothing and social services of which they have heard much and received little.

Only a definite, dramatic and dynamic program now for social and economic betterment can deter the Vietnamese from going Communist. Refugee figures in the thousands count for little in populations numbered by millions.

The West, with its primary concern for defensive frontiers, arms, guns, ammunition and mutual-defense alliances, does not seem capable of devising and putting across the necessary program within the short remaining time.

ORGANIZATION LACKING

Despite the \$750,000,000 the United States has poured into Korea since the armistice a year ago, the almost unbelievable fact is that there is no coherent, organized program for its rehabilitation. One-half the outfit has gone in support of the 20-division RoK army.

Millions have been spent in unrelated, diffuse projects while the United States, the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Korea Reconstruction Agency UNKRA have differed over the kind of country the new Korea is to be, the nature and organization of its economy, the method by which the task when agreed upon is to be accomplished.

Projects have been agreed upon simply because the field for reconstruction is so vast that mutually-acceptable ones abound. However, as building progresses the need for an over-all plan — and for a Korean economic and administrative house — cleaning becomes more urgent.

Formosa is becoming increasingly restive under the Chiang regime despite undoubted advances in land reform and peasant living standards. Formosans are weary of a government in most of whose decisions they have no say but which they must support. They share its hopes for a return to the continent but only because this will remove the yoke of supporting the "mainlanders" from their necks.

TWO MILLION REFUGEES

Hong Kong has shown great ingenuity in diversifying its trade, switching over from dependence on China to business with the entire Pacific basin. But although it continues to show a profit it has no program to absorb and care for its 2,000,000 refugees — called the "world's greatest collection of intellectuals." Refugees PhDs compete for jobs as street-cleaners there.

Water shortages have plagued the colony for years. Yet it still lacks sufficient reservoirs. During this reporter's visit water was rationed three hours a day — the population standing in 95-degree sun for hours, many with babies on their backs, waiting for the dribble to flow from public taps.

Two reservoirs now under construction.



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See Reds Seeking To Wreck Alliance In Southeast Asia, Divide U.S.-Japan

By RICHARD O'REGAN

VIENNA (AP)—World communism apparently got new orders from the Cominform Monday Speed up efforts to wreck any Western alliance in Southeast Asia and win Japan away from U.S. influence.

The journal's editorials are regarded by diplomats as instructions to rank-and-file Communists. One editorial praised France's rejection of a European army, and claimed the "glorious French Communist party" had headed the fight against the EDC. But it said that the struggle against German rearmament was not ended.

The second called for an international fight against the "revival of Japanese militarism." It claimed the United States is making "tremendous efforts to involve Japan in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization."

SCARE CAMPAIGN

A Western observer commented: "It seems the Communists hope to scare the Southeast Asians in the same way they have terrified many Europeans about German rearmament and thus prevent a SEATO alliance."

The editorial set forth the Kremlin's aims regarding Japan: "No participation in SEATO or other military blocs, withdrawal of American occupation troops, cancellation of all treaties and agreements signed between Japan and the U.S., the liquidation of monopolies and the creation of a 'peace-loving democratic state' — a Communist term applied to all Soviet satellites."

WEST'S SHOP WINDOWS

Until now Korea and Formosa, where U.S. money and military aid for five years have propped up Chiang Kai-shek's government, have been considered the West's shop windows in the Orient. Now Indo-China has set the time-table, for events there in 1956 cannot help but influence developments elsewhere in the Far East.

Unless the windows look better and a program is devised and implemented to strike the imagination of the Asian peasant, the challenge may go by default.



This happy trio are members of the 3rd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, serving in Korea with the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade. All from Prince Edward Island, left to right, are: Gnr. John Grant, Souris, Gnr. Alphonsus Chaisson, Morell, and Gnr. Ken Andrews, St. Eleanors.—(National Defence Photo).

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