

Conference Issues in Korea

HOW to reach a peaceful settlement of the Korean question will undoubtedly prove a very difficult problem to solve. Are North and South Korea to be unified, as Dr. Rhee has so often stated to be his objective—under his leadership of course? I cannot imagine the North Korean Communist Government agreeing "peacefully" to such a solution. Nor do I think that a division of Korea into two states would satisfy Dr. Rhee, even if the two could live "peacefully" together. Some pressure by outside powers might be necessary to prevent a recurrence of war between them and such a state of affairs could not be regarded as a peaceful settlement by anyone. It is too soon perhaps to speculate about the solution that will be reached, but it may well be that some such solution as this will be the one adopted. If so, the co-operation of Communist China will be essential.

But this is by no means the only important issue that will arise at the political conference. Another that is bound to arise, I think, is the question

Extracts from recent commentaries on the international news, broadcast from the main National Stations of the NZBS

of Communist China's right to China's seats in the United Nations and to her permanent seat on the Security Council. Russia will be represented at the post-armistice political conference, and her delegates will certainly raise this issue even if nobody else does, and will press it at least as vigorously as they have done for long past at meetings of the United Nations. Of course, the political conference could not decide this issue, but China may seek the support of those countries present at it when it is raised again (as of course it will be) at the United Nations meetings. No doubt, the attitude adopted by those countries—United Kingdom and United States among them—will influence China's policy regarding a Korean settlement.

It may well be that Russia is even more anxious than ever to win China's

support and goodwill. There have been some interesting reports recently about the political situation in North Korea. Russia's influence appears to be waning and China's to be growing. These reports, which have not been confirmed, may yet be true. The Communist Government of China has never, I believe, been a puppet of Russia. It has been willing enough to accept Russian aid, but will always take an independent line when it feels itself strong enough to do so. I am sure that Mao Tse-tung's Government must regard recent events in Europe as evidence of a weakening in Russian influence, and will not, I think, be slow to react to this. The reported conflict in North Korea between the Communist leader Kim Too-bong, who is strongly pro-China and a close friend of Mao Tse-tung, and the pro-Russia group led by the Prime Minister, Kim Il-sung, may perhaps be regarded as evidence of China's jealousy of Russia's influence and of a growing intention to adopt an independent line. Russia may therefore seek to strengthen the link between herself and China by pushing hard for admission of Mao Tse-tung's Government to the United Nations. As a result serious disagreement could arise between the United Kingdom and the United States.

I think that the United States should adopt the United Kingdom's policy on this issue, and not merely because

failure to do so may lead to a possible breach between them. Communist China may not . . . be as close to Russia as is usually believed, but refusal to admit her to the United Nations will help to keep the alliance between the two Communist regimes closer than it otherwise might be. I would have thought that the United States would seek to divide them—not unite them. . .

China, with a population of over 450 million—nearly a fifth of the population of the whole world—is far too large a nation to be excluded indefinitely from the United Nations, if that body is to be in fact what its name implies, and is to carry out its proper function. However we may regard Mao Tse-tung's regime, it is in fact the effective Government of China—Chiang Kai-Shek's certainly is not, and the United States is quite unrealistic in recognising it as the effective Government.

—PROFESSOR H. R. RODWELL,
August 1, 1953.

DR. MALAN'S gesture of offering Australia unasked-for help against India has been receiving support from South African papers. . . India is accused of having imperialistic designs in the Indian Ocean, and the paper *Die Transvaler* says that India seeks to put her overloaded millions around the In-

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