

Radio propaganda in the Korean War from the perspective of the psychological warfare of the UN forces

Reiko TSUCHIYA

This paper examines how radio was used for propaganda in the Korean War and how its content was analyzed, using documents related to psychological warfare of the US military, which was the mainstay of UN forces in the Korean War, for the period from 1950 to 1952. Radio and propaganda leaflets were two important tools in the psychological warfare of the time, and initially the Korean and Chinese language broadcasts of the Voice of the United Nations Forces (VUNC) were produced and transmitted together with VOA using NHK's broadcasting facilities in Tokyo. In these, reference to matters relating specifically to Japan was largely prohibited. Radio broadcasts from North Korea, China and other countries were also intercepted and analysed for content, probing the intentions and intelligence of the communist side. Meanwhile, once the Japanese peace treaty was concluded, the US military was discussing a policy of propaganda and public relations that would sustain Japanese goodwill as part of its psychological warfare, in contrast to the Japanese presence that had been erased in propaganda in the UN forces.