

Northern Forces Invade Republic Backed By U.S.

SEOUL, Korea (Sunday)—Forces of Communist North Korea launched a series of attacks into the American-sponsored South Korean republic today and the Northern Pyongyang Radio said that war had been declared formally effective at 11 a.m. (9 p.m. EDT Saturday).

The Moscow-supported North Korean forces attacked in heavy rain after mortar and artillery bombardments which started at 4 a.m. (2 p.m. EDT Saturday), reports to Korean Army headquarters said.

Shortly after noon, the Communist Pyongyang Radio said the North Korean government had formally declared war on this southern republic.

The text of the declaration was in Korean.

A report received at 9:30 a.m. (7:30 p.m. EST Saturday) indicated the North Korean forces had taken the town of Kaesong, 40 miles northwest of Seoul. Kaesong is headquarters of the 1st Division of the South Korean Army.

There was no immediate indication of the purpose or extent of the attacks, though reports received here said they were general in the frontier area. The frontier line is the 38th parallel of latitude.

—Frequent Guerrilla Clashes

There have been frequent guerrilla-scale clashes between forces of Russian-sponsored North Korea and the South Korean forces—but none, apparently, as large as those reported yesterday.

Threats have been made of an invasion of Southern Korea. One officer said here, on the basis of early reports: "This looks like the real thing." But there had been no intelligence reports of troop movements or concentration of supplies—such as would be needed for a real campaign—on the North Korean side. Also the rainy season is just starting, and the season is the worst of the year for troop operations. Military authorities emphasized that their reports were fragmentary and that the picture of the situation was vague.

U.S. To Hold Russia Responsible For Attack On Republic

WASHINGTON (UP)—State Department officials said last night that the United States will hold Russia responsible for the Communist North Korean attack against the independent South Korean republic which this country and the United Nations brought into being and have supported.

But there was no indication that the United States intends to take direct military action of its own in defense of South Korea.

North Korea is a nominally independent "people's republic" backed by Russia. While officials here did not say so for quotations, there was a general feeling that if the North Koreans have Russian support from Manchuria and elsewhere, they could overrun the south with comparative ease.

That would bring Communist forces to within 100 miles of the American flank in Japan and raise grave new problems in connection with the precarious western position in Asia.

The Korean embassy said that North Korea's declaration of war is "probably the next step of Soviet Russia to dominate Korea, Japan and probably the whole Far East."

Pyo Wook Hah, first secretary of the embassy, said that if "the attack is true, it should not be considered a local incident in Korea. It is a question that should not only concern the U. S., but the entire world."