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KOREA

1. Enemy making strong drive toward Taegu--Front line positions in Korea remained relatively unchanged during the past 24 hours while heavy fighting between small units continued. In the south sector, in the vicinity of Chinju, North Korean forces have managed a quick reorganization following the planned withdrawal of Task Force Kean and have initiated a limited offensive against the US 25th Division in the Kosong area. The enemy's main effort, however, appears to be in the direction of Taegu through the central sector held by the US 1st Cavalry and the South Korean 1st Division. In the heavy fighting going on in the vicinity of Waegwan, 1st Cavalry elements have recaptured an enemy-occupied hill and have inflicted heavy casualties. Simultaneously, however, a strong enemy attack has forced a 1200-yard withdrawal of elements of the South Korean 1st Division. North Korean forces are reportedly reorganizing and regrouping in this area and further attacks in the direction of Taegu are expected. Just south of Waegwan, North Korean forces are putting up strong resistance to heavy US counterattacks against the two bridgeheads on the east bank of the Naktong River. The situation of Pohang on the east coast is not clear although late press reports claim its recapture by US-UN forces.

Meanwhile, the South Korean National Assembly recessed on 17 August at the suggestion of President Rhee; the Assembly will reconvene on 1 September at Pusan. No official confirmation has been received of press reports that civilians have been ordered to evacuate Taegu and that Rhee and US Ambassador Muccio have both left the city.

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