

9 AUG 1950

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KOREA

1. UN forces maintain their attack in the south--UN forces east of Chinju continued their slow advance against determined enemy resistance during the past 24 hours. A short distance to the north, other UN troops are reducing the enemy pocket east of the Naktong river; in the Waegwan area, defending forces are increasing their efforts to liquidate other bridge-heads recently established by North Korean forces which pushed across the Naktong river. In the northern sector, South Korean forces have withdrawn under strong enemy attack. Heavy fighting continues near Yongdok, with no change in positions reported.

Reports from South Koreans who fled Seoul during the last half of July indicate that food is scarce and prohibitive in price. The North Korean regime is not bringing food into the Seoul area and is attempting to alleviate the shortages by executing blackmarketeers and hoarders. Laborers were conscripted to repair the Han river damage. The general populace, which is being kept well-informed by handbills air-dropped by UN planes, is reported to have confidence in the ultimate victory of the armed forces defending South Korea.

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