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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(23)

2 October 1950

(4)

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

Elements of the ROK 3rd and Capital Divisions have taken the North Korean east coast town of Yangyang, and other ROK and US units in South Korea are eliminating minor pockets of resistance and blocking routes of retreat to the north. Two UN mine sweepers sustained damage as a result of mines on the south and east coasts. Air activities were limited to strikes on North Korean lines of communication and close support missions.

Ground

Elements of two ROK Divisions -- the 3rd and the Capital -- have crossed the 38th parallel on the east coast and have advanced beyond Yangyang. A UP correspondent accompanying the ROK units reports that ROK forces were well received by the inhabitants of the occupied town of Yangyang. Other UN units continue to move toward the border encountering sporadic resistance in major communications centers. Forces in southwestern Korea report that the enemy is attempting to infiltrate toward the border through UN blockade. US Marine units encountered resistance near the south Korean communications center of Uijongbu north of Seoul as the 187th Airborne Regiment reported the Kumpo Peninsula west of Seoul cleared.

Navy

A US mine sweeper hit a mine on the east coast and a ROK mine sweeper hit a mine in the approaches to the southwestern harbor of Mokpo. UN naval units fired a small number of on-call missions for ground units in the Seoul area. Carrier aircraft continued attacking roads in the parallel region north of Seoul.

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Air

UN fighter bombers ranged over North Korea from advanced airfields, while B-29s continued attacks to destroy the north Korean rail net.

II. General Situation

US Ambassador Muccio reports that loss of life and property damage in Seoul and the surrounding area are "terrible and beyond description." Food is short, there is no water or electricity and the health hazard is great. Muccio states that although the population is in dire straits as a result of the harsh experiences of the last three months, the people are remarkably cheerful. President Rhee and virtually all members of the Korean Cabinet are in Seoul. Steps are being taken to clear away the debris and efforts are being made to restore electricity and water supplies as soon as possible.

R. H. HILLENKOETTER  
Rear Admiral, USN  
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