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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

14 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Enemy action in the period following the withdrawal of US forces south of the Kum River has been restricted to probing of the US-held river line and reorganization of major Northern units in the rear. Northern pressure is now being increased against the Southern First Corps in the Chongju area, however, and the early fall of that key defense center is anticipated. Further to the east, invading forces continue to advance slowly through difficult terrain toward the open corridors leading to Kumchon and Taegu.

In the Chochiwon-Kongju area the Northern 4th and 6th Divisions have relieved the 1st and 3rd Divisions. After a brief period of reorganization, the troops which have been relieved will probably join the enemy 2nd Division in forcing a breakthrough of the Southern First Corps in the vicinity of Chongju, thereby flanking both US defensive positions south of the Kum River and the city of Taejon. An enemy crossing of the Pogang River has already seriously threatened the First Corps position in Chongju. In the center, the Northern 15th Division has moved half way down the narrow pass leading from Chongju to Hamohang where the valley flattens out into a natural corridor leading to Kumchon. Farther to the east, the invaders have advanced several miles below Taryang, capturing Punggi and threatening the communication center of Yongju.

No reports of Northern Korean air or naval activities have been received in the past 24 hours. USAF and Australian air strikes during the period knocked out 9 enemy tanks and more than 50 vehicles, while continuing to harass lines of communication. Meanwhile, US fleet units along the Korean east coast bombarded roads, troop concentrations, railway yards and oil tanks in enemy-held territory south of the 38th Parallel. Results generally could not be determined. No report has been received on the result of the mining of the railroad tunnel south of Songjin.

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II. Other Developments.

The Foreign Office of the Republic of Korea has formally notified diplomatic missions and UNCOK representatives in Taejon that the government is moving its provisional capital to Taegu, 60 miles northwest of the port of Pusan. US Embassy personnel are also moving to Taegu.

Dr. Chough Pyungok, a former UN delegate who is a leader of the Southern "Citizens Emergency Committee," has just returned to Taejon from a trip through four Republican provinces, in which he spoke to audiences numbering as many as 10,000. Chough reports that the people remain calm and strong in their support of the Republic of Korea, and expresses the hope that Taejon can be held since, in Chough's opinion, the city's loss would probably be followed by loss of Korea's richest rice-producing district.

Meanwhile, Northern propaganda is taking the line that the US helped Chiang Kai-shek in China but withdrew when Communist strength became apparent. This propaganda line claims that the US will similarly withdraw its assistance from the Southerners when the Northern invaders have pushed further south.

R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence

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