

NLT 7A-60

ER 1-1909

38

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary: Task Force Kean's advance toward Chinju in the south has been accelerated and enemy resistance is weakening. In some areas, enemy forces are reported to be retreating, abandoning supplies and equipment. In the center sector, UN forces are continuing to reduce and eliminate bridgeheads and report no indications of enemy reinforcements of the bridgeheads. In the north sector, the Sixth and Eighth ROK Divisions have regained the positions held two days ago. The enemy, however, has captured the east coast town of Yongdok, and enemy elements have been reported as far south as Kigye, a district where guerrillas have also been reported. This movement on the east flank constitutes a serious threat to Pohang.

Sector Reports

On the southern front, the enemy is reported to be in retreat westward toward Chinju, abandoning supplies and equipment. The 35th RCT on the right has temporarily slowed its advance in order to contact the 5th RCT, moving forward in the center. Troops of the First Provisional Marine Brigade have resumed their advance on the left, heading toward the high ground southeast of Chinju. The 24th RCT, just behind the advancing forces, is engaged in mopping up enemy pockets remaining in the area west of Chindong. The enemy, although offering only light resistance now, may attempt to consolidate a new defensive position on the high ground southeast of Chinju.

In the lower center sector, just north of the junction of the Nam and Nakdong Rivers, the 34th RCT is attacking the enemy bridgehead reported in that area yesterday, and there are indications of an enemy withdrawal. Two enemy bridgeheads to the north, in the Waegwan

Declassified by 033769

26 SEP 1979

date

TOP SECRET

area, are under attack. It is believed that the northernmost of these two bridgeheads has been eliminated and there are no indications of enemy attempts to reinforce either bridgehead. Reports from the US First Cavalry (Infantry) Division estimate enemy strength in its zone of responsibility east of the Nakdong River to be only 150 men; other reports state that during the withdrawals, North Koreans fired on their own forces from the rear in order to prevent a retreat. Despite readjustments, the enemy will probably continue to probe for weak spots along the center sector, in the areas held by US and ROK forces.

The ROK Sixth and Eighth Divisions along the north sector have regained the ground lost by earlier withdrawals, but continue to be under heavy enemy pressure. The enemy will probably attempt to exert further pressure in the north, thus preventing the displacement of any reserves to the center sector.

The enemy Fifth Division, which appears to have been reinforced, has succeeded in recapturing Yongdok, on the east coast, and elements of the ROK Third Division are reported to have fallen back two miles south of Yongdok. Enemy troops have reportedly infiltrated as far south as Kigye, nine miles inland from the important east coast port city of Pohang, to join a concentration of guerrillas. The enemy forces, principally on foot, are believed to have used back roads and trails, and there are unconfirmed reports of an unknown number of tanks and artillery pieces in the area. The guerrillas are reportedly heartened by the infiltration, and the total enemy force poses a serious threat to Pohang and its adjacent airfield.

UN naval air units from the Seventh Fleet struck at Inchon and Seoul, destroying or damaging warehouses, oil storage tanks, railroad marshalling yards, and similar targets. The UN naval forces patrolling the west coast have maintained an effective patrol, although a Netherlands destroyer which has been damaged by running aground is being towed to Sasebo by a British warship. Effective naval bombardments were continued on the east coast.

UN B-29s carried out their heaviest attack to date, dropping 625 tons of bombs on targets in North Korea. Industrial targets at Wonsan were hard hit. Other UN air forces flew over 150 sorties in support of ground troops.

II. Other Developments

No significant developments have been reported in the past 24 hours.

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