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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(12)

4 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military SituationSummary

Action in Korea for the past twenty-four hours continues to be a planned withdrawal of the UN forces to the east bank of the Nakdong River and the occupancy of prepared defensive positions there. The enemy occupied Hamchang, Yechon and Andong. In the other areas, the enemy is still exerting pressure. Considerable railway traffic was noted, particularly along the east coast territory in North Korean hands. The South Koreans have occupied the city of Yongdok, and are in contact with the enemy forces approximately two miles north of the city.

Sector Reports

On the south sector, friendly units in the Wonbung-Chindong area were attacked sporadically by elements of the North Korean Sixth Division. North Korean forces, probing at a point eleven miles east of Chinju, withdrew under friendly fire. US patrols encountered 800-900 enemy troops supported by armor occupying dug-in positions at a point 14 miles east of Chinju. Enemy forces are attempting to reconstruct a bridge southeast of Uiryong.

In the west sector, US patrols met small arms fire at a point 11 miles east of Hyeonchon, and located enemy road blocks 8 miles east of Kumchon. East of Kwanggan approximately 10,000 enemy troops were dispersed in the hills, and 20 camouflaged tanks were discovered one mile east of the city. UN air attacks and artillery fire knocked out seven enemy tanks in this area. The North Korean Third Division has occupied the city of Kumchon.

In the east sector, the enemy occupied Hamchang, Yechon and Andong following the withdrawal of UN forces.

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The North Korean Fifth Division was driven from the city of Yongdok on the east coast; South Korean forces have occupied the city and are continuing in contact with the enemy, two miles north.

Heavy southward rail traffic was noted on the east coast above the 40th Parallel, with all marshalling yards loaded with rolling and stationary stock. A heavy concentration of box cars was noted at Songjin and Kilchu. Special efforts are being made by the enemy to use smoke screens in the Chongjin area to cover the marshalling yards and the industrial sections.

UN naval forces have continued to fire close support missions on the east coast, and have carried out several missions against enemy shore batteries. No sea traffic was noted on the west coast.

II. Other Developments

State
US Ambassador Muccio reports that the South Korean Cabinet, with President Rhee's approval, designated a "special war committee of the Cabinet" on 3 August, consisting of the Ministers of Defense, Interior, Transportation, Finance, and Commerce. The Special Committee will meet daily to receive military briefings and to consider non-military measures to support the war effort. The Cabinet also approved in principle the establishment of a military advisory council to assist the Defense Minister. The apparent motives for establishing such a council are to keep certain inactive generals occupied and to appease public sentiment favoring the appointment of General Lee Bum Suk (the former Prime Minister) as the Minister of Defense.

R. H. HILLENKOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
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