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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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11 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

Task Force Kean continues its advance along the southern coast against sporadic opposition. An enemy bridgehead of two-regiment size in the 24th Division zone is stubbornly resisting UN efforts to eliminate it. In the northern sector, little change is reported in the overall situation. An enemy force of two regiments, supported by artillery and tanks, has reportedly penetrated the ROK 3rd and Capital Divisions southwest of Pohang and is threatening the fighter airfield at Yonil. (Press reports, partially confirmed by a 5th Air Force pilot, indicate that the enemy has captured Pohang.)

UN naval and air activities were limited generally to close support of troops.

Sector Reports

Task Force Kean continues to advance along the southern coast. The Marines are last reported one mile north of Kosong proceeding against light enemy resistance. The Fifth RCT was held up by a determined enemy counterattack, but contact with the 35th RCT advancing in the north was reestablished.

An enemy bridgehead in the 34th Regimental zone of the 24th Division, above the junction of the Nam and Nakdong Rivers, is now reported to have attained a strength of two regiments reinforced by artillery.

In the central and northern zones held by the US 1st Cavalry Division and the ROK I and II Corps, enemy activity was limited to concentrating troops (possibly two divisions in the Yongdong area) and to minor probing in battalion or smaller strength.

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Although the enemy penetration in the Pohang area appears serious in that the minor port of Pohang may be lost and the fighter airfield at Yonil seriously threatened, only two enemy regiments supported by a few tanks and artillery have been identified as the invading force. Task Force Bradley (composed of a battalion of the 9th RCT, a company of engineers and a battalion of AA Automatic Weapons) has been ordered to secure the Yonil airfield. This Task Force is engaging the enemy southwest of Pohang. The ROK 25th Regiment and a ROK Marine battalion have engaged the enemy in the Pohang area. The crack ROK 17th Regiment (trouble-shooter of the UN forces) has been ordered to move against the enemy's eastern flank. Unless the enemy in the Pohang area is reinforced in strength, his forces will probably be dissipated or revert to guerrilla operations.

UN naval operations were limited to airstrikes in the Inchon, Kunsan, Mokpo area, and close support of UN troops in the southern sector. A naval patrol of the west coast showed no enemy water movement.

UN air action was concentrated in close support of units and B-29 attacks against bridges. Observation of the recent air strikes against Wonsan revealed the refinery inoperable, and serious damage inflicted on the marshalling yards and repair facilities.

II. Other Developments

State Ambassador Muccio advises that of the 20,000 South Korean personnel in training, an estimated 5,000 are now available for combat. A lack of hand and infantry support weapons, however, will prevent the employment of these 5,000, and Muccio recommends that adequate weapons be forwarded by airlift.

An unvaluated report states that the aggressors plan to announce the transfer of the "Korean capital" from Pyongyang to Seoul on 15 August. Although a previous announcement to this effect has not been publicly repeated, the 15th of August, as the anniversary of liberation from the Japanese, would have wide appeal to Korean nationalism, and the announcement of the transfer could be widely broadcast as a symbol of Korean unification.

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