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KOREA

1. Defenders withdrawing to Naktong river defense line--UN forces along the broad central front in Korea are making an orderly and planned withdrawal to new positions on the east bank of the Naktong river, which offers the best natural defense line in the area remaining in the hands of the defenders. Sharp attacks by fresh US troops have apparently blunted the attempt of North Korean forces to turn the extreme left flank east of Chinju; South Korean troops have again pushed back the invaders north of Yongdok on the east coast. The UN defenders now have limited reserve forces located in the areas of Pusan-Masan and Taegu.

UN naval forces bombarded the town of Mokpo along the southwest coast, and the east coast naval patrol continued to provide close fire support for UN forces in the Yongdok sector. B-29's made their third bombing raid on industrial targets in Hangnam (chemical center of North Korea); other air activity was limited to close ground support missions and attacks on enemy lines of communication.

The North Korean radio broadcasts are now claiming that elections have been held for "Peoples Committees" in virtually all the "liberated" provinces in South Korea. North Korean propaganda has always insisted that the Peoples Committees, which were banned in South Korea by the US Military Government in September 1945, were the rightful organs of government for all Korea. The "re-establishment" of these Committees has been consistently presented as the first step in the "liberation" of South Korea. The announcement of these "elections" paves the way for later propaganda claims that South Koreans have approved their integration into the framework of the North Korean Democratic Peoples Republic.

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