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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(1)

6 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

The front lines remained relatively stable in all sectors except the caved-in northern front from the Yongchon area to Pohang on the east coast. In this area, enemy attacks forced a UN withdrawal from Pohaig, and strong enemy units are threatening both Kyongju and Yongchon, key communication centers on the transportation network connecting Pohang, Taegu, and Pusan.

Bad weather seriously curtailed UN air support for ground units. Reconnaissance flyers continued to report large movements of enemy troops and vehicles southward along the west coast of North Korea, and two large convoys were sighted on the east coast moving south toward Pohang.

South Sector

The US 25th Division continued to hold its position against diminishing attacks by the enemy 6th and 7th Divisions. A pocket of 1,000 enemy troops in the vicinity of Haman was completely wiped out. Further to the north in the US 2nd Division sector, US Marines and elements of the 2nd Division pushed the enemy back to the Naktong River southwest of Changnyong and occupied defense positions along commanding terrain.

Center Sector

Units of the US 1st Cavalry Division withdrew from the walled town on Kasan mountain about ten miles north of Taegu, but the division continued to contain the enemy along its entire front. British troops in this sector went into action for the first time against enemy patrols east of the Naktong River.

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East Sector

The enemy remained relatively inactive on the UN left (western) flank in this sector, but the ROK 6th Division attacked to the north to close the gap between the division and the US 1st Cavalry Division on its left. There was little enemy activity in front of the ROK 8th Division, but further to the east, elements of three enemy divisions were pushing hard to cut the road running from Pohang through Kyongju to Yongchon. The enemy lost five tanks to combined UN naval, air, and artillery action north of Pohang, but forced the ROK 3rd Division out of Pohang. The situation in the area between Yongchon and Kyongju is obscure, but an extensive enemy breakthrough in the ROK Capital Division sector is threatening both cities. (Late press reports from Tokyo state that Yongchon has fallen to the enemy.) Reserve elements of the US 24th Division are moving into the area to reinforce the UN troops in the line.

Navy

US naval units cooperated in destroying five enemy tanks north of Pohang, and naval aircraft hit communication lines in northwest Korea.

Air

Bad weather limited UN air operations to the smallest number of sorties in five weeks. US heavy bombers encountered accurate flak in a raid on marshalling yards at Pyongyang and five planes were damaged.

II. General Situation

Counselor of Embassy Drumright advises that General Walker on 4 September issued orders for the immediate transfer of the UN military headquarters from Taegu to Pusan leaving only a skeleton staff in Taegu. (General Walker will remain with the skeleton staff.) The move has been dictated by the serious North Korean encroachment in the Kyongju-Yongchon area during the past two days where the South Korean forces have shown little capability to contain the enemy threats. General Walker advised the ROK Prime Minister to move the South Korean military headquarters to Pusan and this was scheduled for 5 September. The Prime Minister will shuttle between the two cities while the Home Ministry plans to remain in Taegu for the present.

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

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