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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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(7)

29 June 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Latest official reports (0700, 29 June Washington time — 2100, 29 June Korea time) indicate that Kimpo airfield has been re-taken by southern forces, who are also holding the road to Seoul south of the Han River. Southern forces are attempting to hold a line east of Seoul through Kungong-Chunchon and Chongsong. If this line cannot be held, southern forces plan to fall back to a line north of Teegu approximately along the 36th Parallel. Yesterday's air strikes by US planes against Han River bridges and northern forces north of the Han will assist in holding this line, but casualties of 50 percent and large-scale losses of equipment considerably reduce southern capabilities at this time. Morale of southern army ranks is good. US naval units have been in action against landing barges in the Kangnung area and no landings south of Sanchok have been confirmed. US naval aircraft are not in position to provide cover for the Suwon airstrip. Two other strips to the south, at Pusan and at Saishu (Cheju-do), are able to support F-80 operations.

The over-all situation is becoming clearer. Although the northern advance appears to have slowed, there is no indication yet that northern forces intend to halt at Seoul or retire. At this time, southern forces appear to have a slightly less than 50-50 chance of holding the present defense line.

II. Survival Potential.

According to the US Embassy, the Koreans are dispirited by the loss of Seoul and by failure of actual US military supplies to reach the troops. The same report estimates that a very strong effort on the part of the US Air Force and Navy will be needed in the next few days if the situation is to be stabilized. The south Korean Army,

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which has all of its forces committed, is reported to have lost about 50 percent of its combat effectives and police groups are now being used in combat. Field reports give the impression that the north Korean momentum has slowed down during the past twenty-four hours and, although no shortages in north Korean materiel are yet evident, the gradual attrition of tanks and planes should cause a deceleration of activities within a few days unless additional Soviet logistical help is received. If US aid can be effectively distributed in the next forty-eight hours, south Korean military morale will be improved. Meanwhile, order apparently prevails throughout south Korea and no reports of Communist guerrilla activity have been received.

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

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