

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

52

30 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary UN defenders in the east have been forced to withdraw from Kigye to positions 500 yards south of the town, and heavy fighting is continuing in the Pohang area. Other sectors have remained relatively quiet, with some increase in enemy activity observed in the south. UN naval units hit targets in west Korea, and executed call-fire missions as requested by ground troops. The air force flew nearly 600 sorties, attacking bridges at Seoul and marshalling yards at Seoul, Suwon, and Namwon.

South Sector

Considerable enemy activity has been reported from the south sector, particularly in the area toward Kosong, opposite the US 5th ECT positions, where the enemy made slight penetrations. The US 35th RCT, west of Masan, maintained patrols, but further to the north, below the junction of the Nam and Naktong Rivers, the US 24th ECT regained some ground against stubborn enemy resistance.

Center Sector

A few miles above the Nam and Naktong River junction, four boatloads of enemy troops attempted a crossing to the area formerly held as a bridgehead; one boatload was sunk by fire from units of the US 2nd Division, and the other three returned to the west bank of the river. Near Waegwan, on the west bank of the Naktong, the North Koreans have set up a loudspeaker as a propaganda device, probably to counteract the frequent dropping of leaflets by UN forces in this area.

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North Sector

An enemy attack below Uihung resulted in a slight gain, but the attack has been contained by ROK forces. Further to the east, near Chidong, ROK forces seized a hill recently lost. A small enemy group attacked the Command Post of the ROK 6th Division, but withdrew after a short fight.

East Sector

Strong attacks by the enemy have resulted in the loss of Kigye, as UN units were forced to withdraw to positions approximately 500 yards south of the town. Heavy fighting is continuing near Pohang, where the ROK 3rd Division is attacking but making slow progress. The platoon of enemy troops that set up a roadblock one mile south of Pohang has been dispersed, but another enemy roadblock has been established two miles southwest of Pohang. Small enemy groups remain in the general area around Pohang.

Navy

UN naval air units struck targets in west Korea, and supported ground troops in South Korea. Naval vessels executed call-fire missions in support of ground troops as requested. Patrols continued in Korean and Formosan waters.

Air

Bridges at Seoul and marshalling yards at Seoul, Suwon, and Namwon were targets of UN air forces in flying nearly 600 sorties. Two trains and a convoy were also attacked. Additional reconnaissance flights in the Kyeomipo area, where a 15-mile enemy column was recently attacked, resulted in further negative reports.

II. General Situation

According to a "South Korean" news source, a new tactic has appeared in the North Korean psychological warfare campaign. Wives and families still in occupied areas have been forced to write letters to South Koreans fighting for the UN, urging them to defect. The letters are delivered by refugees coming through the lines.

R. E. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
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