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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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18 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

The front lines remain relatively unchanged on the Korean front but heavy fighting between small units continues. The enemy's principal effort appears to be in the direction of Teagu through the area defended by the US 1st Cavalry Division and the South Korean 1st Division.

Sector Reports

In the south sector, the enemy 6th Division has managed a quick reorganization and has followed up the US withdrawal, reestablishing contact and initiating a limited offensive against elements of US 25th Division in the Kosong area.

To the north in the US 24th Division sector, the enemy is resisting strong US counter-attacks against the two bridgeheads on the east bank of the Nakdong River. The enemy 4th Division in the bridgehead west of Yongsan put up strong resistance to attacks by Task Force Hill, and in the bridgehead six miles south of Taksong, elements of the North Korean 10th Division resisted attacks by the US 21st Regiment.

Heavy fighting is in progress in the central sector in the vicinity of Waegwan held by the US 1st Cavalry Division and the South Korean 1st Division. A counter-attack by elements of the 1st Cavalry Division, supported by armor, artillery and air, recaptured an enemy-occupied hill one mile south of Waegwan and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. At the same time, an enemy attack forced a 1200-yard withdrawal of elements of the South Korean 1st Division. The US 27th BCT has been ordered to attack and restore the South Korean positions.

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in this key area north of Taegu. The enemy is reported reorganizing and regrouping opposite the South Korean 1st Division, and further attacks in the direction of Taegu are expected on this front.

In the north sector, action is generally limited to small unit actions with no significant changes in the line.

The status of Pohang on the east coast is not clear, but late press reports claim its recapture by UN forces. The withdrawal of the South Korean 3rd Division by sea from Yongdok to Kuryong-Pu-Ri, however, makes the North Korean 5th Division available for coordinated action with the enemy 12th Division against the line of communication from Pohang through Kyongju.

UN air forces continued heavy close support missions, concentrated in the Waegwan area. Heavy bombers hit targets in North Korea, including the Pogun Chemical Plant at Hungnam.

II. Other Developments

At the suggestion of President Rhee, the ROK National Assembly recessed on 17 August, and will be reconvened on 1 September at Pusan. Prior to recessing, the Assembly passed a proposal to establish township defense units to supplement the Youth Defense Corps. These units would perform non-military duties such as the detection of sabotage and have limited emergency police powers. All persons 14 years of age or over are subject to such employment.

Press reports indicate that the civilian population of Taegu has been ordered to evacuate the city, and that both President Rhee and Ambassador Muccio have left the city.

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