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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

24 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

The overall military situation remained relatively unchanged over the past 24 hours while both sides continued to probe and adjust lines. A decrease in pressure is reported in the Waegwan area, but enemy resistance is simultaneously stiffening in the north sector. UN naval action was limited to patrolling and bombarding military targets on the east coast. B-29's again attacked the chemical plants at Hungnam in North Korea with excellent results.

South Sector

The North Koreans are believed to be regrouping forces in the area immediately along the south coast. In the center of the sector, the US 35th Regiment patrolled 3,500 yards westward with no contact reported. PCK marines continue to hold Tongyeong.

Center Sector

All but one regiment of the US 24th Division has been relieved by the US 2nd Division. An enemy force of battalion size has been reported on the west bank of the Nakdong, immediately opposite the Taksong bridgehead which is still held by a regiment of the enemy's 10th Division.

Northeast of Waegwan, elements of the 23rd Regiment of the 2nd Division have cleared the main supply route of the 27th Regiment of the 25th Division. An estimated 1,000 enemy troops remain in the rear area. On the front held by the ROK 1st Division and the US 27th Regiment, a decrease in enemy pressure has been noted. A heavy enemy artillery concentration on the left flank of the ROK 6th Division has been reported.

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North Sector

Heavy enemy pressure on the right flank of the ROK 6th Division and the left flank of the ROK 8th Division caused a slight withdrawal of UN forces. The 16th Regiment of the 8th Division engaged elements of the enemy's 101st Regiment (a security unit) with considerable success.

East Sector

The ROK Capital and 3rd Divisions continued northward. Increasingly heavy pressure is reported in the easternmost portion facing the ROK 3rd Division.

Navy

UN naval forces continued patrolling and bombardment of the east coast. A delayed report states that immediately following the air attack on the British destroyer on 23 August, two fighter planes attacked an ROK naval craft in the same vicinity.

Air

B-29's bombed the fertilizer plant of the Hungnam chemical complex with excellent results. Close ground support and interdiction of lines of communication continued. Five new fighter-type aircraft have been identified at a North Korean airbase.

II. General Situation

Radio Pyongyang has broadcast a detailed listing of installations damaged and destroyed by UN bombing in North Korea. The list appears to be fairly accurate, and its release indicates that the Soviet Union considers the propaganda value of this information of greater importance than any military considerations involved in attempting to keep secret the effectiveness of the bombing.

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