

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(17)

13 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Northern Korean forces are continuing to press south of Chonan in the direction of Taejon and have forced the withdrawal of forward US units to positions south of the Kum River. Reports of simultaneous enemy movements west of Chonan indicate a possible attempt to flank the Kum River defense line from the West. Other Northern forces being held in reserve, are in a position to exploit any breakthrough to the east between the US right flank and the Southern First Corps left flank. There has been relatively little pressure on the First Corps in the past 24 hours, but enemy probing action against the Southern 6th and 8th Divisions in the Chungju-Tanyang area continues to threaten the corridor leading to Kumchon. On the east coast, no substantial changes have been reported.

The Northern air force has increased its activities. One B-29 and one US observation plane were shot down yesterday and Northern fighters, utilizing cloud cover, made several unsuccessful attacks on US fighters engaged in strafing missions.

Investigation by US surface units proved yesterday's reported fifty ships near Songjin to be fishing craft. Meanwhile, a US Navy demolition squad landed without opposition on the east coast near Songjin and laid explosives in a 300-foot railway tunnel on the single line directly connecting Northern Korea with the USSR.

II. Other Developments.

Reports from ECA observers indicate that no food shortages exist in areas which are presently under Southern control, and none are anticipated in the near future. This condition appears to be in part

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a result of the demolition of the Han River bridges during the early days of the invasion, a move which effectively prevented a mass exodus to the south and has minimized the refugee problem, ECA also reports that, although the Republican Government succeeded in removing its gold reserve of one and one-half tons before the capture of Seoul, both note reserves and currency printing-plates fall into the invaders' hands.

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