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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

UN forces in strength have crossed the Han River west of Seoul. In the southeast, UN troops have established another bridgehead across the Nakdong River, and are strengthening the previously gained bridgeheads. UN forces have captured the Walled City and east coast port city of Pohang. Naval and air force units are continuing close support and interdiction missions.

Ground

Inchon Front. Elements of the US 1st Marine Division have crossed the Han River west of Seoul in strength, while other elements have engaged enemy forces south of the river. The ROK marines on the left flank have encountered troops of the North Korean 107th Security Regiment. Kimp'o airfield is in use.

Southeastern Front. In the south sector, the US 35th and 27th Regiments on the flanks have made advances, but strong enemy resistance held back the US 24th Regiment in the center west of Haman. The US 23rd Regiment of the 2nd Division further to the north established another bridgehead across the Nakdong River west of Yongsan, while the 38th Regiment consolidated the crossing west of Changryong. The UK 27th Brigade repulsed two small scale enemy attacks near Hyonpung. The US 24th Division reinforced the bridgehead across the Nakdong due west of Taegu. The US 1st Cavalry Division northwest of Taegu made slight gains against strong enemy resistance, and elements of the division advanced to Waegwan. ROK forces along the north sector recaptured the Walled City, and advanced generally along the line from Kasan to Pohang. In the east sector, ROK forces re-entered Pohang, and gained high ground overlooking Kigye.

Navy

Carrier-based naval and marine aircraft flew 191 sorties, providing close support for ground troops and attacking enemy transportation facilities, vehicles, and troop concentrations in the vicinity of Seoul. UN surface vessels maintained the west coast blockade. On the

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east coast north of Pohang the ROK marines were evacuated from the beached LST by life rafts through heavy surf; some ROK personnel refused the life raft journey, and chanced an escape south through the enemy lines.

Air

Kimpo airfield is in operation, and cargo planes have already flown 215 tons of supplies into the field. Other air force units flew 357 combat sorties in support of the UN troops on the southeastern front. Bombers continued strikes against rail lines, marshalling yards, troop barracks, and other military targets, concentrating on those most immediately affecting the enemy's attempts to reinforce troops in the Seoul area from the north.

II. General Situation

North Korean communiques continue to minimize the seriousness of the Inchon landings and to claim that counterattacks are underway to destroy the beachhead. Although Radio Pyongyang has admitted actions that UN forces have taken the offensive in southeastern Korea in recent days, the broadcasts continue to claim success for Communist arms in this area. The North Korean people have not yet been informed by the Communists that the UN landings at Inchon may necessitate a North Korean withdrawal from southern Korea.

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