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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

1. Military Situation

Summary

The action in Korea during the past 24 hours was characterized as a planned withdrawal of UN forces to defensive positions on the east bank of the Nakdong River. The enemy continued to exert heavy pressure on all fronts, particularly in the Chinju and the Hyopchon areas. In the east coast battle for Yongdok, the South Korean forces succeeded in penetrating the eastern portion of that city against determined opposition from the enemy's Fifth Division.

Sector Reports

On the south coast, a limited counterattack by a US regiment succeeded in delaying the advance of the enemy's forces and in allowing friendly forces to withdraw and organize defense positions west of Masan.

Heavy pressure continued on the front held by the US First Cavalry Division in the western sector. The First Cavalry delayed the enemy advance and secured a perimeter in the Waegwan area to allow a southward withdrawal of the US Twenty Fifth Division. The Twenty Fourth Regiment of the Twenty Fifth Division is delaying the enemy's advance east of Sangju.

In the eastern sector, the ROK First and Second Corps executed a withdrawal from Hamchang and Andong to new defense positions along the south bank of the Nakdong River. The ROK withdrawal was covered by the ROK First Division in the Hamchang area, and by the Eighth Division in the Andong area.

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The ROK Third Division has succeeded in penetrating the town of Yongdok on the east coast against bitter enemy opposition.

UN reserves consisting of the US Fifth and Ninth Regiments and elements of the First Marine Brigade are concentrated in the Pusan-Masan and Taegu areas.

UN naval forces bombarded the town of Mokpo. The east coast patrol continued to fire close support missions in the Yongdok sector. A US destroyer patrolling along the south coast reports that no enemy troops are on the island of Namhae.

A third heavy bombing of industrial targets at Hungnam was made by B-29s but no official reports of results have been received. Other UN air action was limited to close ground support missions, and attacks on enemy lines of communication.

II. Other Developments

The North Koreans are claiming that elections have been held for "People's Committees" in all "liberated" provinces in South Korea, except the southern half of Kangwon Province and this omission is probably an oversight. The Communist propaganda line in Korea has always insisted that the "People's Committees" (banned by US Military Government in South Korea in September 1945) were the rightful organs of government and "re-establishment" of the "People's Committees" has consistently been put forth as a first step in their announced programs for "liberating" South Korea. The announcement that "elections" have been held in South Korea paves the way for future propaganda to the effect that the South Koreans have approved integration of their area into the framework of the "Democratic Peoples Republic".

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

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