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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

23 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

There was little change in the ground situation during the past 24 hours. The enemy continued to press his attack along the south coast and in the Waegwan area. The North Korean forces in the bridgehead six miles south of Taksong, in the 24th Division zone, were reinforced by an undetermined number of troops.

UN naval and air action was limited to routine patrols and close ground support missions.

South Sector

Limited counterattacks by the three defending regiments of the US 25th Division succeeded in regaining ground lost yesterday west of Masan, but heavy enemy pressure continues. A number of prisoners from the enemy 4th Division have been taken in this area, which may indicate that the 4th Division, decisively beaten in the Changnyong bridgehead, has been redeployed southwards.

Center Sector

The areas defended by the US 24th Division and the US 1st Cavalry Division remained generally quiet. Elements of the enemy's 10th Division not only continued to resist, but also to expand slightly in the bridgehead six miles south of Taksong. The US 2nd Division is relieving the 24th Division. The ROK 1st Division and the US 27th Regiment were heavily engaged in the northwestern corner of the sector above Waegwan. An enemy infiltration in unknown strength succeeded in cutting the 27th Regiment's line of communication and an element of the US 23rd Regiment is attempting to reduce this threat.

Declassified by 033769

date 26 SEP 1979

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The surrender of a North Korean Lieutenant Colonel, Commander of an artillery regiment of the enemy 13th Division, may indicate the untrustworthiness of personnel in this division and other divisions in the series numbered above the first six.

Northern Sector

Little activity was reported in this sector. The ROK 8th Division continued patrolling northwards in an effort to make contact with the enemy.

East Sector

The ROK Capital and 3rd Divisions advanced slowly northwards against light resistance. The 18th Regiment on the left flank of the Capital Division withdrew 500 yards under heavy enemy pressure.

Naval

UN naval activities were limited to routine patrolling and coastal bombardment. A British destroyer off the Ongjin Peninsula was damaged by two North Korean YAK fighter planes.

Air

UN air action was limited to close support and interdiction of lines of communication. The RAAF fighter squadron has been cited for outstanding efforts.

II. General Situation

The Communist radio in Seoul has announced that the "land reform" program has been completed in "liberated" Kyonggi and Kangwon Provinces. The "land reform" program for South Korea was originally announced by Radio Pyongyang on 5 July 1950. In general the "land reform" ordinance is the same as the one implemented in North Korea in 1946, providing for confiscation and free distribution of land; but, initially at least, it permits larger individual holdings of land, and also exempts from confiscation and re-distribution former Japanese land that was sold to farmers in the partial land reform carried out by the US Military Government in 1948.

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