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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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31 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

In South Korea the appearance of seven cases of small pox in Pusan is a warning of the SUMMARY public health situation. An epidemic of refugees crowd the southeast section of Korea and Korea is threatened by the introduction of Korean public health facilities. Enemy activity has been confined to minor attacks, with heaviest pressures near Chinju in the south and Hamchang in the west sector. (Latest press reports state that both Chinju and Hamchang have fallen to the enemy.) Movement of troops and materials from rear areas to front lines have been considerable.

SECTOR REPORTS

In the south, an undetermined number of North Korean troops attacked elements of the US Nineteenth Regiment near Chinju. Numerous enemy troops and vehicles were observed in the vicinity of Hadong.

In the lower west sector, elements of a North Korean Division attacked the US Thirty-Fourth Regiment with unknown results.

On the main western sector, the US First Cavalry Division was subjected to harassing mortar fire and ten miles west of Sangju an armored attack was launched against the US Twenty-Fifth Division.

In the east sector near Andong, elements of the Eighth ROK Division were attacked by approximately 800 troops of the Seventh North Korean Division, in what appeared to be another attempt at encirclement.

Below Yongdok, on the east coast, the Third ROK Division succeeded in repulsing the left flank of the opposing Fifth Korean Division.

Units of the Seventh Fleet have continued bombardment and carrier air strikes, and have also been engaged in attempts to protect the south flank of UN forces in the Chinju area.

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II. Other Developments.

According to Radio Pyongyang, Kim Il Sung, Communist Chief of North Korea, told a French correspondent of "L'Humanite" that although US "intervention" has protracted the war, the Korean people are firmly determined to fight until they "take over the whole country" by themselves. Kim made no mention of foreign support, except to say that the Army is guaranteed enough weapons and ammunition for victory. He ascribed the certainty of a North Korean victory to "unity" and "determination" of the Korean peoples, and to the lack of a whole hearted effort by American citizens and soldiers who do not desire "this kind of war."

In South Korea the appearance of seven cases of small pox in Pusan is a warning of the dangerous public health condition developing as refugees crowd the southeast section of Korea and force a breakdown of the inadequate Korean public health facilities. Ambassador Muccio believes that the menace of epidemics provides an excellent opportunity to solicit international participation in non-military activities in Korea.

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

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