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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(27)

26 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

North Korean forces, employing an estimated nine divisions across a broad front, are now within 75 airline miles of Pusan along the southern coast road, 105 airline miles from Pusan along the Yongdong-Taegu-Pusan main rail line, and 90 airline miles above Pusan along the east coast. Despite heavy losses in frontal attacks and disrupted and extended lines of communication, the enemy maintains heavy pressure along the entire front, and still outnumbers the three US Divisions and four South Korean Divisions.

The advance of the enemy Fourth Division in the southwest, probably assisted by the enemy Sixth Division, has secured practically all of that area, and advanced elements have moved east to Hadong on the coast road to Pusan. In the western sector the enemy has continued heavy attacks southeast of Yongdong and forced elements of the US First Cavalry to withdraw to new positions three miles east and south of Yongdong. On the right flank of the US First Cavalry Division, the northern Second Division forced the US Twenty-Fifth Division to withdraw several miles. In the central sector there have been only slight changes in the front lines. A northern build-up continues in the Tanyang-Punggi-Yongju area, however, and the appearance in this area of fresh enemy troops - the First, Seventh, and Eighth Divisions - against the untested South Korean divisions increases the immediate possibility of a major enemy effort to break through to Taegu. On the east coast enemy strength has been increased in the Yongdok area by the appearance there of the Fifth Division, and additional enemy troops in undetermined strength are moving south along the east coast road below Samnabok.

US and British fleet units conducted a carrier air strike against southwestern Korea Tuesday, but in 100 sorties over the Kunshan-Mokpo-Kwangju area the pilots could find no enemy troop

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concentrations or movements. It is apparent that the enemy observes strict camouflage discipline and moves on the roads by night whenever possible.

II. Other Developments.

No significant developments reported during the last twenty-four hours.

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