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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Northern Korean forces continue to exert heavy pressure along the entire front, from Kongju to Tanyang. The weight of enemy artillery, tank, and infantry attacks forced all US and Southern units at the front to withdraw. The ability of the Northern forces to use two or three divisions against the four US battalions deployed in the Kongju-Chochiwon area probably will enable the invaders to continue their advance in this sector to the banks of the Kum River, nine miles north of Taejon.

In the Chongju-Umsong area, units of the Republic's First Corps were forced to make a planned withdrawal to defense positions along the Pogang River. Further to the east — in the Chungju-Tanyang area — elements of two Northern Divisions probed the positions of the Southern 6th and 8th Divisions astride the Hamchang corridor leading south to Kunchon.

Several Northern aircraft made an appearance over Southern Korea yesterday but failed to press attacks against US planes. US air operations were limited and a total of three Northern tanks were reportedly destroyed.

During the night of 11 July, a US naval plane made radar contact with approximately 50 ships close inshore near Songjin, north of the 38th Parallel on the east coast. Course and speed of the formation were not determined.

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II. Political Stability.

There have been no significant developments affecting political stability in South Korea. Reports from Southern areas occupied by the Northern invaders, however, confirm earlier statements that recruiting for military service is in progress in Seoul. The Northerners have also instituted a compulsory labor draft, perhaps for emergency transport work in an attempt to replace conventional transportation facilities damaged by US air strikes. Food is reportedly becoming scarce in Seoul. The "People's Committee" in the former Republican capital began taking a strict census on 5 July, apparently in order to search out families of Southern military, police, and governmental personnel.

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