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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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2 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

The situation in the main battle area (Seoul-Suwon) is obscure, but official reports state that the town of Suwon and the nearby airfield were still in Southern Korean hands at 0700 2 July (EDT). Contrary to earlier expectations, Southern Korean forces apparently maintained their position along the Han River yesterday, although they were not able to prevent all Northern crossings. Infantry, tanks, and trucks of the Northern forces now appear to have crossed the river, and a build-up for attacks in force toward Suwon and Inchon is believed to be in process.

Detailed information regarding the present strength and disposition of Southern Korean ground forces is lacking. Elements of four divisions are believed to be in the Suwon area. The total of combat effectives in Southern Korean forces is estimated to be not more than 30,000. Northern Korean effectives, in contrast, are believed to total 100,000. The US 24th Division has been ordered to Korea. One provisional battalion, including mortar, bazooka, and recoilless-rifle teams, has advanced north of Pusan to undertake delaying action, but no contact with the enemy has yet been reported.

Northern Korean pilots took the initiative in attacks against US aircraft during 1 July, displaying determination and employing good air tactics. Anti-aircraft fire observed near the Kimpo airfield appeared to be radar-directed. Good weather predicted for today should permit increased USAF activity.

In the course of naval activities on 1 July, six Northern Korean motor torpedo boats, operating in the vicinity of the 38th Parallel on the east coast, were intercepted by US and UK naval units, and five were destroyed.

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II. Survival Potential.

State [USAF attacks appear to have slowed the momentum of the Northern advance and Southern Korean Army morale is reported to have improved as a result. Civilian refugees are streaming south from the area of fighting, however, and President Rhee has left the provisional capital at Taejon for an undisclosed destination in the south. Meanwhile, US Ambassador Kuccio reports that, as a result of the arrival of US ground forces, there is no question of Southern Korean determination to carry on.

The Northern Korean regime has thus far made little or no use of such "political" weapons as sabotage and guerrilla activity behind Southern Korean lines. The possibility exists, however, that such steps will be taken. An additional danger has been seen in the possibility that the Communist regime may force Southern middle-of-the-roads or officials who are in Northern Korean custody to make statements calling for Korean "unity" and an end to US and UN "interference." Reports that some Southern political figures, who remained voluntarily in Seoul, are "cooperating" with the Northern invaders, lend added weight to this possibility.

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

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