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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

9 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Northern Korean forces in the Pyongtaek-Ansong area are continuing to exert heavy pressure in their advance beyond Chonan. Except for a Northern advance into Chungju, the front line further to the east has remained relatively stable.

The Northern advance in the Chonan area has trapped one battalion of the US 24th Division and has forced the retreat of another US battalion south to Kongju. The best remaining Southern force, the Capital Division, is heavily engaged in the Chinchon area, and late US press reports from the front claim that other Southern troops, in battle near Chungju, have inflicted heavy casualties on Northern forces. Meanwhile, a Southern regiment has moved north from Pusan and is in contact with the enemy at Yongdok on the east coast.

No air action by Northern forces was reported during the past 24 hours. Strikes by USAF planes knocked out 2 bridge spans at Samchok and hits were reported on a bridge at Yongdok. Naval bombardment by US and UK units has cut the east coast road south of Samchok.

II. Political Stability.

A Communist broadcast from Seoul has announced the membership of the "Seoul People's Committee," an organization which is undoubtedly destined to be the Northern regime's device for giving a legitimate facade to Northern decrees and demands for all-Korean "unity." With the exception of the Chairman, this committee is made up of Southern Koreans of varying degrees of prominence (most important is Kim Kiu Sik, formerly Chairman of the interim Legislative Assembly during the US military occupation), and also includes various public officials and Assemblymen whom the Republican Government had imprisoned as Communists.

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Although no new developments have been reported in the past 24 hours in the field of guerrilla activities, CINCFE (Commander-in-Chief Far East) believes that the pattern of Northern Korean concentrations along the east coast represents the possible assembly of guerrillas who have staged uprisings following Northern successes elsewhere. CINCFE also reports, without evaluation, that there are indications of popular unrest north of the 38th Parallel, particularly in the Hamhung area. The existence of organized anti-Communist groups in Hamhung had been reported periodically for more than a year before the outbreak of hostilities.

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