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NOTE DATED 20 MARCH 1953 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED
BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations
presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and
has the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Security Council,
United Nations Command communique No. 1,558, issued in Tokyo Thursday,
March 19, 1953.

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO. 1,558, ISSUED IN
TOKYO 10:00 A.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1953 (KOREAN TIME)

Ground fighting in Korea yesterday centered in the far western sector of the battlefield. Two enemy platoons attacked United Nations Command positions west of the Imjin River early yesterday morning, forcing an initial withdrawal by friendly troops. During the action which followed, friendly elements were reinforced several times and called down heavy artillery and mortar fire on the enemy. Sporadic fighting continued for nearly five and a half hours before United Nations forces reoccupied the position unopposed. A short distance to the east, another probe by two reinforced enemy platoons was repulsed after a forty-five minute engagement shortly after midnight yesterday.

Other minor enemy probing action occurred in the east central sector as United Nations Command forces in positions east and north-west of the Punchbowl repelled a number of small attacks after brief engagements.

Medium bombers struck heavy blows against the enemy last night, dumping tons of high explosives on a supply area south of Huichon. In other night bombing activities, the mediums hit a marshaling yard at Naewonsan-ni and battle-line targets while night intruders pounded supply convoys and other enemy positions along the front. Delayed reports described one of the largest medium bomber strikes of the Korean conflict late Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning at Pungba-Dong and against enemy battle-line positions. Enemy supplies, a factory and troop concentrations were targets at Pungba-Dong. Fighter bombers struck enemy troop concentrations and supply areas and routes yesterday, leveling buildings and destroying six bridges.

A nitro plant at Hamhung was the target of carrier-based aircraft with numerous fires reported following the attack. Other carrier planes operated against installations and troop positions along both coasts, inflicting heavy damage on roads and truck convoys. Surface elements continued to bombard coastal installations from the front lines north to Aozauki, destroying sixteen and damaging nineteen shelters.

