

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



GENERAL

S/1756
2 September 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE DATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1950 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
TRANSMITTING THE THIRD REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMAND IN KOREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF
7 JULY 1950 (S/1538)

The Representative of the United States to the United Nations presents his compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honor to refer to Paragraph 6 of the Resolution of the Security Council of July 7, 1950, requesting the United States to provide the Security Council with reports, as appropriate, on the course of action taken under the United Nations Command.

In compliance with this Resolution, there is enclosed herewith, for circulation to the Members of the Security Council, the "Report of the United Nations Command Operations in Korea for the Period 1 to 15 August, 1950."

S/1756
/UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES ATTENTION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

September 2, 1950

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND OPERATIONS IN KOREA
FOR THE PERIOD 1 to 15 AUGUST 1950

I herewith submit report number three of the United Nations Command Operations in Korea for the period 1 to 15 August, inclusive. Details of these operations are contained in Eighth Army Communiques numbered 13 to 40 inclusive and Korean releases numbered 178 to 253.

A general description of the operations for the period is as follows:

Enemy action during the period was characterized by a rapid follow-up of United Nations withdrawals and a tightening of the squeeze of the lodgment area in southeastern Korea. Two major penetrations of the United Nations position were effected and maintained during the period, and at the close of the period a third potential penetration loomed as the result of a progressive enemy concentration.

Along the south coast, enemy forces drove through Chinju on the 1st of August and contained a two-pronged attack in the direction of Masan, with two major units, the north Korean 4th and 6th Divisions. The deepest penetration in this sector was reached on the 6th of the month when north Korean forces were stopped eight miles west of Masan by a United Nations counter-offensive. Task Force Kean launched the first United Nations attack in this sector at 0630 on 7 August. This force consisted of the 25th U.S. Infantry Division, the 5th U.S. Regimental Combat Team, the 1st U.S. Provisional Marine Brigade, and a Republic of Korea force of battalion size. The purpose of this attack was to remove the southern threat to the Pusan base and secure suitable defense areas. The attack progressed smoothly and efficiently with minimum losses to United Nations forces. All units reached their objectives by 13 August after having advanced about twenty miles. This attack not only secured the southern approaches to the beachhead, but also showed that the north Korean forces will not hold under attack. The "withdrawal" of some of the north Korean 6th Division units became a full retreat. Much north Korean equipment was abandoned to United Nations forces during this operation.

To the north of this sector, in the early part of the period, the operations of United Nations forces followed the trend reported in my previous reports. Units were on extended fronts of fifteen-thirty miles per division with light liaison only possible between units. Penetration and infiltration could not be prevented and a strategic withdrawal became necessary. On the night of 2-3 August, the U.S. 1st Cavalry and 24th Infantry Divisions conducted an orderly

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planned withdrawal of about twenty miles to the Nakdong River line. The enemy advanced east from Kochang to close on the Nakdong River line by the 4th of August. Patrols of this force, identified as the 4th Division, probed up and down the river line under the cover of an artillery duel. On the 6th of the month, the enemy selected his crossing site at a bend in the river eight miles south of Fugong-n.

Crossings began on the night of the 6th, and by the 8th the enemy had pushed one regiment into the bridgehead in the face of repeated local counter-attacks. By the 14th of the month the enemy had pushed probably the bulk of his division into this bridgehead at great cost in casualties.

In the central part of the sector, generally astride the Kumcheon-Taegu axis, the enemy drove hard against UN forces from three directions on August 1st, and then promptly followed the planned United Nations withdrawals from the area. The enemy used his front-line pre-war divisions in this area, the veteran 2nd, 3rd and 1st Divisions. The significance of these dispositions is best portrayed in a comparison of frontages, the Republic of Korea 1st Division held a front of twelve miles while its neighbor to the south, the 1st Cavalry Division covering Taegu held a front of twenty-eight miles, in a disposition of regiments abreast along the river front. This discrepancy of numerical and tactical strength which was critical from the beginning of the campaign has improved slightly but never to a point of security for the United Nations forces. They are compelled to continue the fight at great odds.

By the 4th of the month the enemy closed on the Nakdong River line opposite Waegwan and again, as in the south, began probing for a crossing site. Twenty miles southwest of Taegu a small enemy force filtered across the river and disappeared into the hills before it could be destroyed. Northwest of Taegu, at Waegwan, the enemy pushed two battalions across on the 8th of the month. The next day the 1st U.S. Cavalry Division and 1st Republic of Korea Division attacked and forced the enemy to evacuate the remnants of this force to the west bank of the river. When the enemy deployment terminated, an estimated five divisions were employed in this sector, and near the end of the period there were indications of a general concentration of forces across the river from Waegwan in preparation for heavy assault.

Against the northern part of the line the enemy drove down the Chungju-Taegu axis and the Yonju-Andong axis with a total of three divisions, the 13th, 15th and 8th Divisions. Under this attack and to preserve the continuity of the line with the withdrawal of U.S. forces described above, it was necessary to direct the I and II ROK Corps to withdraw to better defensive positions. The Republic of Korea Army withdrawal was conducted in an orderly fashion on the successive nights of 2-3 and 3-4 August. Hamchang and Andong were secured by the enemy on the 3rd, and the parallel drives continued against the stiffening resistance of the Republic of Korea forces in this sector. Three enemy regiments concentrated in an attack from Yonggi-dong on the 9th and drove as far as Kunwi, twenty-five miles north of Taegu, but were forced to withdraw in the face of United Nations counter-attacks on the 11th to a general line through Uisong. Republic of Korea forces conducted their defense operations with determination and inflicted heavy losses on the attackers.

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On the east coast the town of Yongdok changed hands twice during the period. On the 3rd of the month the enemy lost the town to attacking forces of the 3rd ROK Division, but by the 10th he had built up his forces in the area sufficiently to retake the town and drive a few thousand yards south. Inland from the Yongdok-Pohang-dong axis an enemy force of two regiments, later identified as elements of the 12th Division, filtered through the rugged mountain trails over a period of days. By the 9th this force reached the general vicinity of Fige, ten miles west of Pohang-dong, and by the 12th of the month had entered Pohang-dong and had driven within mortar range of the United Nations airfield in that vicinity. By the 10th of August this threat was considered sufficiently serious to again readjust the Republic of Korea and some U.S. Army Forces. This readjustment resulted in another local withdrawal to the line: Kunwi, Kusan-dong, Changsa-dong.

At the end of the period the hard-pressed enemy 4th Division retained its bridgehead across the Nakdong River west of Yongsan. On the east flank the enemy continued to draw off United Nations forces in the east by his deep penetration to Pohang-dong, and slowly concentrated his forces north west of Taegu poised for a final drive to Taegu and Pusan. Enemy committed forces now consist of twelve fully identified divisions with a possibility of two additional.

In the enemy rear areas a large troop concentration was reported near the northeastern border of Korea indicating possible recruitment of Koreans from southeastern Manchuria.

Augmentation of United Nations forces in Korea during this period included the 2nd U.S. Infantry Division and the 1st U.S. Provisional Marine Brigade from the U.S., the 5th U.S. Regimental Combat Team from Hawaii and an increase in U.S. combat and service support units. During the close of the period a material number of U.S. tank units were arriving and will soon be ready to enter combat. The Republic of Korea Army continued to improve its organization and combat effectiveness. Several new ROK Infantry Regiments that had been previously activated and undergoing training were ready and committed to combat during the period. The Republic of Korea Army is showing determination and gallantry in the defense of its country, and developing increased tactical skill and maneuverability. There are still no United Nations ground units assisting the Republic of Korea in Korea except U.S. Army and Marine units. These units continue their gallant and effective action although heavily outnumbered and reflect their excellent peacetime training.

The information I have received on the size and type of units offered by Member Nations shows a united and determined spirit in the nations of the United Nations to repel the invader of the Republic of Korea that is gratifying. I still feel it my duty to report to you that contributions must be forthcoming without delay if this threat to international security is to be resolved promptly.

/United

United Nations Naval Forces now comprising warships from eight nations are operating under the control of the United Nations Naval Commander, Vice Admiral C. T. Joy. The co-ordinated efficiency of this command is an exemplary operation in proving the ability of the United Nations to quickly assemble their naval strength in distant areas and operate jointly with great effectiveness. Such a co-ordination of naval strength by so many nations in an area so far distant from home naval bases is unparalleled in history. Recent augmentations to this formidable force have included significant additions of United States aircraft carriers.

These naval forces have been continuously engaged in their tasks with every increasing effectiveness. To meet the threat of increasing numbers of troops and supplies coming from the northernmost regions of Korea, naval aircraft have been employed in interdiction missions to disrupt rail and road facilities and road networks. Naval aircraft have also been employed with excellent results on north Korean strategic targets including barracks, oil installations, factories, warehouses, power stations, marshalling yards, and railroad stations, vehicle and supply concentrations. In close support of the Infantry, naval aircraft operating in almost continuous application, and guided by ground controllers, have found a great number of various military targets in the battle area. At sea, naval aircraft have ranged the coasts, striking military targets along the enemy lines of water communications.

Naval surface craft have continued the constant patrol and interdiction of enemy water, rail and highway movement along both coasts. On the east coast cruisers and destroyers have been bombarding as called for and in direct support of the Infantry, in addition to their patrol functions.

Naval escort of troop ships and shipping continues to guarantee arrival of additional men and supplies in the battle area, and safe evacuation and care of wounded.

United Nations Naval Forces were virtually unhampered by the enemy. On the 2nd of August a duel between an enemy shore battery and a destroyer cost the enemy his shore battery.

Since the enemy is apparently forcing civilian labor to his use, problems of identification have become difficult. At sea the enemy is using every available craft, but United Nations forces in close co-ordination with the South Korea Navy are making every effort toward proper identification in order to allow continuance of innocent fishing. On land, civilians are carrying supplies in push-carts and donkey carts which burn and explode when strafed. The enemy hides vast quantities of military equipment in civilian dwellings, resulting in the necessity to fire and destroy such dwellings when such information is firm. However, the problem of avoiding the killing of innocent civilians and damages to the civilian economy is continually present and given my personal attention. The United Nations forces are urgently endeavoring to restrict destruction to the established military forces of the invader.

/United States

United States Far East Air Force medium bombers struck heavy blows at north Korean industrial targets of military significance and at the north Korean transportation system. The Korean manufacturing complex, the largest in the Far East, and the oil refinery at Wonsan, have been extensively damaged by successive attacks. The marshalling yards in Pyongyang, Wonsan, and Seoul have been repeatedly attacked, as have yards of less consequence. A general transportation interdiction program continues with destruction of rail and highway bridges along principal lines of communication. The rail and port transportation center at Najin-dong was also bombed.

A heavy toll of north Korean troops and materiel strength is being taken by the Far East Air Force light bombers and fighters and by Royal Australian Air Force fighters in close ground support action. From three hundred to five hundred sorties are now flown daily by United Nations Air Forces committed to action in Korea.

The intensity of night intruder missions by fighters and light bombers has been stepped up with gratifying results.

Against United Nations air activity the enemy still refuses to send his diminishing air force aloft in strength greater than one or two planes at a time. The enemy lost a total of fourteen aircraft destroyed with additional numbers damaged, but managed to increase somewhat the volume and effectiveness of his anti-aircraft fire.

During the period a total of four hundred sixty-four north Korean prisoners were taken by United Nations forces. This brings the total collected to date to seven hundred nineteen. I have extended the proclamation I issued as Commander-in-Chief of all United States Forces in the Far East with regard to treatment of prisoners so that it now applies to all forces of the United Nations Command. I have accepted Mr. Frederick Bieri, International Red Cross, as an accredited delegate to this command under Paragraph 3, Article 10, and Paragraph 4, Article 26 of the Geneva Convention relative to treatment of prisoners of war, 12th August 1949. Mr. Bieri has been provided logistic support in Korea and given full opportunity to carry out his mission. Mr. Bieri's reports show clearly that the orders for compliance with the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention are being carried out. Mr. Bieri's reports prove to the world that the discipline and treatment of prisoners of war are excellent in the United Nations Command prisoner of war collecting points, enclosures, and camps. Capture cards are mailed to Geneva promptly. In addition, I have established a branch Prisoner of War Information Bureau in the Provost Marshall Section of the United Nations Command where all required data in regard to enemy prisoners of war is recorded and copies transmitted through Washington to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

/United Nations

United Nations radio broadcasts and air-dropped leaflets are the only major channels of accurate information still open to the Korean people. An additional 2,230,000 leaflets and news sheets, making a grand total of 27,230,000 have been dropped by aircraft over north Korean and occupied territory, and regular broadcasts totalling two and one-half hours continue daily. The highest priority is being given to messages designed to save human life. Civilians are warned daily to move away from military targets that must be bombed. North Korean soldiers are being informed of the humane treatment guaranteed them as prisoners of war, and encouraged to lay down their arms and abandon the cause of aggression. Despite communist tactics of terror and intimidation to prevent reception of these leaflets and radio messages, there is increasing evidence of their effectiveness among those whom the communists have so ruthlessly denied access to the truth.

Summary:

Army: United Nations Army Forces are still out-numbered and hence were required to conduct some strategic withdrawals. The United Nations base area has been correspondingly reduced. The fluid conditions of the ground combat have been considerably stabilized. The United Nations treatment of prisoners of war conforms with the Geneva Convention.

Navy: United Nations Naval Forces continue their important missions with increased effectiveness. In both Naval and Air operations strict measures are enforced to insure no attacks against innocent civilians or needless destruction of the civilian economy of either Republic of Korea or north Korea.

Air: United Nations air power is growing in strength and effectiveness particularly in the capabilities of the bombers. Co-ordination between ground and air units is improving the effectiveness of the Air Forces in close support of the ground units.

In Conclusion:

I am glad to report that during this period the cohesion displayed by the United Nations Forces of this Command has proven the validity of the United Nations concept for peace.

My gravest concern is for a prompt build-up of the now outnumbered ground forces of this command.
