

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



GENERAL

S/1518
29 June 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CABLEGRAM DATED 29 JUNE 1950 FROM THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON KOREA TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TRANSMITTING A REPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FIELD OBSERVERS

FOLLOWING REPORT DATED 24 JUNE FROM UNITED NATIONS FIELD OBSERVERS SUBMITTED TO COMMISSION ON THEIR RETURN FROM FIELD TRIP ALONG 38TH PARALLEL COMMENCING 9 JUNE TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS LIKELY TO INVOLVE MILITARY CONFLICT IS FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION:

"GENERAL SITUATION ALONG PARALLEL. PRINCIPAL IMPRESSION LEFT WITH OBSERVERS AFTER THEIR FIELD TOUR IS THAT SOUTH KOREA ARMY IS ORGANIZED ENTIRELY FOR DEFENSE AND IS IN NO CONDITION TO CARRY OUT ATTACK ON LARGE SCALE AGAINST FORCES OF NORTH. IMPRESSION IS BASED UPON FOLLOWING MAIN OBSERVATIONS:

1. SOUTH KOREA ARMY IN ALL SECTORS IS DISPOSED IN DEPTH. PARALLEL IS GUARDED ON SOUTHERN SIDE BY SMALL BODIES TROOPS LOCATED IN SCATTERED OUTPOSTS TOGETHER WITH ROVING PATROL. THERE IS NO CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS AND NO MASSING FOR ATTACK VISIBLE AT ANY POINT.
2. AT SEVERAL POINTS, NORTH KOREAN FORCES ARE IN EFFECTIVE POSSESSION OF SALIENTS ON SOUTH SIDE PARALLEL, OCCUPATION IN AT LEAST ONE CASE BEING OF FAIRLY RECENT DATE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT SOUTH KOREAN FORCES HAVE TAKEN ANY STEPS FOR OR MAKING ANY PREPARATION TO EJECT NORTH KOREAN FORCES FROM ANY OF THESE SALIENTS.
3. PROPORTION OF SOUTH KOREAN FORCES ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ROUNDING UP GUERRILLA BANDS THAT HAVE INFILTRATED INTO THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA IN THE EASTERN SECTORS. IT WAS ASCERTAINED THAT THESE BANDS ARE IN POSSESSION OF DEMOLITION EQUIPMENT AND ARE MORE HEAVILY ARMED THAN ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.
4. SO FAR AS EQUIPMENT OF SOUTH KOREAN FORCES CONCERNED, IN ABSENCE OF ARMOUR, AIR SUPPORT, AND HEAVY ARTILLERY, ANY ACTION WITH OBJECT OF INVASION WOULD, BY ANY MILITARY STANDARDS, BE IMPOSSIBLE.
5. SOUTH KOREA ARMY DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN POSSESSION OF MILITARY OR OTHER SUPPLIES THAT WOULD INDICATE PREPARATION FOR LARGE SCALE ATTACK. IN PARTICULAR, THERE IS NO SIGN OF ANY DUMPING OF SUPPLIES OR AMMUNITION, PETROL, OIL, LUBRICANT, IN FORWARD AREAS. ROADS GENERALLY ARE LITTLE USED AND APART FROM CONVOY FOUR

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TRUCKS TAKING COMPANY FROM KANGNUNG WESTWARD TO JOIN ROUNDING UP GUERRILLA BAND, NO CONCENTRATION TRANSPORT ANYWHERE ENCOUNTERED.

6. IN GENERAL, ATTITUDE SOUTH KOREAN COMMANDERS IS ONE OF VIGILANT DEFENSE. THEIR INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT GO BEYOND RETIREMENT IN CASE OF ATTACK UPON PREVIOUSLY PREPARED POSITIONS.

7. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY EXTENSIVE RECONNAISSANCE BEING CARRIED OUT NORTHWARD BY SOUTH KOREA ARMY NOR OF ANY UNDUE EXCITEMENT OR ACTIVITY AT DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS OR REGIMENTAL LEVELS TO SUGGEST PREPARATION FOR OFFENSIVE ACTIVITY. OBSERVERS WERE FREELY ADMITTED TO ALL SECTIONS VARIOUS HEADQUARTERS INCLUDING OPERATIONS ROOM.

8. OBSERVERS MADE SPECIAL POINT INQUIRING WHAT INFORMATION WAS COMING IN REGARDING SITUATION NORTH OR PARALLEL. IN SOME SECTORS IT HAD BEEN REPORTED THAT CIVILIANS HAD RECENTLY BEEN REMOVED FROM AREAS ADJOINING PARALLEL TO NORTH TO DEPTHS VARYING FROM 4 TO 8 KILOMETERS. ANOTHER REPORT RECEIVED DURING NIGHT THURSDAY 22 JUNE AT REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ONGJIN WAS TO EFFECT THAT THERE WAS INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN VICINITY CHUYLA ABOUT 4 KILOMETERS NORTH PARALLEL. NO REPORTS HOWEVER HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OF ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY ON PART OF NORTH KOREAN FORCES THAT WOULD INDICATE ANY IMPENDING CHANGE IN GENERAL SITUATION ALONG PARALLEL."

SZU-TU,
Acting Chairman
United Nations Commission on Korea