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NOTE DATED 5 OCTOBER 1950 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TRANSMITTING THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 7 JULY 1950 (S/1588)

The Representative of the United States to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations 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 "Fifth Report of the United Nations Command Operations in Korea for the Period 1 to 14 September 1950".

/UNITED STATES
s/1834

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

October 5, 1950

FIFTH REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND OPERATIONS IN KOREA
FOR THE PERIOD 1 to 14 SEPTEMBER 1950

I herewith submit report number five of the United Nations Command Operations in Korea for the period 1 to 14 September, inclusive. Eighth Army communique numbers 66 through 89 and Korean releases numbers 353 through 437 provide detailed accounts of these operations.

Ground Operations

On 1 September the North Korean high command, employing thirteen infantry divisions, two new tank regiments, and elements of a previously identified command division, launched their strongest offensive to date against the United Nations position in Korea. This comprehensive attack, which constituted one of the enemy's major efforts to date initially struck hard at the United Nations positions south of Tuksoong and, within two days, had extended over the entire United Nations perimeter.

His initial effort, in the south, was unsuccessful. At the southern end of the front the enemy 6th and 7th Divisions had been driven back 3,000 yards to their original positions by 3 September, through determined counterattacks of the U.S. 25th Divisions supported by other United Nations forces. Thereafter, despite constant attacks, north Korean forces made no advances in this sector.

Farther north, in the Nakdong River area between Hyonpung and the Nam River, the 10th, 2nd, 4th and 9th enemy Divisions plus armored elements began a general offensive eastward over the Nakdong which scored initial advances of 6,000 to 8,000 yards against bitter resistance by the United Nations forces. By 5 September, however, the enemy had lost the initiative, and was forced to give ground under heavy United Nations forces' pressure. By the end of the period, the enemy retained only a two to three mile strip east of the Nakdong River.

The enemy 3rd and 13th Divisions achieved gains of similar magnitude (6,000-8,000 yards) along the Taegu salient, from 4 to 11 September, in some of the heaviest fighting of the war. By that date, United Nations forces had absorbed the drive on Taegu, and began to register slow progress against strong enemy resistance. In the Sinnyong sector, the Republic of Korea 8th Division had gained about 3,000 yards by 4 September. During the series of heavy, but indecisive engagements which followed, United Nations forces blocked further enemy advances.

The British 27th Infantry Brigade joined the United Nations forces in the defense of the Nakdong River line on 7 September. This unit has assumed its proportionate share of the United Nations operations in that sector and is engaged in defensive operations and systematic police action to eliminate small enemy parties in the rear areas.

/In the Haison-Angang

In the Haeson-Angang sector near the eastern flank of the United Nations perimeter, the North Korean 15th and 12th Divisions posed a most serious threat temporarily. Initiating heavy attacks near Kigye on 3 September, enemy forces penetrated to within four miles of Kyongju by 5 September, though the threat to Kyongju was vitiated by United Nations counterattacks the next day. On 8 September, the enemy occupied the important town of Yongchon, but was driven out almost immediately by prompt aggressive action of Republic of Korea Army units. At his furthest advance the enemy had seized an area almost ten miles deep and fifteen miles wide in this sector, seriously threatening United Nations communications. However, beginning on 11 September, Republic of Korea and United States Army units conducted vigorous counterattacks and advanced up to six miles on the west flank of the pocket, relieved pressure on Yongchon and Kyongju, and threatened the North Korean forces in turn with encirclement.

On the east coast the North Korean 5th Divisions, after yielding some ground to United Nations attacks, resumed the offensive on 4 September. This offensive coordinated with the North Korean 12th and 15th Divisions' penetration on the west of Pohang-dong necessitated a withdrawal of the Republic of Korea Army units holding Pohang-dong. Following their withdrawal these same Republic of Korean Army units counterattacked and established a firm line two miles south of Pohang-dong.

During the period, the most significant gains were made initially along the north and west flanks where enemy forces drove to within seven miles of Taegu, penetrated the lateral road net between Yongchon and Kyongju, and seized Pohang-dong. By 12 September, however, the momentum of the attacks was largely spent and the enemy was forced to fall back in the face of counterattacking United Nations forces. This abortive effort had cost the enemy an estimated 10,000 casualties without any significant losses to the United Nations forces either in territory or in combat effectiveness. At the end of the period, the United Nations perimeter ran northward from Yulchi on the south coast, to the confluence of the Nam and Naktong Rivers, thence north, parallel with, and two miles east of the Naktong River to Hyonpung, thence along the river for fifteen miles, thence, northeast through Sin-dong in a broad arc extending eastward below Haeson and Angang to the east coast at a point two miles south of Pohang-dong.

Naval Operations

United Nations naval forces during the period of this report continued to demonstrate their versatility of application by sustaining with undiminished intensity all operational tasks undertaken. During the enemy's major attack across the Naktong River, commencing early in the period, naval aircraft were almost entirely engaged in an all-out effort in close support of the ground troops for several days until the attack was effectively reduced. Thereafter, naval aircraft resumed their missions against North Korean targets in addition. A concentrated effort was made especially against transportation facilities, arsenals, military warehouses and supply dumps, and troop concentrations wherever located.

Naval surface forces continued coastal bombardment missions on an increasing scale until continuous day and night firing on the east coast military targets became habitual.

/At sea

At sea along the Korean coasts a very large number of enemy small craft have been destroyed, including small transports and freighters, trawlers, junks and barges carrying North Korean military personnel and supplies. Difficulty of identification of water-borne craft engaged in military operations continues to be a problem. In some cases the enemy has forced native fishing operations to his use, and it is reported crews are shot if seen conversing with United Nations ships conducting investigations. Nevertheless, every effort is being made to confine destruction of small craft to those conducting military operations.

Enemy opposition to United Nations naval forces was insufficient to hamper United Nations naval operations.

Air Operations

Hostile aircraft have been observed on several occasions during the current period but have exerted no influence on the course of operations. It is a certainty that no difficulties will be experienced with the North Korean Air Force unless it procures planes from sources outside North Korea. Any future significant air action by North Korea will be a measure of the assistance given to her in open contravention of the actions and intent of the United Nations. Anti-aircraft artillery fire is increasing somewhat both in volume and in accuracy.

A review of the accomplishments of the United Nations air effort from 25 June through 15 September reveals that, while sustaining losses of approximately 100 aircraft, over 20,000 combat missions have been flown. The greater part of these have been in direct support United Nations ground forces. More than 10,000 non-combat missions have been flown in support of the United Nations effort. The bomb tonnage delivered to strategic and tactical military targets by the United States Far East Air Forces medium bombers exceeds 17,000 tons.

The previous report of the United Nations Command emphasized the pronouncement made to the civilian communities that military targets would be attacked by air and the warning to civilians to vacate the immediate zone of such targets. There has been and there remains the capability of the United Nations air forces to completely devastate the urban areas of North Korea, but with assiduous care destruction of the civilian population has been avoided and only targets of military significance have been attacked.

Among the targets are the following: Pyongyang arsenal, the largest in North Korea, producing over half the arms and ammunition (exclusive of that from outside sources) employed by the enemy, is about seventy per cent destroyed. The ports and naval bases of Chinnampo and Wonsan have received attacks in force. The largest integrated chemical combine in the Far East, contributing explosives, aluminum and magnesium has been reduced by eighty per cent. Specific targets in this combine have been the Hungnam nitrogen fertilizer plant, the Hungnam chemical plant and the Hungnam explosive plant. The oil refinery at Wonsan is about ninety-five per cent destroyed. Iron works at Chongjin and steel plants at Songjin and Kyomipo have been attacked with percentage destruction varying from thirty to ninety per cent.

Operations of the Chinnampo smelter, largest producer in North Korea of copper, lead, and zinc, have been sharply curtailed. In addition, at Chinnampo, an aluminum plant and one of the few North Korean magnesium producers have sustained fifty to eighty per cent destruction. Other similar targets have been and are being attacked.

Along the highway and railroad nets some 250 bridges have been rendered unusable by the dropping of at least one span of each. Important marshalling yards and railroad repair facilities in North Korea are from twenty-five to eighty per cent destroyed.

Total daily sorties have at one time during this period exceeded 700. The smooth coordination of the total United Nations air effort with the over-all ground effort continued exemplary.

Prisoners of War

Since my last report many additional North Korean prisoners were captured by United Nations forces. This brings the total number of prisoners in United Nations custody to over 4,000.

United Nations personnel in charge of prisoners of war camps continue to observe scrupulously all the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war. Prisoners of war are provided with the standard Republic of Korea Army ration and with a gratuitous tobacco issue. At each camp there is a permanently assigned staff of United States and Republic of Korea medical officers, nurses, and medical attendants. More serious cases are treated in hospitals on the same basis as wounded United Nations troops. The geographic coordinates of United Nations prisoner of war camps have been furnished to the United States Government for transmission to the International Committee of the Red Cross in accordance with Article 23, 1949, Geneva Convention.

Atrocities

It becomes necessary to report again continued inhumane acts on the part of North Koreans. These most recently reported atrocities follow the pattern of other North Korean killings. A strong enemy guerrilla force attacked and over-powered a group of seven Americans who were operating a signal relay station, tied their hands together and shot the United Nations soldiers in the back. All were left for dead. However, although seriously wounded, two of the victims survived.

Civilian Relief

As a continuation of the survey of relief needs in Korea mentioned in my previous report, an estimate of civilian aid requirements for Korea for fiscal year 1951 has been forwarded. This report was prepared by the Economic Cooperation Administration in conjunction with the Government of the Republic of Korea and representatives of the United Nations and other interested civilian agencies. These estimates contain sound, concise over-all civilian relief

/requirements

requirements for Korea based on the best information available at this time. Further surveys will continue to be made and necessary additional requirements will be forwarded to the Joint Army, Economic Cooperation Administration, State Department Coordinating Committee for procurement in accordance with established procedures.

Relief supplies continue to be delivered to Korea by military transportation for distribution through the Office of Supply of the Republic of Korea. As previously reported, arrangements were made as an emergency measure to supply the Republic of Korea with 15,000 metric tons of rice and 5,000 metric tons of barley in September and 20,000 metric tons of rice and 10,000 metric tons of barley in October. Based on subsequent surveys, the amounts of barley have been increased to 15,000 metric tons in September and 20,000 tons in October.

In accordance with my request, United Nations personnel have been recruited to assist the Government of the Republic of Korea in the distribution and efficient utilization of relief supplies and to provide adequate liaison and coordination between the Republic of Korea and the military forces in relief matters. To coordinate efficiently the problems of health and welfare in Korea, a Public Health and Welfare Section has been established as a Special Staff section of the United Nations Command. This section is presently staffed by available United States personnel who will be relieved progressively upon arrival of United Nations personnel recruited for these activities.

Psychological Warfare

United Nations radio broadcasts to the Korean people have been increased to a total of two and three quarters hours daily, consisting almost entirely of factual news reports with brief interpretative commentary. More than 48,000,000 leaflets have been dropped by aircraft or fired from artillery howitzers. 12,000,000 of these were directed at enemy front line troops, informing them of the United Nations Command guarantee of good treatment for prisoners of war, and providing them with safe conduct passes for use in surrendering. The mounting military strength of the United Nations forces has enhanced the credence which enemy soldiers place in these messages, and increasingly they are taking advantage of the safe conduct pass to lay down their arms voluntarily.

In Conclusion

1. United Nations forces in the Pusan-Taegu base area lost some ground including the Pohang-dong port. The fighting determination and combat efficiency of the United Nations forces in this area have steadily improved, but more forces are required.
2. There were further atrocities committed by North Koreans against United Nations captives.
3. The offers of personnel and supplies for civilian relief are appreciated. Future events may increase the requirements. Prevention of widespread suffering amongst Korea's war-torn population will be an important United Nations task.

