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Note dated 20 December 1950 from the Representative of the United States to the Secretary-General transmitting four communiquees issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command in Korea

The Representative of the United States to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Security Council, the following communiquees issued by General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, during the last twenty-four hours:

Release 741, issued at 3:15 P.M., Tuesday, December 19, 1950
(1:15 A.M., Tuesday, Eastern Standard Time)

Release 742, issued at 3:30 P.M., Tuesday, December 19, 1950
(1:30 A.M., Tuesday, Eastern Standard Time)

Release 743, issued at 4 P.M., Tuesday, December 19, 1950
(2 A.M., Tuesday, Eastern Standard Time)

Release 744, issued at 10:40 A.M., Wednesday, December 20, 1950
(8:40 P.M., Tuesday, Eastern Standard Time)

/RELEASE 741
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RELEASE 741, ISSUED AT 3:15 P.M., TUESDAY (1:15 A.M., TUESDAY,
EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

Far East Air Forces again flew around the clock in Korea Monday, with a total of 519 sorties reported - 355 by combat planes and 164 by transports on airlift of cargo and personnel.

Another heavy toll on the enemy was scored, with confirmed destruction and damage including 635 enemy troop casualties, 350 supply or troop buildings, eighty-two vehicles, fifty-six railroad cars, seven locomotives, five tanks, seven gun positions, four bridges and other damage inflicted on pack animals, supply carts and ammunition dumps.

Fifth Air Force fighters, with new F-86 Sabre Jets joining the F-80 and F-84 jets, plus F-51 conventional Mustangs and B-26 Invader light bombers, operated in several dozen sectors of North Korea in attacks on more than 100 individual enemy targets. Rail movements by the enemy were detected at Chunghwa, Huichon, Yokpo, Onpung and Pyongyang, and destruction made on locomotives and rail cars by Air Force fighters. Enemy troop casualties were reported after attacks at Yonchon, Kokpo, Pyongyang and Nemchonjom. Structures used to house enemy troops or supplies were leveled in large numbers at Pyongyang, Poptong, Pyonggang, Ipaek, Kumchon and Sibyon.

Light bombers again flew day and night sorties. The Sinuidju airfield was bombed by B-26 Invaders and small flights located enemy targets in the Pyongyang area during night missions.

Four communications centers, Wonsan, Pyongyang, Chongju and near Sonchon, were bombed by B-29 Superforts dropping 160 tons of bombs. All strikes were visual except the attack on Pyongyang, where radar was used to locate the target. Excellent results were reported and the B-29 crews faced no opposition from the enemy.

In 164 sorties Monday, Far East Air Force Combat Cargo Command transports airlifted 591 tons, including 827 passengers. Complete reports for Sunday show 568 tons, including 883 passengers, flown in 156 sorties.

RELEASE 742, ISSUED AT 3:30 P.M., TUESDAY (1:30 A.M., TUESDAY,
EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

Carrier-based Navy and Marine aircraft and the big guns of the fleet, in coordinated 'round-the-clock' attacks yesterday continued to seal off the Hungnam defense perimeter.

Flying 212 sorties, the Navy and Marine pilots blasted twenty-two troop concentrations, inflicting more than 800 casualties. Eight mortar positions were knocked out. Seventy-eight buildings used as warehouses or hideouts were destroyed, while fourteen were damaged. Twenty-one vehicles were destroyed and five were damaged.

The 8-inch guns of the heavy cruisers Rochester and St. Paul and the 5-inch guns of supporting destroyers took a total of thirty-seven targets under fire. One large group of attacking Communist troops was dispersed with heavy casualties as a result of an emergency call for naval gunfire support.

Results of the bombardment by the heavy cruisers and supporting destroyers were described as excellent by ground observers.

Night illumination of the battle area was effectively accomplished by star shells. A steady stream of harassing, interdiction and call fire support was furnished by the bombardment force.

The fire support force is under the command of Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, who flies his flag in the St. Paul. Rear Admiral James H. Doyle is in over-all command of the fleet at Hungnam.

Fast Carrier Task Force 77 is commanded by Rear Admiral E. C. Ewen, who flies his flag in the Philippine Sea. The escort carrier group from which the Marine fliers operated is commanded by Rear Admiral Richard W. Ruble, who flies his flag in the Badoeng Strait.

Republic of Korea, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, the Netherlands, British and American fleet units continued with patrol and general support operations on the west coast under protective air cover of British planes operating from the carrier H.M.S. Theseus. United Nations naval forces operating on the west coast are under the command of Vice Admiral W. G. Andrewes, who flies his flag in the Theseus.

RELEASE 743, ISSUED AT 4 P.M., TUESDAY (2 A.M.,
TUESDAY, EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

Information concerning the reorganization, retraining and re-equipping of North Korean Army units continues to be received from prisoners of war and captured documents. Earlier releases listed eight North Korean divisions by number, with the statement that more were believed to be in process of reorganization. New information indicates the presence of additional units, although some of them have had less training than those previously mentioned and are in various stages of organization and equipment.

Three full months have elapsed since the disorganized North Korean Army fled northward from the United Nations perimeter after the Inchon landings, and the North Koreans evidently, with obvious assistance from their allies, have made good use of this time in reorganizing their forces.

Prisoners now list the following North Korean divisions or brigades and indicate that the bulk of these forces is grouped generally in the central and western areas of North Korea: First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-seventh, Thirty-first, Thirty-second, Forty-first and Forty-third.

The total organized strength of these North Korean Army forces now in North Korea must approximate 150,000 men at this time. However, as previously mentioned, it has been reported from different sources that some North Korean units are being trained in Manchuria, where they are safe from United Nations air attacks, and it is probable that another 50,000 conscripts and recruits are available, even though they are not actually in North Korea at the moment. Since the crossing of the Yalu from Manchurian border points and a penetration of many miles into North Korea can be accomplished in one winter's night, the actual physical location of these units in training does not preclude their use as reinforcements in a relatively short time.

Enemy attacks against United Nations positions along the Hungnam perimeter increased during the night and continued on through the early morning hours. By noon, however, the enemy attacks had decreased in intensity. Air, naval and field artillery support poured relentless fire into the area and ground troops held their positions.

United Nations units of the Eighth Army experienced another day of only patrol contact with the enemy. These engagements resulted in localized fire fights without change in friendly positions.

RELEASE 744, ISSUED AT 10.40 A.M., WEDNESDAY (8.40 P.M.,
TUESDAY, EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

Navy guns and the flying artillery of carrier-based aircraft continued yesterday to make a death trap of the area surrounding the Hungnam defense perimeter.

United States Navy heavy cruisers and supporting destroyers continued to ring the area with a steady stream of harassing, interdiction and call-fire support. During the night the area was effectively illuminated by star shells.

One ground force regiment reports that night illumination prevented them from firing on friendly forces. Another regiment reports that its position would have been lost without star shells lighting up the contested area.

One patrol withdrawing under attack called for a naval fire support mission. On returning to the position they counted seventy dead Chinese Communists.

Navy pilots of Fast Carrier Task Force 77 and Marine pilots from an escort carrier group flew more than 200 sorties yesterday in close and general support of ground forces in the Hungnam area.

Twenty-four troop concentrations were attacked with an estimated 6,300 casualties. More than 300 buildings used as hideouts for troops and equipment were destroyed or damaged.

Gun positions, ammunitions and supply dumps, rail installations and vehicles completed the day's tally of destruction by Navy Skyraiders, Corsairs and Panther Jets and Marine Corsairs.

British naval aircraft operating from the carrier H.M.S. Theseus continued to blast military targets on the west coast in the Chinnampo area and to the north the British Sea Furies and Fireflies also flew protective air cover for the United Nations fleet operating off the west coast. The west coast patrol and support forces include fleet units of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, England and the United States.

United States Navy destroyers patrolling north along the east coast bombarded rail and highway bridges, rail and road junctions at Songjin, Chuuronjang and Kyongsong.

Royal Air Force Sunderlands and United States Navy Martin Mariners and Lockheed Neptunes were out on regular anti-mine and armed reconnaissance patrols.
