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NOTE DATED 24 AUGUST 1951 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A DOCUMENT ISSUED ON 23 AUGUST 1951, AND RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, RELATING TO THE CEASE-FIRE NEGOTIATIONS AT KAESONG

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 members of the Security Council and to the other Members of the United Nations, the following document:

UN Command Press Release
23 August 1951 - Tokyo

The Representative of the United States has the honor to advise further that this document is being transmitted to the Chairmen of the Good Offices Committee and that the United States Government will keep the Secretary-General informed of developments in this matter.

/UN Command
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51-15986

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND PRESS RELEASE
23 AUGUST 1951 - TOKYO

Armistice talks declared "off from now on" by Communists alleged night bombing attack on Kaesong used as excuse preliminary investigation indicates a "stage incident".

Further meetings of both the armistice delegations and the sub-committee were declared "off from now on" at approximately 0200 hours 23 August by Communists, on the basis of a charge of bombing the Kaesong area by United Nations forces.

Colonel Chang, the Communist liaison officer, speaking from written notes obviously prepared well in advance, made the above statements to Colonels A. J. Kinney and J. T. Murray, Jr., the United Nations liaison officers who had come to Kaesong at midnight at the request of the Communists to investigate the charges.

Colonel Kinney's report, based on investigation on the spot, but in darkness, clearly suggests the whole incident is a "frameup" stage from first to last.

The preliminary report from Admiral Joy follows: At 2330 22 August the Communist liaison officer contacted the United Nations Command base camp by telephono. He stated the armistice conference site was bombed and strafed at 2320. He requested the senior United Nations Command liaison officer to come immediately to make an investigation. "I ordered United Nations Command liaison officers Colonels Kinney and Murray to investigate. They traveled by jeep to Kaesong, arriving there about 0200 23 August.

"On arrival at the conference house in Kaesong, Col. Chang and Lt. Col. Tsai, surrounded by the Communist press corps awaited the United Nations Command liaison officers.

"Col. Chang stated a United Nations Command aircraft had attacked the Kaesong neutral zone at 2320 22 August. The attack included strikes within the immediate conference area.

"Lt. Col. Tsai then produced two marbled-size bits of metal which he alleged had hit the jeep of the senior Communist Delegate.

"Col. Chang could not say whether one or more aircraft were involved. He stated he did not know how many bombs were dropped or how many passes the aircraft had made. He added that all present including the Communist Liaison officers, staff assistants, and Communist news reporters and photographers had heard the aircraft. Kinney and Murray were then escorted to within 100 yards of the United Nations Command Delegation House and there were shown a rumpled piece of rolled metal about 18 by 30 inches in size, covered with oil and lying on the road. Chang asserted this was a napalm bomb. There was no bomb crater near and no scorched earth, but about 25 yards away there was a minor depression in the earth of about 24 inches in diameter and perhaps 6 inches deep.

"Col. Murray judges the depression a possible result of a buried explosive force about equal to a hand grenade. Col. Kinney is certain it is not a bomb crater.

"Near the residence of the Communist Delegates 3 other pieces of metal were pointed out. 2 of these appeared to be pieces of United Nations Command aircraft. Flush riveting was noticed on each piece, both of which were about 12 inches square. The third piece was the fin of a rocket.

"No craters or furrows were apparent in the vicinity. The pieces of metal were either lying on the ground or pushed in a few inches.

"On return to the Conference House Col. Kinney asserted the evidence plainly was not the result of a United Nations bombing. He pointed out there was no damage evident to any structure, person, or even to the crops.

"Speaking then from written notes, Col. Chang announced that there would be no further meetings.

"Col. Kinney inquired if Chang meant sub-delegation meetings as well as liaison meetings.

"Col. Chang replied all meetings 'were off from this time'.

"The United Nations Command Liaison Officers then departed.

"Halfway to Pan Mun Jom they were overtaken by Col. Chang and asked to return to Kaesong to view more evidence. Cols. Kinney and Murray pointed out that darkness and rain precluded satisfactory investigation but returned to Kaesong.

"Two more pieces of flush riveted metal were pointed out in the area near the Communist Delegation residence. There was a hole nearby about 24 inches in diameter and 12 inches deep. Col. Murray judged that this hole could be the result of a hand grenade explosion, pre-set in the ground. Col. Kinney was certain it was not a bomb crater. The final piece of metal was also flush riveted and was lying in a small amount of liquid, possibly poor grade napalm. 3 or 4 insignificant scorched areas about 15 square inches each were nearby. Kinney requested Chang to continue the investigation in the morning in better light. Chang refused saying investigation was complete. Col. Kinney then requested that all evidence be left in place for examination in daylight since darkness prevented proper observation. Col. Chang refused, saying evidence had to be taken in for analysis.

"In the course of the discussion, Col. Kinney asked if anyone present had actually seen an aircraft. A CCF soldier was put forward who declared he had seen an aircraft at 2320. Kinney asked if aircraft showed lights and soldier answered 'yes', head lights were on.

"At this point a European Communist newspaperman intervened charging Kinney with tricking soldier with a 'trap' question. Kinney immediately required Chang to clear area of news reporters at once. Chang complied after some argument.

"As the United Nations Command Liaison Officers prepared to depart again, Chang demanded that Kinney accept responsibility for attack. Col. Kinney replied that the evidence was ridiculous, but that he would render full report to me.

"Liaison Officers advance two possibilities as explanation of this incident: First, that the so called evidence was manufactured on the ground out of whole cloth with Communist aircraft flying overhead to touch off the show; or second, the holes might actually be result of a Communist plane dropping small cans of napalm and small explosive charges such as grenades with additional doctoring up by addition of aircraft scrap metal.

"A preliminary report from Fifth Air Force indicates no United Nations Command aircraft in Kaesong area during night and no United Nations aircraft off course, lost, or in difficulties.

"However, the Fifth Air Force reports an unidentified aircraft picked up by radar West of Kaesong at 2130.

"In summary, it is obvious that suspension of these meetings required a high level decision which could scarcely have been secured in the interval from 2320 22 August to 0145 23 August. The availability of this decision to Col. Chang confirms the fraudulent nature of the incident. The total lack of damage and wide distribution of the planted evidence suggest strongly that the metal scrap might have been dropped by a Communist aircraft with very small explosives such as grenades to mark the drops. Col. Kinney and Murray positive the whole incident was staged by the Communists."

Investigations continue. They will be conducted as thoroughly and as rapidly as possible. Results will be announced to the world as obtained.

