

SECURITY  
COUNCILDistr.  
GENERALS/2960  
18 March 1953

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE DATED 16 MARCH 1953 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED  
BY THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN KOREA

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations  
presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and  
has the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Security Council,  
United Nations Command communique No. 1,552, issued in Tokyo Friday,  
March 13, 1953.

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO. 1,552, ISSUED  
IN TOKYO 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1953  
(KOREAN TIME)

A five hour and twenty minute engagement between a United Nations Command ambush patrol and an estimated enemy company early yesterday morning highlighted ground action along the Korean battlefront. The west-central sector action saw the friendly patrol surrounded during early morning hours. For an hour and twenty minutes the patrol fought from its encircled position, calling concentrations of artillery and mortar fire on the hostile elements before friendly reinforcements arrived. Fighting continued into early daylight hours before the enemy withdrew with a high percentage of casualties. Delayed reports from the central sector told of other action early yesterday morning at forward positions east of Kumsong. An attack by an enemy platoon, later reinforced by another platoon, was repulsed after fighting lasting an hour and forty-five minutes. The enemy effort was renewed shortly after dark last night as another platoon hit the position and was repulsed after a forty-three minute encounter. Other action yesterday was confined to a minor enemy probe against positions in the east central sector.

Snow and poor visibility over most of North Korea yesterday limited United Nations Command air activity to afternoon strikes by bombers and fighter bombers. Targets included supply stacks and personnel shelters as the land-based planes struck at Ichon and Kumchong. Bad weather prevented observation of results. Medium bombers and intruders last night concentrated on frontline targets and supply areas near Chongju on the west coast.

Carrier-based aircraft of the United Nations Command fleet were similarly hampered by the weather. A few sorties were flown and strikes made against a bridge and a high explosive supply area on the Ongjin Peninsula with hits reported on both.

Surface elements ranged along both coasts, continuing heavy bombardment enemy shore installations. A supply train was hit near Iwon on the east coast and a tunnel, into which it was trying to escape, was sealed.