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NOTE DATED 3 DECEMBER 1953 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 7 JULY 1950 (S/1588)

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 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 Seventy-fifth Report of the United Nations Command Operations in Korea for the period August 1 through August 15, 1953, inclusive.

53-34222

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND OPERATIONS IN KOREA FOR
THE PERIOD 1-15 AUGUST 1953
(Report No. 75)

I herewith submit report number 75 of the United Nations Command Operations in Korea for the period 1-15 August 1953, inclusive.

The period 1-15 August marked the beginning of the implementation of the Armistice Agreement. The result of long and careful planning by the United Nations Command became evident as the various agencies and support groups established by the United Nations Command to carry out the implementation were phased into operation on schedule.

After the exchange of credentials by both sides the Military Armistice Commission held frequent meetings for the purpose of adopting procedures agreeable to both sides.

Agreement was reached on method of operation of Joint Observer Teams which were dispatched to their assigned areas. Marking of boundaries, clearing of hazards and construction of the various installations were begun within the Demilitarized Zone.

Agreement was also reached on Civil Police and the type of arms they may carry within the Demilitarized Zone. Neutral Nations Inspection Teams were dispatched to the Ports of Entry of both sides.

During the first week in August an advance party representing the Indian contingent of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission and the Custodial Forces, India, arrived in Tokyo. This group was headed by Mr. N.K. Nehru and Major General Thorat. The Indians were briefed at United Nations Command Headquarters on the arrangements made by the United Nations Command for the reception of Indian troops into the Demilitarized Zone, including movement, quarters and logistical support to be provided. After this first briefing the Indian party was flown to Korea where they were met by the Senior Member of the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission and further briefed at the site of their prospective operations. The group then proceeded to the Communist Headquarters where they remained for two days. Upon their return to Munsan-ni

the Indian party met with the Senior Member United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission and his staff at which time the two groups drafted a tentative "Memorandum of Understanding", with regard to facilities and support to be furnished by the United Nations Command to the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission installation within the Demilitarized Zone on the United Nations Command side of the Demarcation Line. The Indian party then returned to Tokyo where one more short conference was held at United Nations Command Headquarters. At this conference the tentative "Memorandum of Understanding", was discussed with representatives of the Commander in Chief's, United Nations Command, staff to the mutual satisfaction of both parties. The Indian Advance Party then departed Tokyo for India.

Adhering scrupulously to the terms of the Armistice Agreement for the repatriation of captured personnel, the United Nations Command commenced delivery to the Communists on 5 August 1953, of those prisoners of war who had expressed a desire for direct repatriation. Detailed plans, which had been prepared long in advance, were implemented in order to insure orderly and efficient delivery in accordance with the daily schedules agreed upon by both sides. Particular care was taken to provide for the safety, comfort and well being of the sick and injured personnel to be repatriated by our side.

As was the case during the exchange of sick and injured captured personnel during April and May 1953, the main difficulties encountered in the deliveries were created, not by the numerous logistical and other problems normally to be expected during a move of this magnitude, but by the prisoners themselves. Early in the exchange, Communist returnees, obviously under orders, ripped newly issued clothing, cast aside comfort items and, in general, tried to present as dismal a picture as possible for the Communist photographers who were conveniently on hand. Positive evidence that the United Nations Command had provided adequate food and medical care for all the prisoners of war in its custody was plain for all to see, and was duly recorded by press representatives.

In spite of all the difficulties and obstacles placed in the United Nations Command path by the returning hard core Communists, the United Nations Command

handled its portion of the exchange with patience and firmness. By the end of the period of this report, a total of 29,630 prisoners in United Nations Command custody had been returned to Communist control.

Meanwhile, as those United Nations Command repatriates from Communist control began telling their individual stories, it became increasingly clear that the enemy had taken every measure possible to instill in the minds of their captives that the United Nations, and especially the United States, had started the war. The conditions of the first returnees bore mute evidence of the inadequate and often brutal treatment United Nations Command prisoners had suffered at the hands of the Communists. By 15 August, the following numbers of United Nations Command personnel had been released from Communist captivity and were well on their way to home and loved ones:

United States	957
Other United Nations	693
Republic of Korea	<u>2726</u>
Total	4376

At 2200 hours on 27 July, the order to cease fire was complied with by United Nations Command divisions along the entire battle front and withdrawal to new defensive positions south of the Demilitarized Zone was begun.

Seventy-two hours after the cessation of hostilities all United Nations Command troops had withdrawn south of the zone. Subsequently unarmed troops returned to the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone to clear mine fields and other hazards to the safe movement of personnel of the Military Armistice Commission and its Joint Observer Teams. Other unarmed troops were engaged in salvaging equipment, and marking the southern border of the Demilitarized Zone. These operations continued throughout the period.

Meanwhile, south of the zone United Nations Command troops were expeditiously re-establishing their new lines of defense and instituting a training programme designed to maintain a high degree of morale and combat readiness.

In accordance with the Armistice Agreement all hostilities ceased and the United Nations Naval Blockade of the Korean Coast was terminated at 2200 on 27 July. One of the immediate tasks of the United Nations Naval Forces became

the evacuation of the coastal islands of Korea. On 2 August, United Nations Command Naval Forces reported that the withdrawal of personnel, supplies and equipment had been completed from all islands north of the southern boundary of the Demilitarized Zone off the east coast of Korea and from islands lying to the north and west of the provincial boundary line between Hwanghae Do and Kyonggi-Do off the west coast except the island groups of Paengyong Do, Taechong Do, Sochong Do, Yonpyong Do (including Kunyonpyong Do and Soyongyong Do), and U-Do which are to remain under the military control of the Commander-in-Chief United Nations Command.

The basic concept of all United Nations Naval operations in the first post Armistice fifteen-day period has been that of maintaining forces in position to counter immediately further aggression or attack; conduct training exercises, and achieve a high state of material readiness. Immediately following the signing of the Armistice, units not required in execution of initial tasks or in operating areas adjacent to Korea were placed in a maintenance status.

United Nations Naval aircraft operating from fast attack carriers in the Sea of Japan conducted intensive training exercises, maintained an alert state of readiness, and at all times complied with the provisions of the Military Armistice Agreement. One thousand and one hundred seventy-eight sorties were flown during the period. The largest percentage of these were training flights.

During this period the feasibility of obtaining a marked impact area in East Korea to be used for training purposes was investigated. At the close of the period an area was under preparation and will be available about 1 September.

A United Nations Command carrier has been selected as a helicopter landing platform in order to lift approximately 5000 Indian troops from Inchon to the Demilitarized Zone. The troops are scheduled to arrive at Inchon by ship from 1 through 26 September. The troops will then be transferred to the carrier by landing craft thence to the Demilitarized Zone by Army and Marine helicopters.

Patrols were established and have been conducted off the Korean West Coast to seaward of the Han River Estuary under supervision and south of thirty-seven degrees thirty-five minutes north latitude for protection of the friendly coast.

Patrols off the Korean East Coast were established and executed from the eastern terminus of the southern boundary of the Demilitarized Zone to 127 degrees east longitude. No significant events were observed at any time.

Planes from the First Marine Air Wing based in Korea conducted intensive training exercises during the period. In addition fifty-four intercept and day and night patrol sorties were flown. No significant activity was reported.

United Nations Naval patrol planes continued their aerial reconnaissance of the Japan and Yellow Seas. These planes flew one hundred seven sorties during the period, conducting daily shipping surveillance, anti-submarine and weather reconnaissance missions over the water surrounding Korea. In addition, these planes supported and engaged in special training exercises as directed.

In order to meet the sixty-day deadline for the completion of "BIG SWITCH" as agreed to by the United Nations in the Armistice Agreement, embarkation of prisoners of war in ships specially cribbed for this purpose began on 28 July. The importance of this operation is shown, to some extent, by the fact that ten ships otherwise scheduled to return to the United States were retained to accomplish this task.

As of 15 August the United Nations Command had lifted 33,760 prisoners of war from Koje-Do, Cheju-Do, Yonchi-Do, Pongam-Do and Chogu-ri to Inchon and 838 sick and wounded repatriates from Koje-Do to Pusan for further transportation by rail to the exchange site. This represents about thirty-six per cent of the grand total to be lifted. Mutually planned and agreed daily quotas have been met with only minor problems. Heavy rains halted transportation of prisoners of war from Inchon to the exchange site on 13 August. Two vessels were used as floating stockades during the night. However, trucks began making deliveries on the 14th. Normal quotas were being accepted the following day. Several ships have reported instances of chanting and singing by the prisoners with scattered attempts to demolish partitions. All of these demonstrations were controlled without casualty.

Auxiliary vessels continued to provide mobile logistics, salvage, towing and additional services as required by all afloat units.

Salvage operations are continuing on the Cornhusker Mariner aground to seaward of the Pusan Harbor baffles. On 14 August salvage workers commenced securing ship for expected typhoon "Nina". The salvage officer reported that he planned to cut the ship in vicinity of frame 106 and beach stern and bow sections separately in safe water.

The removal of the sunken dredge in Inchon Harbor has now been given highest priority among the harbor clearance projects in the Far East. The removal of the dredge has been scheduled to begin about 15 September.

United Nations Command Naval auxiliary vessels and transports provided personnel lifts and logistic support for the United Nations Command forces in Korea.

In order to combat a natural tendency to relax after a prolonged period of combat operations United Nations Naval Commands have envisaged plans whereby the morale of Naval forces may even be enhanced during Armistice operations. These plans include additional opportunities for fleet forces to visit ports in the western Pacific, full opportunity for maintaining upkeep and maintenance schedules and increased opportunity for individual ship, unit, group and force training exercises.

The Far East Air Forces continued to support the United Nations Command in Korea by conducting non-combat operations during the period. To minimize the possibility of air violations of the Armistice conditions, additional controls were placed on the movement of United Nations aircraft in areas immediately adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone and coastal regions as well as upon the entry and exit of aircraft into and out of South Korea. Patrols were flown immediately south of the Demilitarized Zone as a precautionary measure.

Combat cargo aircraft of the 315th Air Division continued airlift operations between Japan and Korea in strict compliance with the terms of the Armistice. In this task, 3558 sorties transported 9471.3 tons of cargo, including 49,052 passengers and medical evacuees. Also included in this total were 260 repatriated United Nations prisoners of war whose physical conditions were such as to make a trip by surface vessel inadvisable.

Air Sea Rescue Units of Far East Air Forces continued their assigned role of search and rescue of missing aircraft and crews, as well as aiding in the recovery of other military and civilian personnel in distress.

Mr. C. Tyler Wood, newly appointed United Nations Command Economic Co-ordinator, will replace Dr. Henry J. Tasca, former Special Representative of the President for Korea Economic Affairs, as Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command Economic Adviser and Representative on the Combined Economic Board on a permanent basis. Mr. Wood will establish his office in Korea where he will co-ordinate the existing aid programmes of the United Nations Command and the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency with the additional United States economic aid to the Republic of Korea resulting from Dr. Tasca's report to the President concerning ways and means for strengthening the Korean economy.

Since the beginning of the United Nations collective action in Korea, the United Nations Command has submitted bi-weekly reports on its activities to the United Nations. In addition, special supplementary reports were submitted on appropriate occasions. In general, the substance of the bi-weekly United Nations Command reports has been concerned with the conduct of the military operations in Korea. In light of the armistice in Korea, which has brought about a reduction in the activities of the United Nations Command, there does not appear to be the same need for regular bi-weekly reports. However, the United Nations Command will continue to fulfill its obligations under the Security Council Resolution of July 7, 1950 by rendering reports from time to time as appropriate on the activities undertaken in implementation of the Armistice Agreement.

