MILITARY SITUATION

The situation in the main battle area (Seoul-Suwon) is obscure, but official reports state that the Town of Suwon and the nearby airfield were still in Southern Korean hands at 0700 2 July (EDT). Contrary to earlier expectations, Southern Korean forces apparently maintained their position along the Han River yesterday, although they were not able to prevent all Northern crossings. Infantry, tanks, and trucks of the Northern forces now appear to have crossed the river, and a build-up for attacks in force toward Suwon and Inchon is believed to be in process.

Detailed information regarding the present strength and disposition of Southern Korean ground forces is lacking. Elements of four divisions are believed to be in the Suwon area. The total of combat effective in Southern Korean forces is estimated to be not more than 30,000. Northern Korean effective, in contrast, are believed to total 100,000. The US 26th Division has been ordered to Korea. One provisional battalion, including mortar, bazooka, and recoilless-rifle teams, has advanced north of Pusan to undertake delaying action, but no contact with the enemy has yet been reported.

Northern Korean pilots took the initiative in attacks against US aircraft during 1 July, displaying determination and employing good air tactics. Anti-aircraft fire observed near the Kimpo airfield appeared to be radar-directed. Good weather predicted for today should permit increased USAF activity.

In the course of naval activities on 1 July, six Northern Korean motor torpedo boats, operating in the vicinity of the 38th Parallel on the east coast, were intercepted by US and UK naval units, and five were destroyed.
II. Survival Potential.

USAF attacks appear to have slowed the momentum of the
Northern advance and Southern Korean Army morale is reported to
have improved as a result. Civilian refugees are streaming
south from the area of fighting, however, and President Rhee
has left the provisional capital at Taegon for an undisclosed
destination in the south. Meanwhile, US Ambassador Maccio reports
that, as a result of the arrival of US ground forces, there is no
question of Southern Korean determination to carry on.

The Northern Korean regime has thus far made little or no
use of such “political” weapons as sabotage and guerrilla activity
behind Southern Korean lines. The possibility exists, however,
that such steps will be taken. An additional danger has been
seen in the possibility that the Communist regime may force
Southern middle-of-the-roaders or officials who are in Northern
Korean custody to make statements calling for Korean “unity” and
an end to US and UN “interference.” Reports that some Southern
political figures, who remained voluntarily in Seoul, are
“cooperating” with the Northern invaders, lend added weight to
this possibility.

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