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

November 3, 1950

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 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 "Seventh Report of the United Nations Command Operations in Korea for the Period 1 to 15 October 1950."

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UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

November 3, 1950

SEVENTH REPORT
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND OPERATIONS IN KOREA
FOR THE PERIOD 1 TO 15 OCTOBER 1950

I herewith submit report number seven of the United Nations Command Operations in Korea for the period 1 to 15 October, inclusive. Eighth Army communiques numbers 118 through 120, X Corps communiques numbers 10 through 13, and Korean releases 510 through 558, provide detailed accounts of these operations.

Introduction

The United Nations forces most challenging problem during this period was to maximize exploitation of strategic opportunities sequent to the spectacular collapse of the Communist invasion force in south Korea. More than half of the enemy's combat forces were entrapped south of the 37th parallel, and are no longer available to him. Thousands more were lost in their desperate flight north to the 38th parallel. Since 1 October, in addition to thousands of prisoners, large stocks of enemy equipment have been captured. All territory formerly comprising the Republic of Korea except for the small Ongjin and Yonan peninsular areas, is now restored to that government.

Ground Operations

An outstanding achievement during the period was accomplished by the I Republic of Korea Corps with the 3rd and Capital Republic of Korea Divisions. From 30 September to 10 October this force spearheaded by the 3rd Republic of Korea Division moved up the east coast of Korea from below the 38th parallel to capture the north Korean port city of Wonsan. This movement was continually resisted by what the north Koreans could muster from elements of the north Korean 5th, 12th and 15th Divisions and from north Korean garrison units. The Republic of Korea forces advanced about fifteen miles a day. Their attacks were so rapid and relentless that the enemy was never able to organize co-ordinated resistance. The enemy was forced to commit units piecemeal. The Republic of Korea attack, superbly supported by Air Force and by the floating artillery of the United Nations Naval East Coast Patrol, rapidly overran everything placed in front of it.

The II Republic of Korea Corps with the 6th, 7th and 8th Divisions attacked north through the central part of Korea with equal drive and determination. Their advance was somewhat slower due to difficult terrain.

One more Republic of Korea division was activated during the period.

The Eighth Army with British, Australian, Philippine and United States units moved up the west coast and central sectors, relieved the X Corps of the Seoul-Inchon area on 7 October 1950 and continued its attack to the north. On the vital Seoul-Pyongyang axis, enemy resistance was stronger and better organized than

/elsewhere

elsewhere along the 38th parallel. Having cleared the Uijongbu area north of Seoul, the Eighth Army led by the 1st United States Cavalry Division drove across the 38th parallel in that sector on 9 October. By 12 October, our forces had penetrated more than fifteen miles into northern Korea toward the enemy capital of Pyongyang, and had taken Paekchon, five miles west of the Yesong River. Though the Communist defenses athwart the Seoul-Pyongyang axis retain a semblance of organization, United Nations forces continue to break through, and to by-pass enemy units.

In the south, isolated remnants of six enemy divisions vainly sought to break out of the United Nations cordon. United Nations forces have progressively reduced these enemy bands, (presently totalling about 10,000 men) to more and more restricted areas, and are proceeding toward their ultimate elimination.

By the end of the period, the northern boundary of the occupied area of north Korea was generally indicated by a line running south and west from Wonsan to Hyon-ni thence to Ichon, Pyongsean and Paekchon.

Navy Operations

During the last two weeks, United Nations Naval Forces, comprising warships from eight nations, have continued to apply unrelenting pressure on the enemy which has characterized their operations throughout the Korean campaign. Constant patrol operations by surface craft have prevented the enemy from moving desperately needed supplies by sea. On the other hand, an indispensable factor in the success of United Nations operations in Korea has been the uninterrupted flow of reinforcements and supplies from home bases to the troops in Korea. More than three hundred cargo and transport type vessels are now being employed in this service. Thanks to the presence of United Nations Naval escort vessels, the enemy has not been able to interfere, in the slightest degree, with the movement of this vast armada of shipping.

Carrier-based aircraft have continued to range over central and northern Korea, searching out and striking at worthwhile military targets wherever they can be found. As a result of these operations, heavy damage has been inflicted on enemy fortifications, military installations and land transport facilities. Carrier-based and land-based Marine aircraft have continued to provide close air support to United Nations ground forces.

United Nations Naval Forces have continued to provide naval gunfire support to ground troops in the Inchon area and at numerous points along the southern and east coasts of Korea. Generally, the fire of these heavy mobile guns has been directed from the air or by control personnel stationed on shore. Many enemy prisoners of war have volunteered the information that naval gunfire is especially hated and feared by the enemy ground troops.

Minor amphibious landings were carried out along the Korean coast notably at Mokpo, which was liberated by Republic of Korea Marines with the support of United Nations Naval units.

A series of well executed raiding operations against enemy communication lines along the east coast of north Korea were conducted by United Nations Naval Forces with excellent results.

During the period of this report, enemy mines have made their appearance in growing numbers in Korean coastal waters. There is strong evidence that the enemy has embarked on a program of indiscriminate mining without regard to international law or the safety of non-combatants at sea. It is a well-established principle of international law that live mines must be moored or otherwise fixed in place.

International law specifically forbids the use of unanchored automatic contact mines, except when they are so constructed as to become harmless one hour at most after being laid. As a related matter, it required that moored mines shall be so constructed as to ensure that they will become harmless as soon as they have broken from their moorings. It must be of growing concern to law abiding peoples everywhere to know that so date over twenty-five freshly planted, contact mines have been found by United Nations forces drifting in the open sea off the coasts of Korea and that a large proportion of these have proven to be not harmless but live.

To date, United Nations forces have lost three small vessels, due to mines, and four additional vessels have been damaged. Although enemy mines constitute a threat to future operations, thanks to the persistent, daring and thorough work of the minesweeping flotillas, movement of shipping is proceeding on schedule.

Air Operations

The brunt of the air offensive now falls almost entirely upon Communist areas as United Nations ground forces continue their spirited drive north of the 38th parallel. Completing its 110th consecutive day of combat, the United States Far East Air Forces, in conjunction with aircraft of the United States Navy and Marines, the Royal Australian Air Force, the British Navy and the Republic of Korea, are ranging across all of north Korea, attacking every identifiable military target. Advance elements of a South African Air Force unit are engaged in the preparations preliminary to operations in response to the United Nations call for universal efforts to repel the aggressor.

Unceasing air attacks contributed to the lightening move of Republic of Korea forces on the east coast to Wonsan and to the elimination of enemy pockets of resistance remaining in south Korea. While close air support of ground forces is provided on the entire front, suitable targets in the immediate battle area are few. Hence, fighters, bombers, and night intruders have expanded their efforts against lines of communication, striking at any observed rolling stock and vehicles, and repeatedly attacking bridges, tunnels and marshalling yards. The enemy suffers serious losses of his remaining trucks, railroad cars, locomotives and tanks. His fuel, ammunition and other supply dumps are subjected to destruction as his capability for resupply diminishes.

The displacement north of United Nations air bases following the ground force advances has materially assisted in operations.

/The interdiction

The interdiction of roads and railroads leading into the enemy's capital from the north and northwest have received special emphasis as a result of observed resupply efforts from that direction.

United Nations aircraft losses from hostile anti-aircraft fire, though not severe, have increased as the air operations increase over the more sensitive military installations in his homeland. Enemy air activity has been limited to but two abortive raids though airfield sweeps reveal new revetments and facilities appearing on his airfields in apparent anticipation of air operations.

A few minor attacks have been made during the period upon the remnants of certain military industrial targets. Of these, a raid on Kanni arsenal north of Pyongyang resulted in secondary explosions and fires indicating renewed efforts to utilize this facility.

Cargo and passenger airlift averaging well over eight hundred tons daily is providing critical supplies to all forces. Air evacuation of wounded personnel from the battlefield to general hospitals in Japan, and in certain cases to the United States, is vastly increasing the probability of recovery from severe wounds incurred in the fight for decency.

Prisoners of War

Prisoners of war captured by the United Nations forces now total more than 66,618. An average of approximately 3,000 north Koreans have been captured daily since my last report.

To ensure full coverage of all areas of Korea which are now in the hands of the United Nations forces, a second delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Jacques De Reynier, has been approved and is now in Korea. This delegate has been granted the same unrestricted privileges and opportunities to observe the prisoners of war at all stages, from capture to confinement in permanent camps, as has Mr. Frederic Bieri, the present delegate. In this connection Mr. Bieri has just returned from the prisoner of war transit enclosures at Seoul and Inchon and states that he found conditions there very satisfactory.

Atrocities

Violations of the Laws of War continue to be reported by United Nations forces in Korea. The following incidents typify the manner in which the armed forces of north Korea have violated accepted standards for humanitarian conduct of war. On or about 21 September, an American officer, who was a prisoner of a north Korean armed force unit, was tied to a tree, upon the approach of our troops, and deliberately shot four times. This officer was recovered by friendly troops, and although critically wounded, is expected to recover. Upon evacuating Taejon, on or about 27 September, the enemy deliberately executed forty American prisoners of war as well as approximately four hundred south Koreans. The bodies of the forty American prisoners of war have been recovered from the place of burial in a police station court-yard. One American prisoner of war, although badly wounded, survived this massacre and was recovered by United States forces. Official photographs of the bodies recovered, both American and south Korean, have been taken. The above incidents, as well as all other incidents reported, are being investigated by the field forces.

Civil Activities

The United Nations Command is continuing to work closely with the Republic of Korea officials. Continued surveillance to determine present and future civilian relief requirements is being co-ordinated through the Central Emergency Relief Committee composed of representatives of the Republic of Korea and Public Health and Welfare Section, General Headquarters, United Nations Command. This Committee, by co-ordinated planning, determines requirements for food, clothing, medical care and housing for direct emergency relief and sound administrative controls to effect proper and efficient distribution of relief supplies.

Pending receipt of contributions of the United Nations, supplies continue to be procured locally on an emergency basis. This action has been necessary to relieve the suffering, hardships and health problems brought about by the ruthless actions of the north Korean forces. In this regard, tentative arrangements have been made to obtain approximately 100,000 tons of food. In addition, medical supplies and equipment valued at \$300,000 have been procured locally and supplied to the Republic of Korea to meet emergency needs. The United Nations forces are confronted daily with situations which require the use of available military supplies and facilities to alleviate undue hardship. The degree and extent of such aid is practically impossible to determine on a measurable basis.

A number of personnel recruited by the United Nations to render technical advice and assistance in the fields of public health and welfare have arrived and are materially assisting the authorities of the Republic of Korea at national, provincial and local levels in effectuating essential relief measures.

The main railroad line from the south bank of the Han river to Pusan was put back in operation on 7 October.

It is estimated for Korea south of the 38th parallel, 1,800,000 persons have suffered to some degree by the total or partial loss of their homes or personal property. Housing units destroyed are estimated at 150,000.

It is heartening to note the enthusiasm and efficiency of the civil officials of the Republic of Korea in the re-establishment of governmental functions in areas of the Republic of Korea recovered by United Nations forces. In Taejon, Seoul and many other areas, Korean officials were functioning within hours after liberation.

Official messages offering the north Korean forces an opportunity to bring to an end the hostilities were transmitted by radio and leaflets throughout Korea on 1 October and again on 9 October. (Copies of texts attached as Annex "A".) Both the complete text and a summary of the resolution on Korea adopted by the General Assembly on 8 October were disseminated in the same manner. Eighty-five million leaflets have been air-dropped over Korea by United Nations forces. One million five hundred thousand special leaflets were dropped with a large reproduction of the United Nations flag and a short statement of United Nations efforts toward establishment of a free, unified and democratic Korea. Radio Seoul has been restored to operation and is now being used for United Nations and Republic of Korea broadcasts.

/In Conclusion

In Conclusion

1. Operations are in progress to destroy all north Korean forces.
2. The north Korean Communist leaders have expressed determination to use all possible means to continue hostilities, even under futile circumstances.
3. An increase in atrocities committed by north Korean forces was evidenced during retrograde movements by these forces.
4. Contributions by member nations of relief and welfare supplies and personnel services have been of inestimable value in the liberation and rehabilitation of Korea. A continuation and increase of these contributions are essential to an orderly return of the Korean people to the democratic way of life.

ANNEX "A"

TEXT OF GENERAL MACARTHUR'S MESSAGE OF 1 OCTOBER 1950

To The Commander-in-Chief North Korean Forces: The early and total defeat and complete destruction of your armed forces and war making potential is now inevitable. In order that the decisions of the United Nations may be carried out with a minimum of further loss of life and destruction of property, I, as the United Nations Commander-in-Chief, call upon you and forces under your command, in whatever part of Korea situated, forthwith to lay down your arms and cease hostilities under such military supervision as I may direct - and I call upon you at once to liberate all United Nations prisoners of war and civilian internees under your control and to make adequate provision for their protection, care, maintenance and immediate transportation to such places as I indicate. North Korean forces, including prisoners of war in the hands of the United Nations Command, will continue to be given the care dictated by civilized custom and practice and permitted to return to their homes as soon as practicable. I shall anticipate your early decision upon this opportunity to avoid further useless shedding of blood and destruction of property.

TEXT OF GENERAL MACARTHUR'S MESSAGE OF 9 OCTOBER 1950

In order that the decisions of the United Nations may be carried out with a minimum of further loss of life and destruction of property, I, as the United Nations Commander-in-Chief, for the last time call upon you and the forces under your command in whatever part of Korea situated, to lay down your arms and cease hostilities. And I call upon all north Koreans to cooperate fully with the United Nations in establishing a unified, independent and democratic government of Korea, assured that they will be treated justly and that the United Nations will act to relieve and rehabilitate all parts of a unified Korea. Unless immediate response is made by you in the name of the north Korean government, I shall at once proceed to take such military actions as may be necessary to enforce the decrees of the United Nations.

/s/ Douglas MacArthur

