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26 JUL 1950

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KOREA

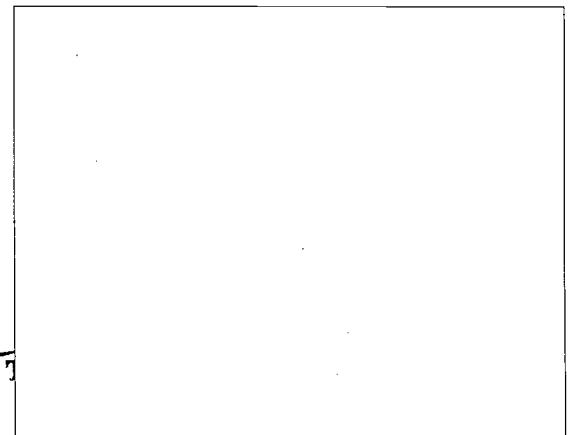
1. Defense perimeter within 100 miles of Pusan--The winding defense line, against which the North Koreans are throwing an estimated nine divisions, is now within 75 airline miles of Pusan along the left flank, 105 airline miles from Pusan in the central sector, and 90 airline miles above Pusan along the east coast. Despite heavy losses and disrupted and extended lines of communication, the enemy is still superior to the three US Divisions and four South Korean Divisions in manpower, equipment, and guns.

The recent advance of enemy forces in the southwest has secured practically all of that area, and advance elements are moving east to Hadong on the coast road to Pusan. In the western sector the enemy has forced elements of the US First Cavalry to withdraw to new positions three miles east and south of Yongdong. The central sector has been relatively quiet. North Koreans are continuing their build-up in the Tayang-Punggi-Yongju area, however, and the appearance there of fresh enemy troops increases the possibility of a major enemy effort to break through unrested South Korean divisions to Taegu. On the east coast, enemy strength has been increased in the Yongdok area by the appearance there of the Fifth Division, and additional enemy troops in undetermined strength are moving south along the east coast road below Samchok.

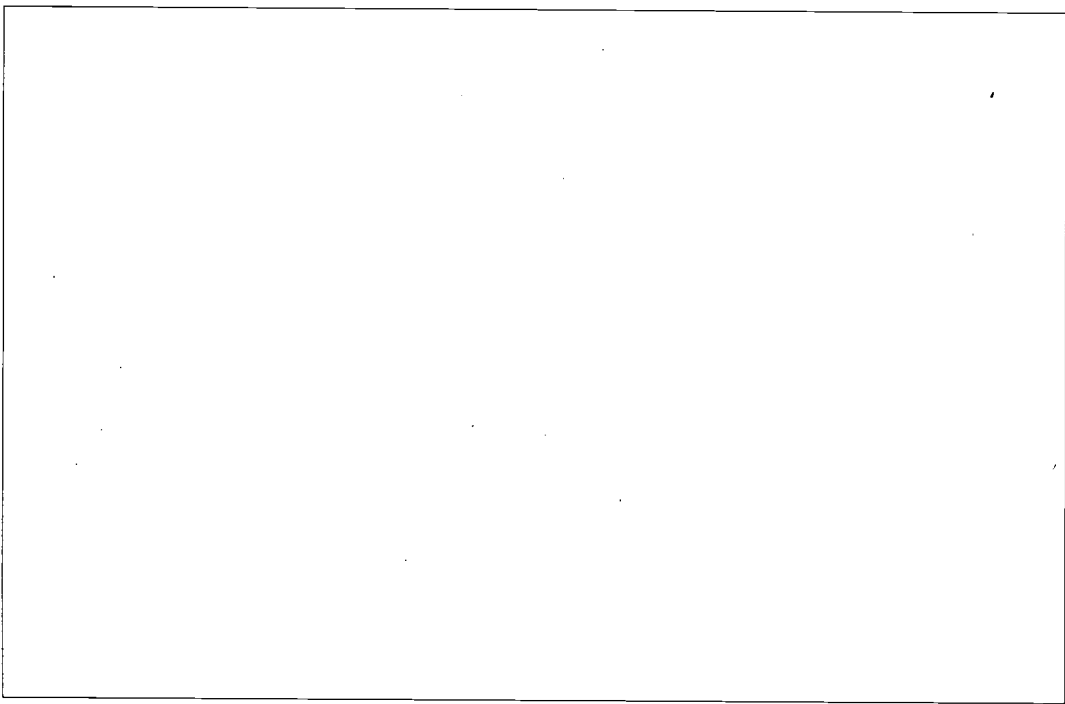
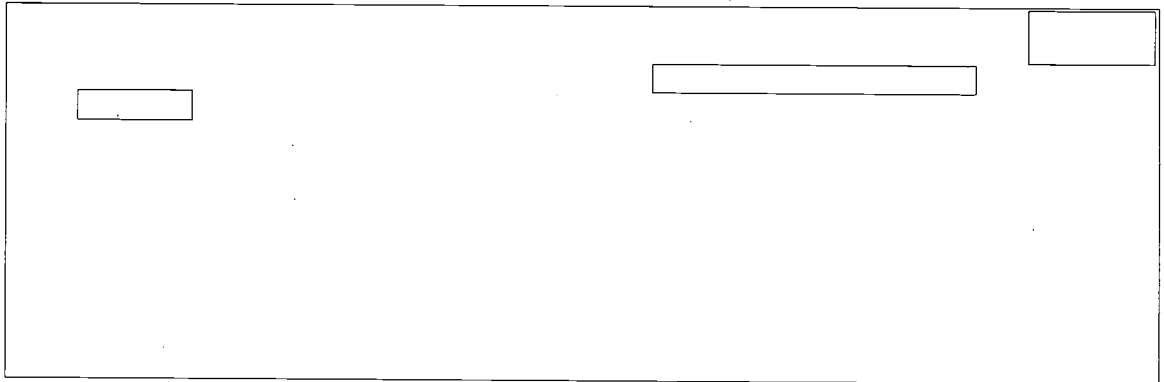
US and British fleet units conducted a carrier air strike against southwestern Korea during the past 24 hours, but in 110 sorties over the Kunsan-Mokpo-Kwangju area the pilots could find no enemy troop concentrations or movements. The enemy is apparently observing strict camouflage discipline and moves on the roads by night whenever possible.

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