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12. KOREA. ROK cease-fire representative instructed to remain at Kaesong negotiations: Ambassador Muccio reports the contents of a 3 August letter received by General Ridgeway from General Paik, ROK cease-fire representative, in which Paik notes his instructions from President Rhee to be present at all meetings. General Paik makes it clear in his letter, however, that attendance is against his personal convictions and that his presence does not signify the ROK Government's approval of any outcome of the negotiations.

Comment: While the adamant stand of the ROK in viewing the cease-fire negotiations as condoning partition of Korea is recognized, the presence at the Kaesong negotiations of General Paik, representing the Korean Army, at least preserves the semblance of UN unanimity of action.

13. Unification sentiment continues in the ROK: Ambassador Muccio, commenting on the demonstrations within the ROK against the cease-fire without unification, notes no basic change in the line of action advocated in speeches delivered at frequent meetings. While the Ambassador observes that meetings are generally small in size and not indicative of a "strong organizational effort," he believes that the celebration of "Liberation Day" (15 August) will be exploited to "produce a high emotional pitch" on the theme of unification.

Comment: While it is believed that President Rhee and his followers will limit their disapproval of the cease-fire negotiations to such meetings and speeches as have been described, the possibility always exists that Rhee will withdraw his military representative from the Kaesong meeting, thus prejudicing the UN position.

14. Communist armored potential discussed: The US Far Eastern Command, in a discussion of the enemy's armored potential in Korea, concludes that while recent tank sightings do not indicate an intention to employ armor extensively, a number of recent reports suggest an increased armored potential (above the 150 tanks currently accepted) for future offensive operations. Reports referred to by FECOM are those concerning the movement of Chinese Communist armored units into Korea from Manchuria. Other reports received

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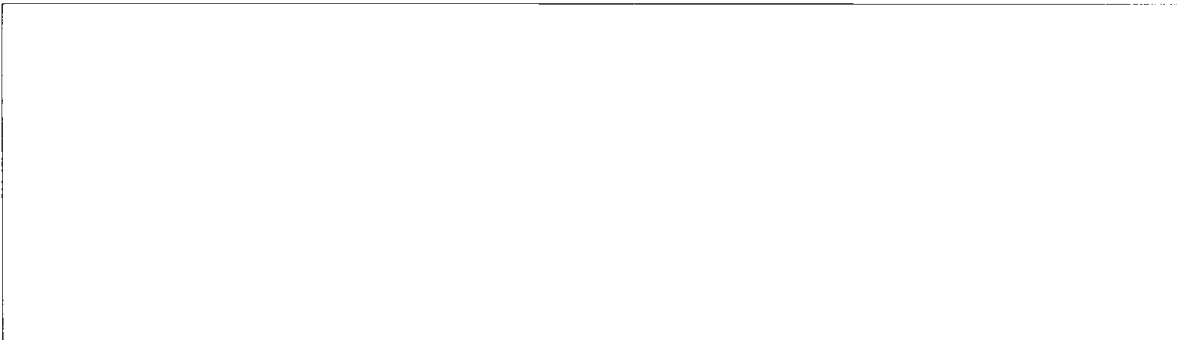
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in July have mentioned movement of armored units into the combat area—
particularly in the western sector.



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