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June 26, 1950 - Monday

Subject: ~~Re~~ Teleconference with MacArthur, 270217Z



i.e. 26th / 10:17 pm. edt.

The teleconference opened with the following message from Washington:

"President has directed that instructions be issued as follows:

For Int Command
"All restrictions on employment of FECOM Navy and Air Forces are removed. They will offer fullest possible support to South Korean forces so as to permit these forces to reform.

"Purpose of above action is to support SK forces in accordance with resolution of United Nations approved 25 June.

"In addition 7th Fleet will take station so as to prevent invasion of Formosa and to insure that Formosa not be used as base of operations against Chinese mainland.

"Detailed instructions reference Navy and Air Forces follow:

"All restrictions which have previously prevented the full utilization of the U.S. Far East Air Forces to support and assist the defense of the South Korean territory are lifted for operations below the 38th Parallel. All North Korean tanks, guns, military columns and other military targets south of the 38th Parallel are cleared for attack by U. S. Air Forces. The purpose is to clear South Korea of North Korean military forces. Similarly Naval forces may be used without restriction in coastal waters and sea approaches of Korea south of 38th Parallel against forces engaged in aggression against South Korea."

There was then an exchange of combat intelligence including the statement by MacArthur "Our estimate is that a complete collapse is possible."

Washington also transmitted the orders concerning the assignment of the Seventh Fleet to MacArthur, *and the orders from JCS to UNICEF & CINCPAC that Seventh Fleet was to prevent any contact on Formosa, or any offensive from Formosa against the mainland.*

Washington asked MacArthur if he had succeeded in getting any ammunition or supplies to South Korean forces and he replied that the first ship containing ammunition and artillery would be ready to sail from Yokahama "late this afternoon" (i.e. Tuesday afternoon Tokyo time). Ten fighter planes had been turned over to Korean pilots in Japan. Ammunition would be flown to Korea when a suitable landing site could be determined.

MacArthur asked when there would be an announcement of the instructions he had been given and when Washington replied that there would be no publicity for the present, MacArthur said immediate publicity was desirable to keep up the morale of the South Korean Army. Washington then said it was likely that the release would be made in Washington within the next 12 hours.

Source: White House files.



*Note - The telecon transcript
is 8 pp long.*