

June 26, 1950 - Monday

Subject: Blair House Meetings



During the course of the day on June 26, it became apparent that the forces of the Republic of Korea were not capable of holding Seoul, and there were some reports that they were in danger of imminent collapse. At 9 o'clock in the evening of June 26, a meeting was held, attended by the President, the Secretary of State with Messrs. Matthews, Rusk, Hickerson, and Jessup, the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Pace, Secretary Finletter, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. At this meeting it was agreed that:

a. The Navy and Air Force be instructed to offer the fullest possible support to the South Korean forces south of the 38th Parallel;

b. orders be issued to the Seventh Fleet to prevent an attack on Formosa, the National Government of China be told to desist from operations against the mainland, and the Seventh Fleet be ordered to effect this;

c. U. S. military forces in the Philippines be increased, and aid to the Philippines accelerated;

d. aid to Indochina be stepped up and a strong military mission sent there.

During the course of the meeting the problem of whether or not ground forces might be committed was considered, and it was agreed that this would require substantial mobilization.

Appropriate orders were issued that evening and a public announcement made the next day.

Source: Secretary Acheson's Briefing Book,
borrowed by G.M.E. from Averell Harriman.