

Mao Zedong telegram to Zhou Enlai regarding the current situation of the war

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Comrade Zhou Enlai:

A. Korean situation:

1. The U.S. 1st, 2nd, and 24th divisions, the British 25th Brigade, and the puppet [South Korean] 1st Division are assembling in the Kaesong- Kumchon area along the 38th parallel north of Seoul and making preparations for an attack on Pyongyang. It is reported today that the U.S. and Division is to move toward Kumchon and gain a foothold. Judging from this, the United States has not made a final decision whether or when to attack Pyongyang.

2. The puppet Capital and 3rd divisions have reached Wonsan. The puppet 6th, 7th, and 8th divisions are moving toward the Wonsan area, where they will assemble and be resupplied by sea.

3. The U.S. Marine Corps 1st Division is in Seoul; the U.S. 25th Division is at the Taejon-Suwon front; and the U.S. 7th Division is at the Pusan-Taegu front. The headquarters of the U.S. Eighth Army is in Taejon. In South Korea, the advance of the two puppet divisions is being checked. In most parts of Korea, the enemy's rear is weakly defended.

4. Under Kim Il Sung' s command, the various [North] Korean units that still have combat capability are resolutely resisting the enemy on the 38th parallel. The [Korean] People's Army has withdrawn about 50,000 soldiers from South [Korea] to areas north of the 38th parallel. Most of them still remain in the South. The People's Army has recovered the port of Ulchin [in South Korea].

B. In Andong [Dandong], Comrade Peng Dehuai studied the [war] situation and holds that the following things will happen if our army can dispatch one corps to the mountainous areas in Tokchon County about 200 kilometers northeast of Pyongyang and deploy the three other corps and three artillery divisions to the Huichon-Chonchon-Kanggye area north of Tokchon. First of all, we can probably force the U.S. and puppet troops to think twice before continuing to advance northward and to protect the areas north of the Pyongyang- Wonsan front, at least the mountainous areas, from being occupied by the enemy. Thus, our army does not have to engage in fighting and can gain time to become well equipped and trained. Second, if the enemy at Pyongyang and Wonsan begins advancing northward and attacks the mountainous areas in Tokchon and other places, we can use our main forces to annihilate the puppet troops coming from the direction of Wonsan while employing adequate forces to pin down the enemy troops at Pyongyang. If we can completely wipe out one to two or even three puppet divisions, we can greatly change the [war] situation. Comrades Peng [Dehuai] and Gao Gang both hold that we are assured of success in fighting the puppet troops. Just as I do, they both hold that our entry into the war is necessary and advantageous.

C. Today Gao [Gang] will return to Shenyang to take an active part in arranging the preparations for our entry into the war. Peng will remain in Beijing temporarily to await your reply telegram.