24967



1362 HR70-14

KOREA

1. Heavy fighting continues near Chinju—Heavy fighting continues on the Chinju front, where attacking UN units have made small gains, but North Korean troops have reportedly crossed the Nam River in undetermined strength and now threaten the right flank of the attacking UN forces. The enemy is continuing to make probing attacks in the other sectors, and there is considerable movement of transport and tanks in the North Korean rear areas. In the central sector, two enemy battalions have crossed the Naktong River and additional troops with trucks are attempting to cross. In the northern sector, the Yechon-Andong front is generally stabilized but heavy fighting continues north of Yongdok, which remains in South Korean hands.

UN naval surface and air units continued to provide close support for ground troops and to attack enemy lines of communication.

North Korean radio commentators are asserting that US military "failures" in Korea are in part caused by the US "blunder" of placing too high a value on mass bombing, and by "hapless" reliance on machines. The North Koreans claim that "mass" bombing has proven an indecisive weapon and that each raid only makes the people still more determined to win the war.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 17-Feb-2010

CONFIDENTIAL E