Dear President Eisenhower:

I regret to inform you that the Korean situation is deteriorating with every passing day.

We are still trying, against desperate odds, to survive as a democratic state, to unify our tragically divided country, and to create an austere economy that will permit our individual survival.

It is our firm conviction that our fight is an integral part of the Free World's battle with Communism. The United States unquestionably thought so when it courageously kept us from being driven into the sea.

But now we find that some other members of the team apparently do not want us to win. We have been checked in almost everything we have tried to do for ourselves and the Free World, and the antagonisms toward our firm anti-Communist policies are becoming stronger and stronger.

Korean armed forces were built up by the United States to stop Communism, but then came the inexplicable command that prevented us from uniting north and south. That led to the terribly perilous situation of today, in which countless Chinese Red troops stand in battle array only a few miles from our capital.

Even air supremacy--once so complete--has been lost. Reluctance to admit that the Armistice no longer has any meaning blocks even a serious complaint against Communist reconstruction and equipping of the 40 north Korean airfields that were kept inoperable by U.S. fliers.

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After assurances that we had nothing to fear, two-thirds of the U.N. divisions were withdrawn from the defense line. Then we were placated by word that the Chinese were withdrawing seven divisions from north Korea. But only an embarrassed silence followed Communist announcement that all seven divisions would be replaced: it was merely the Red system of rotation.

It is generally acknowledged that neither south nor north Korea can survive separately. The north already is being added to China. Official indifference to this situation forces the conclusion that American policy no longer is concerned with the survival of Korea as an independent, democratic nation.

You will recall that we offered to do all the fighting. The reply was to limit our gasoline and ammunition rations to two days. We asked for another 15 or 20 divisions to replace any or all U.N. forces interested in going home, but the United States has asked us to be content with 10 reserve divisions equipped only with small arms and training ammunition. Even then we are requested to provide 35 billion hwan--70 per cent of our annual revenue--and that quite obviously is utterly impossible.

At the same time U.S. dollars are paying for the Japanese rearmament program, because the Japanese say they cannot pay for it themselves. We want to fight the Communists; the Japanese want to do business with them. Americans and Koreans fought side by side. The Americans and the Japanese fought each other. We of Korea--all intensely loyal to the United States and its Free World leadership--cannot understand what is happening.

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Then there is the matter of the economic aid program. Its administration has been satisfactory to neither the United States nor Korea, and it seems to me that remedial steps are required immediately. Koreans are immensely grateful for the good intentions of the United States. Your generosity allows us $700,000,000 for this fiscal year--$100,000,000 more than previously planned. Of course, $420,000,000 is for military purposes--for the defense of the Free World--and the remaining $280,000,000 is a part of the one billion dollars in economic assistance that you pledged as a special appropriation for Korean aid over a period of three or four years.

We are gratified that the billion dollars is materializing in appropriations for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Korea, but we feel that much needs to be done before the money is transformed into the fertilizer, cement, coal, and other production that we need so desperately.

I have every confidence, Mr. President, in your friendship and genuine interest in Korea and its pressing problems.

On the military questions between our countries, I would like to recommend that our proposals be considered once again. They have been made in the light of the grave Communist threat to the United States and all of Free Asia. It is our firm conviction that to ignore them is to risk the loss of your strongest ally against Communism and of the whole Far East.

On economic matters, permit me to make these suggestions:

1. Give us a free hand for one year with regard to the reconstruction of our economy--either with or without aid funds. If you grant us the $280,000,000 you have allocated

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for the Korean economy, let it be left entirely in the hands of the Combined Economic Board--with no strings attached.

2. Appoint a new U.N.C. Economic Coordinator free of influences we can best describe as pro-Japanese--a man who will be directly under your instructions on what to do with the funds designed for the building up of Korean industries.

3. If these conditions (Nos. 1 and 2) are not acceptable, designate the economic funds as a loan, to be repaid in the future. The money then could be used to establish basic industries, to stabilize our national currency, and to lay sturdy foundations for economic recovery.

4. If all of these proposals are rejected, please leave us alone ~~to cope with your problems~~ and permit us to cope with our own problems for this one year.

It is my most ardent wish that Korea be ~~permitted~~ allowed to cooperate with the United States and the rest of the Free World for the defeat of Communism and the triumph of democracy. We have always done our best, and will continue to do so. I know that as a great defender of liberty and justice, you will take this into consideration in making your decision.

Sincerely yours,