April 8, 1954

My dear President Eisenhower:

Not knowing what to do at this darkest moment in our fight for the survival of Korea, I am appealing to you once again by asking you to advise me what can be done. Our friends are urging us to join in the Geneva Conference. They complain that we are not cooperating with them. Have we not cooperated with the United States to the extent of wasting over eight months, knowing as we did that nothing would come out of the Panmunjom or the political conference? What is the result? Our enemies are today in an infinitely stronger position than they ever were and the United Nations forces are talking about going hom. We do not blame them. They see no reason why they should stay here while there is no war to fight and while their governments are trying to settle matters peacefully either one way or the other.

Regarding the Geneva Conference, we were told that Russia would not be admitted into the Conference as a neutral. Now we find that Russia is one of the sponsors of the Conference, sending out invitations. Again we were told positively that India would not be allowed to attend the Conference, but we hear that Indian delegates are already in Geneva. I need not mention other points equally difficult to understand. For all these forbidding aspects, however, I wish to inform you that we will attend the Geneva Conference if you let us know definitely what you will do for the unification of Korea after the ninety day period of the Geneva Conference.

Will the United States renew the war with us to accomplish the original objective, the unification of Korea by force, without unncessary delay?

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to increase our land force together with the air and sea forces commensurate with it.

In respect to the latter proposal, your last letter made me feel very hopeful as it carried a promise of fair and favorable consideration of the matter. And I wish to suggest that the training and arming of Korean manpower should start immediately so that the history of the Taejun disaster of 1950, in which the 24th Division of the United States Army under General Dean's command was "slaughtered", will not be repeated.

Allow me to tell Your Excellency, frankly and earnestly, that the United Nations statesmen do not seem to know what they are doing. They are playing with fire. By trying to resist armed forces with talks, they can never save Indochina or Korea or even their own nations. When it is too late, the young men of their own countries will pay dearly for it. I am saying this with prayers in my heart. May God Almighty give you wisdom and courage that pass all understanding.

With assurances of my continued friendship and high esteem,

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ SYNGMAN RHEE

The President
The United States of America
The White House
Washington, D. C.