Drafted by JJM

April 2 —

My very good friend:

The communist agreement to discuss the exchange of prisoners of war, seriously wounded or ill, seems to have raised a general expectancy that it might lead to a cease-fire in Korea based on the communist acceptance of the Indian resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 3, 1952. Insofar as the unification of my country, even its independence, will be fatally affected by the eventuality, it is deemed necessary that we once more clarify our position on the matter to you, my good friend, so that you could have the benefit of knowing exactly where we stand when you make momentous decisions for the free world as a whole ~~as well as~~ and particularly for this nation.

Prior to the unprovoked communist invasion, we had had years of fruitless talks with the communists for the unification of north and south Korea as a unified free and independent nation, for they were so bent upon making Korea a Soveit satellite and ~~therefor~~ accordingly intransigent on any plan for unifying the country on democratic principles.

Despaired of solving the Korean question through U.S. - U.S.S.R. talks, the United States referred the matter to the United Nations, which resulted in the establishment of the Republic of Korea by holding UN-observed elections in"accessible areas". The Government of the Republic of Korea thus created was widely recognized as the only legal government in Korea, with the implicit understanding that, when the then "inaccessible area", North Korea, became accessible, similar UN-observed elections held there would authomatically join the two sundered parts of Korea under the Government of the Republic of Korea which, in conformity to the general understanding, left a proportionate number of seats later filled by the representatives from North Korea, when elected.

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Afterwards, however, defeatism taking hold of an influential section of the United Nations, a resolution was manoeuvred to the effect that the jurisdiction of the Government of the Republic of Korea was restricted to the south of the 38th parallel. This restrictive interpretation does not well harmonize with the original objective of the United Nations as was had when the Government of the Republic of Korea was established.

Hardly when the Republic of Korea had been two years in existence, the Soviet Union concluded that it could not be taken from within through infiltration and subversion and that, consequently, it could only be taken by force from outside, thus starting an all-out aggression supported by Russian-made tanks, planes and machine guns and cannon. It was a direct challenge to the United Nations as well as to the entire free world. The United Nations took it and its forces began to fight along with the Korean fighters against the common foe. We unreservedly committed our entire forces to the United Nations action in Korea, for we never doubted that the United Nations objective in the collective security measure was in perfect unison with our national objective of independence and unification. Wnen the Inchon Landing was a success followed by a swift advance toward the Yalu River, the United Nations passed a resolution on Oct. 7, 1950, making our common objective manifest by insisting on the unification and independence of Korea.

The Soviet Union saw ~~that~~ the North Korean aggressors ~~were~~ completely routed and set the communist Chinese hordes loose on the scene. With the resulting reverse, the United Nations was again seized with defeatism, with appeasement as its corollary, recoiling from its original objective of unifying Korea by force and holding to the view that pushing the enemy up to the 38th parallel would have accomplished the objective of the collective action of the United Nations.

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It was this dangerously limited view that caused the United Nations operation in Korea to stop abruptly short of a complete victory when it was more than possible the summer before last and accept the communist offer of cease-fire talks which later developments have proved to have been the mere cover for the badly-needed build-up of the then completely debilitated communist forces.

Ever since you became the President-elect, my good friend, the entire free world, including our two nations, has been standing tip-toe with a keen expectation that, with your new administration coming into power, it will see something done in Korea that will convince the enemy that he is beaten, thus ~~preventing~~ prevented second, third and so forth Koreas. Your inauguration speech and the State of the Union Message have confirmed the world's hope. The deneutralization of Formosa is the concrete proof of your positive attitude toward the aggressor as announced in both the speeches. Stalin has died. Unrest may show itself within the Soviet Union. Red China may quail, if only ~~just~~ because of uncertainty of securing Soviet aid. It is time for the communists to talk and settle along the 38th parallel. From past experience, the communist willingness to talk, we know, should be a reason for the free world to act, instead of talking, so as to conclude the war to the permanent interests of the collective security.

We shall not be able to understand, therefore, if the free world is again willing to have a long-drawn unmeaning talks with the communists, knowing as it does that it will only give them to recover their breath and that it will only allow the "dust" to settle to the reassurance of the communists, when it could have been made to settle to the interests of an intrinsic and permanent peace.

The material resources of Korea are nearly exhausted. Its economy is on the verge of a complete breakdown. An alrmingly large proportion of the population have been affected by tuberculosis

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chiefly through malnutrition. The only prop to their slowly collapsing morale is the hope that the unification of their country may not be very distant. If the communists, by way of ruse, come to agree to a cease-fire, what will happen. The reunification of Korea will never be achieved through peaceful political negotiations as it never was in those pre-invasion years. In the course of two or more years of continued bisection, North Korea will irretrievably become a communist satellite, Chinese farmers settling there permanently. With North Korea turning part of red China, the independence of South Korea will be untenable. Any cease-fire with Chiness communists dominating in North Korea would eventually mean the national death of Korea as a free independent country. This we can not sit back and see transpire.

If the United Nations should settle with the enemy now and lead this brave but hapless nation to such a tragic pass, we shall have to reconsider our commitment to the United Nations action in Korea and take the only course our national honor will forbid us to deviate from. If our national death is made inevitable, my dear President and good friend, we will choose that death which is with honor.

Your unfailing friend,

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