REPUBLIC OF KOREA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 30, 1952

My dear Mr. Eisenhower:

Your insistence that a solution must be found to end the tragic situation in Korea, and your visit here to investigate means of achieving that purpose, are most encouraging and heart-warming to me and to all our people. I know that you are securing a sound view of the military factors from Generals Clark and Van Fleet, whose great abilities are more than capable of winning a victory in the field. Without attempting to influence your decision on the facts as you are observing them, I should like to be of any assistance that I can in helping you to gain the broad perspective through which this war must be assessed. There are several cardinal points that seem to me to be particularly important.

1. This war can, I believe, be won without dangerously extending the conflict. I feel sure that the Soviet Union will not enter the war unless or until it feels able to win, and when that time comes no minor considerations will prevent it from attacking. The practise of limiting our military efforts through fear of arousing Soviet counter-measures has thus far had only the effect of weakening our position and strengthening that of the enemy. If you decide to push up to the Yalu River, I pledge to you that my Government will abide strictly by the Yalu border and will do nothing to extend the conflict beyond that point. On the other hand, if the stale-mate is permitted to continue, the increasing strength of the enemy will be paralleled by the steady deterioration of the will and the ability to resist on the part of all the peoples residing under the shadow of the Kremlin's power. In this world-wide 'cold war' a decisive if limited victory for the free nations seems to me to be the only way to turn back the tide of Soviet subversion and aggression.

2. It is our determination to build a land army strong enough to bear the brunt of the ground fighting, both in driving back the Reds and in holding the Yalu River line. We also hope for your understanding and aid in expanding our air and naval forces sufficiently to provide a balanced force for the long-range defense of our united nations. Only when this is done can we make our maximum contribution to the over-all defense of the free world.

3. Our military effort must be sustained by economic rehabilitation. For many centuries the economy of our nation has been self-sufficient and it certainly can and will be again. The fundamental resources of Korea, with north and south rejoined, are potentially great enough to bear the burden of our military needs. But the expansion of our forces must be accompanied by restoration of our productivity, the decent nutrition of our people, and a significant roll-back of our ruinous inflation.

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4. To insure the future safety of our nation and to enable us to make our own greatest contribution to the stability of the Far East, we believe it is essential to engage in a Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States, similar to those treaties already signed by your Government with the Philippines, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. We believe the promulgation of such a treaty three years ago would have prevented the war, and its promulgation following your Inauguration would insure future stability at the minimum of cost and risk. Without such a Treaty, the enormous sacrifices already made by both our countries may have to be repeated needlessly.

5. It is already evident that certain influences in the United States are tending toward a restoration of Japanese economic and military supremacy in Asia. To place once again in the hands of Japanese militarism the means of dominating their former Asian victims would be to present them with a temptation they might be unable to resist. Instead of directing American policy toward solving the special population and economic problems of Japan, the wiser course would be to view these questions as common to all the countries of the Far East and seek to solve them on a regional basis. Before Japan is given further significant assistance, her rulers should prove the sincerity of their conversion to democratic liberalism by reaching appropriate agreements with Korea and others of their victimized neighbors.

Your epochal visit here has raised the hope and expectation of our people and of all the world that problems which long have been neglected will now be solved. In all of your forward-looking policies, we pledge you most solemnly our fullest of cooperation and sacrificial support.

Sincerely yours,

His Excellency President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower

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