The Honorable
The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, on 8 April 1948, the President directed, in the
language of NSC 98, that "It should be the effort of the U. S.
Government through all proper means to affect a settlement of the
Korean problem which would enable the U. S. to withdraw from Korea
as soon as possible with a minimum of bad effects." The President
further directed that, "Every effort should be made to create
conditions for the withdrawal of occupation forces by 31 December 1948."

The Department of the Army has endeavored to fulfill its
responsibilities under the President's directive. The elections for
the National Assembly of Korea on 10 May were successful. A suffi-
ciently effective force is being maintained to continue the respon-
sibilities of Military Government in South Korea until the transfer of
functions to the new National Government. The training and equipping
of an expanded South Korean Constabulary and of the Civil Police and
the Coast Guard are proceeding and these Security Forces are up to
strength. The Department of the Army also is cooperating with the
Department of State and other agencies in the preparation of the terms
of agreement between the U. S. and Korean Governments. Concurrently,
the Department of the Army has completed a plan for, and is now pre-
pared to proceed with, the implementation of withdrawal; and is
prepared to assist the State Department in the establishment of the
U. S. diplomatic mission to represent U. S. interests in Korea follow-
ing the withdrawal of occupation forces.

The present appropriation for economic rehabilitation in Korea
assures a continuation of United States interest in that country. The
establishment of the mission in Korea which will supervise the
administration of the aid program should further minimize any anticipated
bad effects from the withdrawal of the U. S. occupation forces.

As you also know, in the interest of economy and prestige of the
U. S. Government, and of effective planning for other commitments of the
U. S. Armed Forces, the withdrawal of U. S. occupation forces from Korea
demands considerable planning and implementation. As a measure toward
fulfilling conditions for the withdrawal by 31 December 1948, the
Department of the Army, with Department of State concurrence,
commenced on 30 May 1948, the preparation phase of the withdrawal.
Planning dates for the remaining phases, in which the Department of
State has concurred, are:
15 August 1945 - Commencement of tactical withdrawal

2 September 1945 - U. S. Diplomatic Mission to Korea will assume direct administration of all U. S. responsibilities in Korea, including those assumed under Aid Program, excepting purely military responsibilities relating to troop withdrawal.

The situation has developed during the past few months in Korea almost exactly as visualized by the members of the National Security Council when they reached the decision to withdraw from Korea (NSC #8). The Department of the Army therefore is proceeding on the assumption that conditions will be fulfilled which will permit the withdrawal of U. S. Occupation Forces from Korea by 31 December 1945 as envisaged in NSC No. 8. It is estimated that a minimum of 45 days will be required to initiate appropriate logistical and administrative action in connection with the withdrawal. Your concurrence, therefore, prior to July 1st is requested in the above assumption and planning dates.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth C. Royall
Secretary of the Army