My dear General Donovan:

I consider it advisable to make any reply to the message transmitted by you on August 18, 1945, from Mr. Kim Ku who represents himself as the head of the "Provisional Government of Korea". I would appreciate your instructing your agents as to the impropriety of their acting as a channel for the transmission to me of messages from representatives of self-styled governments which are not recognized by the Government of the United States.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Harry S. Truman

Major General William J. Donovan, x128-B
Director, Office of Strategic Services,
Washington, D.C.

x to State
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

August 25, 1945

There is attached for your consideration a draft of a letter to General Donovan in reply to his memorandum of August 18 transmitting a message from Mr. Kim Ku, head of the so-called "Korean Provisional Government".

Enclosures:

(1) Draft reply to General Donovan
(2) Memorandum of August 22, 1945 from Admiral Leahy to the President, returned
(3) Letter of August 18, 1945 from General Donovan to Miss Rose Conway, returned
(4) Memorandum of August 18, 1945 from General Donovan to the President, returned
MEMORANDUM FOR

The President

Referring to the attached message delivered by Major General Donovan from Mr. Kim Ku, who signs as Chairman of the Provisional Korean Government, I find upon inquiry to the State Department (Mr. Bohlen) that the United States has no knowledge of a Korean Provisional Government.

General Donovan in his message identifies Mr. Kim Ku as head of the Provisional Government of Korea, and states that he, Donovan, has been working with him in the installation of Intelligence Agents in Korea.

It does not appear to me that it is appropriate for the President to make any reply to Mr. Kim Ku's message.

The Secretary of State might consider preparing a draft reply to General Donovan, informing him that you do not consider it proper for any agents of Donovan's office to transmit to the President messages from officials of self-styled governments that are not recognized by the Government of the United States.

[Signature]

Harry S. Truman

22 August 1945
18 August 1945

Miss Rose Conway
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Conway:

I attach a memorandum containing a message to the President. Will you please see that this reaches his desk.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan
Director
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The following cable has come to me from the head of the Provisional Government of Korea for delivery to you.

For your information, we have been working with him in the installation of intelligence agents in Korea.

To the President of the United States, The Honorable
Harry S. Truman from Kim Ku, Chairman of the Korean Provisional Government.

Today in victory the people of Korea join the people of the United States in rejoicing with Japan’s surrender and the end of the war throughout the world. Our common enemy is defeated. Korea’s freedom from Japanese oppression which we faithfully have resisted for 50 years is realized. America’s freedom from the cruel attack of a powerful enemy is accomplished. Today in victory we celebrate the unconditional surrender of our common enemy. In victory and freedom, we the people of Korea express our genuine and deep appreciation to the Government and the people of the United States for their achievements in defeating our enemy. With freedom and peace the Korean people now begin their important work of building an independent state and a

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nucleus of democracy in the Far East. We have confidence in your guarantee of Korean independence and believe that Korea's independence is a key to peace in the Far East. In our endeavors to build an independent democracy we are relying strongly on the understanding and cooperative aid of the American Government and people. It is our hope that American Korean positive cooperation initiated in China during the last few months of the war against Japan will continue and grow. We hope that the people of the United States and Korea eternally will guarantee the peace of a democratic world for which all freedom loving people have sacrificed so much to win. On behalf of 30,000,000 Korean people I thank your Government and people for their sympathetic support in our reconstruction. We join you and your people in spirit and action to develop democracy and to maintain eternal peace. And to you Mr. President, I send warm personal greetings."

William J. Donovan
Director

DECLASSIFIED
R.C. 21020, Sec. 2512 and 526 of 68
Dept. of State letter, Aug. 29, 1948
As of Sept. 15, 1995, Declassified.

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