TO: The Honorable Harry S. Truman, President of the United States, The White House, Washington, D.C.

RE: Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, Tokyo, Japan

KRC: 235887 Filed 2706232

Thanks, Mr. President, and deepest appreciation for your inspiring birthday message. It was thoughtful and generous of you and I am most grateful.

/s/ MacArthur

Rec: 0225 EST
25 April 1950

TO: GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR
SUPREME COMMANDER ALLIED FORCES TOKYO, JAPAN


NR : WH 166 Filed 2516052

On the occasion of your birthday I desire to express the appreciation and gratitude of your country for your services in war and peace which have made and will, I believe, continue to make an important contribution to the great cause of freedom and democracy.

Signed: Harry S. Truman

C O P Y
TO: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: General Douglas MacArthur  

PERSONAL FOR PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN

Dear Mr President:

I have just received the announcement of your appointment of me as the United Nations Commander of the international forces to be employed in Korea and can not fail to express to you personally my deepest thanks and appreciation for this new expression of your confidence. I recall so vividly and with such gratitude that this is the second time you have so signally honored me. Your personal choice five years ago as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan placed me under an intimate obligation which would be difficult for me to ever repay and you have now added to my debt. I can only repeat the pledge of my complete personal loyalty to you as well as an absolute devotion to your monumental struggle for peace and good will throughout the world. I hope I will not fail you.

Most respectfully and faithfully,

(Signed) Douglas MacArthur

Received 1100251 for delivery/ Capt. Dudley
TO : General Douglas MacArthur
FROM : The President

11 July, 1950

Dear General MacArthur:

I deeply appreciate the letter and the spirit of your message relating to your appointment as the United Nations Commander of the international forces in Korea. Your words confirm me in my full belief in your selection.

With my warm regards and all good wishes,

I am

Sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman
On July 19, 1950, MacArthur sent the President what he described as his current estimate of the Korean situation as follows:

"SIGNAL CENTER
EAST WING
The White House
19 July 1950

TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Tokyo

DIRECT: FILED 1211089

PERSONAL FOR THE PRESIDENT:


The following is my current estimate of the Korean situation:

"With the deployment in Korea of major elements of the 8th Army now accomplished the first phase of the campaign has ended and with it the chance for victory by the North Korean Forces. The enemy's plan and great opportunity depended upon the speed with which he could overrun South Korea once he had breached the Han River Line and with overwhelming numbers and superior weapons temporarily shattered South Korean resistance. This chance he has now lost through the extraordinary speed with which the 8th Army has been deployed from Japan to stem his rush. When he crossed the Han Line the way seemed entirely open and victory was within his grasp. The desperate decision to throw in piecemeal American elements as they arrived by every available means of transport from Japan was the only hope to save the situation. The skill and valor thereafter displayed in successive holding actions by the ground forces in accordance with this concept, brilliantly
supported in complete coordination by air and naval elements, forced the
enemy into continued deployments, costly frontal attacks and confused logis-
tics which so slowed his advance and blunted his drive that we have bought
the precious time necessary to build a secure base.

"I do not believe that history records a comparable operation which
excelled the speed and precision with which the 8th Army, the Far East Air
Force and the Seventh Fleet have been deployed to a distant land for im-
mediate commitment to major operations. It merits highest commendation
for the commanders, staffs and units concerned and attests to their superior
training and high state of readiness to meet any eventuality. This finds
added emphasis in the fact that the Far East Command, until the President's
great announcement to support the epochal action of the United Nations, had
no slightest responsibility for the defense of the Free Republic of Korea.

With the President's decision it assumed a completely new and added mission.

"It is, of course, impossible to predict with any degree of accuracy
future incidents of a military campaign. Over a broad front involving con-
tinuous local struggles, there are bound to be ups and downs, losses as well
as successes. Our final stabilization line will unquestionably be rectified
and tactical improvement will involve planned withdrawals as well as local
advances. But the issue of battle is now fully joined and will proceed
along lines of action in which we will not be without choice. Our hold upon
the Southern part of Korea represents a secure base. Our casualties des-
pite overwhelming odds have been relatively light. Our strength will con-
tinually increase while that of the enemy will relatively decrease. His
supply line is insecure. He has had his great chance but failed to exploit
it. We are now in Korea in force, and with God's help we are there to stay
until the constitutional authority of the Republic is fully restored."

"Signed: MacArthur"
On July 19, 1950, the President wired General MacArthur that he was forwarding "for your personal and advance information" a summary of the message he sent to Congress later that day. The summary was approximately three hundred words in length.

On July 20, MacArthur replied as follows:

"SIGNAL CENTER
EAST WING
The White House

20 July 1950

"TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: General of the Army Douglas MacArthur

SUB: 211383    Filed 200305Z

PERSONAL FOR PRESIDENT TRUMAN

Thank you so much Mr. President for your thoughtfulness in sending me an advance synopsis of your message (WH 188) to Congress. It was a great state paper. In ultimate effect perhaps the most significant of modern times, for it means that the United States has determined that the Pacific areas shall be free. I am sure that the historian of the future will regard it as the focal and turning point of this era's struggle for civilization. I am proud and honored to serve under your leadership at so vital a moment. That God will preserve and protect you in your momentous task is the fervent prayer of every member of this command.

*(Signed) MacArthur*

Recd. 202185Z/Capt. Dudley
TO: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: General of the Army Douglas MacArthur

PERSONAL FOR PRESIDENT THURMAN

Thank you so much Mr. President for your thoughtfulness in sending me an advance synopsis of your message (WH 106) to Congress. It was a great state paper. In ultimate effect perhaps the most significant of modern times, for it means that the United States has determined that the Pacific areas shall be free. I am sure that the historian of the future will regard it as the focal and turning point of this era's struggle for civilization. I am proud and honored to serve under your leadership at so vital a moment. That God will preserve and protect you in your monumental task is the fervent prayer of every member of this command.

(Signed) MacArthur

Rec'd. 20315Z/Capt. Dudley
3 August 1950

TO : GENERAL MACARTHUR
FROM : THE PRESIDENT
RM : WH 499 Filed 031550E

At my direction, my assistant, Averell Harriman, will leave here Friday & August, by air to confer with you in Tokyo on political aspects of Far Eastern situation. Announcement of mission will be made here. Warm regards.

Signed: Harry S. Truman
1 August 1950

TO: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: General MacArthur

SUBJECT: Cite Z12602 Filed 01/02/22

PERSONAL FOR PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN

Reference your 8/5/50. I am delighted, Mr. President, at your decision with reference to Averell Harriman. He is an old friend whom I hold in highest esteem. Every assistance and cooperation will be given him. Thank you for the cordiality of your message.

Respectfully,

Douglas MacArthur

Read, 12:05 AM 1 Aug/1950
Dear Mr. President:

There is forwarded herewith, for your approval, a draft directive to General MacArthur regarding possible Chinese military intervention in Korea.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have advised the Secretary of Defense that neither NSC 21/1, on United States courses of action in Korea, nor the implementing directive based thereon, which you approved on 27 September 1950, specifically provide for the action General MacArthur should take if the Chinese Communists intervene, without prior announcement, in Korea. The Joint Chiefs of Staff believe that such intervention is possible in the light of conditions obtaining presently in Korea, and that, therefore, General MacArthur should receive appropriate instructions for such a contingency.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that they be authorized to forward the attached directive to General MacArthur, subject to your approval, in accordance with NSC 73/6, "The Position and Actions of the United States with Respect to Possible Further Soviet Moves in the Light of the Korean Situation."

The Secretaries of State and Defense concur in this attached directive, and recommend your approval.

With great respect,

Faithfully yours,

/s/ Robert A. Lovett

"Approved 10/8/50
HARRY S. TRUMAN"

Enclosure

The President
The White House
TO: Commander in Chief U.N. Command

FROM: JCS

Reference ours 92801. In light of the possible intervention of Chinese Communist forces in North Korea the following amplification of our directive, incorporated in our 92801, is forwarded for your guidance:

"Whereafter in the event of the open or covert employment anywhere in Korea of major Chinese Communist units, without prior announcement, you should continue the action as long as, in your judgment, action by forces now under your control offers a reasonable chance of success. In any case you will obtain authorization from Washington prior to taking any military action against objectives in Chinese territory."

"Approved 10/8/50

Harry S. Truman"
I have just received the following message from President Syngman Rhee:

"UN new committees resolution not acceptable. Korean people will insist on maintaining their inalienable right to hold elections and to set up any government according to their free will, under the observation of and in cooperation with UN commission. But to allow any nation or nations even UN to interfere with the internal administration in cooperation with the existing communist organizations imposed upon the people by alien power is impossible. After defeating the communists at the cost of the precious blood of UN and Korean armies the new committees proposal to protect and revive communism in the north is unthinkable. This government is taking over the civilian administration whenever hostilities cease by dispatching the Governors appointed two years ago for five provinces of the North to restore peace and order. When the situation is ready for elections, the people will be allowed to elect their own governors in free atmosphere and the same civic rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens in south will be extended equally to all people of the north. In deference to the desire of UN New Committees, I will resign in first opportune moment but must first settle the communist problem which is the sole purpose of this war, and the will of people in north and south be carried out free from the influence of Soviet or any other outside power.

(Signed Syngman Rhee)"
I am advising President Rhee that he should carefully avoid any action which might encourage further public controversy as to this matter pending the opportunity for a thorough review of the same in Washington. My message does however reflect that resentment of which I expressed my deep concern during yesterday's conference and I believe that every effort would be made by our government to reconcile the position of the United Nations Interim Committee on Korea with the previous resolutions and commitments of the United Nations with respect to the establishment of the existing government of the Republic of Korea. As you pointed out in yesterday's conference we must not unnecessarily alienate that government and the people it represents who during the past three months have displayed so determined and gallant a stand against aggression and in support of the UN principles, nor are we justified in ignoring decisions of the United Nations of the past three years, particularly as to the bona fide of the elections held on May 10, 1948 and May 30, 1950. To do so would be to create false legal and moral grounds for just such resentment, Ambassador MacCloy fully concurs.

MacArthur

This message has been passed to the U.S. Army, Pacific for delivery to the President, it has also been passed to the Secretary of State.

Rec: San Francisco 162312/Capt. Dudley
October 24, 1950

Dear General MacArthur:

The progress the forces under your command have made since we met at Wake continues to be most remarkable, and once again I offer you my hearty congratulations. The military operations in Korea under your command will have a most profound influence for peace in the world.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry S. Truman

General Douglas MacArthur
Commander-in-Chief
United Nations Command
Tokyo, Japan