

KOREAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.



July 17, 1950

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to convey to you, by means of this letter, the text of a cable which has been received from His Excellency, the President of Korea, and which is addressed to you.

The text of my President's cable is as follows:

"The people and the Government of the Republic of Korea welcome with tears, joy and deepest appreciation the moral and physical support of the United Nations at this time of trial and bloodshed, when the right of free men to live is being challenged by violent Communist armed aggression. For many years the Communists, through satellites, have been preparing to overthrow and to conquer for Red imperialism democratic states through subversion and internal violence. In Korea they have been checked completely by our patriotic Korean people and the alertness of our security agencies. So, suddenly, on a quiet Sunday morning, expecting that the outer free world would only piously express indignation at his naked aggression so reminiscent of Poland and Pearl Harbor, and knowing that the forces of the Republic of Korea were purely defensive, without planes, tanks, or heavy guns -- all of which were possessed by the aggressive Communist forces -- they attacked. With this Soviet military material and leadership, they counted on easy victory, not from superior morale but from superior weapons. The Soviets have had easy victories so long they have deceived even themselves. Almost all the civilized world has rallied to support the Republic of Korea, knowing if the Communists should conquer here there was no place where they would not try to conquer. All free governments with military forces within

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reaching distance of Korea have actually come to our aid militarily, or have offered to do so. Most of the rest of the civilized world has urgently supported them, and us, in this action.

"The Communists won the first battle. We lost heavily in men and material to their planes and tanks and long-range guns. Our army was forced to abandon our ancient capital, Seoul, and to fall back across the Han River where, with rifles against heavy tanks and artillery they valiantly held their positions and repelled the vicious thrusts of the enemy. Meanwhile, American and Australian air power filled the skies and are blasting the enemy concentrations, air fields, supply areas and advancing tank columns. United States troops are pouring into Korea. Their spearheads have advanced long distances towards Seoul and within a few days it is certain they will meet the enemy in force, destroying and driving back to and through Seoul every Communist soldier in Korea.

"The morale and devotion of the Korean people is magnificent despite Communist terrorist activities within the Republic of Korea; since the beginning of the war no single act of sabotage has occurred. Schools are running, factories are operating, farmers are working in the fields, peace and order are being maintained in a remarkable manner everywhere outside the combat areas. The heroism and devotion of the Korean soldiers are outstanding. Even numerous refugees on the road south of Seoul show no panic.

"On behalf of the Government of Korea and all Korean people everywhere they may live, even in the north, where the vast majority awaits liberation from Communist slavery just as eagerly as do our suffering people in Seoul, who today are feeling the maniacal vengeance of Communists, I wish to express to Your Excellency, to Your Excellency's Government, and to all the people of your country the deep prayerful and enduring gratitude and friendship for your moral support and your magnificent military support in this time of bitter trial."

"SYNGMAN RHEE"

Please accept, Your Excellency, my own personal gratitude, and the renewed assurance of my highest regard.

His Excellency
Harry Truman
President of the United States
Washington



John M. Chang
John M. Chang

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