

Optional Source 1: Clifford Memo

Source Information: Correspondence Between Clark M. Clifford and Harry S. Truman, June 30, 1950.
President's Secretary's Files, Truman Papers. (2 pages)

CLARK M. CLIFFORD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 29, 1950

Dear Boss:

Your action of Tuesday with reference to Korea was magnificent. Apparently the public was ready for this high type of leadership because approval of your action is surprisingly universal.

I know that you have thought of all the different ramifications of the problem that exists but I would like to emphasize two phases of it which I deem to be of outstanding importance.

1. I believe that the defense of South Korea should be as broad as possible among the members of the United Nations. In the past years, the effort was always made to have Russia aligned not against the United States but against all the democratic nations of the world. I think every effort should be made to avoid the appearance that this is a contest between two nations but it should be made to appear what it is, i.e., a contest between one aggressor nation and the rest of the peace-loving world.

2. I am concerned about the present order which limits our aid to that area south of the 38th parallel. I understand the reason for such order but I am distressed



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CLARK M. CLIFFORD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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that, in bombing towns and cities in South Korea, we are bombing friendly people and friendly areas.

I would like to suggest that the President issue a statement informing the world that he is going to ask the United Nations to issue an order giving the North Korean forces forty-eight hours to withdraw from South Korea. And, if the North Korean forces refuse to do so, that military forces of member nations of the United Nations will bomb military objectives in North Korea.

I believe that such a pronouncement would receive the overwhelming support of the people in this country and in the free nations, and it would greatly improve the chances of the free nations to prevent the Communists from over-running South Korea.

Please forgive my trespass upon your time but the old fire horse got a whiff of smoke.

Affectionately yours,

Clark -



The President
The White House

Using Optional Source 1

Sourcing Questions	Who wrote this document? When was the document? What is the author's perspective?
Contextualization Questions	What issues are being addressed in the document?
Corroboration Tasks	What does the document say about the problems being faced with the U.N. and the Korean conflict?
Close Reading Questions	What evidence does the author provide to reflect his position? What is the author hoping to accomplish with this document?