September 17, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In the hope that it may be helpful, I summarize in writing below the highlights of the suggestions I made in our talk of yesterday. In my opinion:

I - The people should realize, and therefore emphasis should be placed on, the magnitude of the task you have had - more involved and difficult perhaps, everything considered, than that which has confronted any previous President (including war-time Presidents, certainly as far as public support is concerned).

1 - Your record should be measured in the light of this, and in that light, yours has been a fine record.

II - There should be clear reiteration of the positive things you have done, plus those you have aimed to do against Republican opposition.

1 - Emphasizing how, in contrast to conditions after World War I - our country has enjoyed prosperity, no unemployment, etc.

2 - In this connection, some staunch Republicans have recently confirmed that while, in their opinion, the economy of the nation will be much better in the long run under a Republican administration, they fear that there may be a serious initial economic depression when the Republicans take over (if they do), as a consequence of removing supports, etc.

III - Friendship to business interests, as well as labor, should be clearly indicated.

1 - I know you are friendly to business but there are those who think otherwise. In addition to big business, there is a large cross-section of men in small and medium-sized businesses - as well as some employees (particularly white collar) of big business - who align themselves on the side of business and object to what they view as undue attacks on business.
IV - Overemphasis on high taxes and excess-profit tax in peace
    time should be avoided unless circumstances especially
    require it.

1. When high taxes are necessary, they will come. Is there
   need at this time to initiate emphasis on something so
   universally unpopular?

V - Some positive things should promptly be done with regard to
    Palestine — primarily because this is just and proper, and
    necessary to further and insure peace and order.

1. There is a feeling among some, if I may be permitted to
   say so, that the President's sincere intentions have been
   underplayed in some quarters — and after the utilities on
   Partition by the U. S. Delegation before UN, more is
   required than just the de facto recognition and the
   appointment of the Minister to Israel. Among such positive
   acts, in my opinion, should be

A - As most important, prompt U.S. de jure recognition of
   Israel, not delaying until elections there (which are
   now slated for a date after election here). I am
   informed that there is precedent for such de jure
   recognition, and believe strongly that United States
   recognition at this time would aid materially in
   bringing about peace in the area.

B - An early loan. In this connection, I was pleased to
   learn that you believe you see a means whereby this
   might be accomplished.

C - Appointment to the State Department's Palestine Division
   of a person like General MacArthur, assuming same would
   meet with Secretary Marshall's complete concurrence.

D - Encouraging the Arabs to negotiate peace directly with the
   Jews.

E - Seeking UN recognition of Israel when application is
   made.

2. Such positive acts, would permit a proper and true
   construction on the President's position — that you have
   right along been unwavering in Partition as your ultimate,
   objective but have handled the situation in a way which
   has made it possible to avoid Russian troops on an
   International force in the area.

VI - The communist allegations should be treated more definitely so
the opposition will not win the public over to erroneously
believing that government is loaded with communists and that
the President may be shielding them.

1 - Your sound, fundamental basic reasoning on this should be
gotten across to the public by factual statements rather
than by slogan.

2 - And perhaps, you might consider expressing willingness to
release certain of the files to a very small, responsible
Citizens' Committee (composed of such men as, say, General
Eisenhower) or if the Un-American Activities Committee will
redraft its procedures along lines similar to those outlined
by Robert Carr in the August 30th issue of the New York Times.

I know you will not consider these suggestions presumptions, but
will view them in the helpful spirit in which they are offered.

Sincerely,