April 9, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

By direction of the President, I am sending you herewith, for appropriate handling, the attached letters which he has received from the President of Korea, the Prime Minister of Korea, and the Chairman of the Korean National Assembly.

WILLIAM D. HASSITT
Secretary to the President

Letters to the President from the following, copies retained:

Syngman Rhee, President of Korea, 3/26/51.

John H. Chang, Prime Minister of Korea, 3/10/51.

F. H. Shinicky, Chairman of the Korean National Assembly, 3/20/51.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CONNELLY:

I am enclosing herewith a letter addressed to the President by His Excellency John M. Chang, Prime Minister of Korea, which has been forwarded to the Department for delivery to the White House.

H. Charles Spruks
 Acting Chief of Protocol

Enclosure:
Letter.
Your Excellency,

I am happy to have this opportunity to address you to give you an account of a personal observation tour which I made to the front lines in Korea shortly after assuming the office of Prime Minister. I found our soldiers fighting gallantly side-by-side with the valiant forces of the United Nations. Under the overall command of General MacArthur, the Korean forces have exemplified heroism to a degree which commands our pride in our fighting men. Our army is resolved in its firm determination to exterminate the communists from our land, and to restore peace and security to Korea, with the aid of the free nations of the world.

Millions of our people have become homeless with the impact of the conflict in our country. Consequently, refugee problems have brought about strain and tension in our present economic structure. Adequate solutions must be found to meet problems in housing, food, clothing and public health emergencies. Our Government is doing everything possible to meet these problems and at the same time to wage successful war against our common enemy in cooperation with the United Nations forces.

It is my desire to express to Your Excellency at this time our deep gratitude for the constant vigilance of the United States Government for our country and the welfare of our people. I should like to express my sincere good wishes for the continued good health of Your Excellency and my confidence in the realization of final victory for the democratic forces which engaged in the conflict in our land.

With continued appreciation and esteem, I am

Respectfully yours,

JOHN H. CHANG

John H. Chang
Prime Minister

His Excellency
Mr. Harry Truman
President of the United States
Washington D.C.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CONNELLY:

At the request of the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Korea, I am forwarding herewith letters addressed to the President by the President of Korea and the Chairman of the Korean National Assembly.

H. Charles Spruks
Acting Chief of Protocol

Enclosures:
Two letters.
His Excellency
Harry S. Truman,
President of the United States of America,

Excellency:

I have the honor, by the resolution of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea adopted on March 20, 1951, to convey the deepest gratitude of the Korean people to your Excellency and the people of the United States of America on the occasion of the second recapture of the Capital City of Seoul on March 11 by the brave United Nations Forces, with the righteous assistance of your Excellency and of the people of the United States of America.

The people of Korea, believe that the second recapture of Seoul is the joy not only of the Korean people but of all the freedom-loving peoples of the world, and reaffirm at this opportunity, their determination to fight on in cooperation with the United Nations Forces until the expulsion of the aggressors and the complete unification of their land.

May God bless your Excellency and the people of the United States of America.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

F. H. Shinicky

F. H. Shinicky
Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.
My dear Mr. President:

Upon receipt of the report that our forces had re-entered Seoul, we at once thanked God and prayed for the continued success of your brilliant leadership and far-sighted statesmanship. Your bold declaration of the Truman Doctrine three years ago, followed by your momentous and historic decision of June 25, 1950, made clear the dangers of Communism and guided world sentiment into taking a firm anti-Communist stand.

Had you not declared your anti-Communist policy three years ago, the Soviets might have conquered the entire world by now, and Korea, then under American Military Government, might well be subject to a Soviet trusteeship. Again, had you failed to make your decision last June, none of the United Nations forces now fighting here would have come, and we know what then would have been the fate of Korea. The record of world history will show throughout the centuries to come that all democracies now fighting against Soviet aggression owe their security and freedom to you. And I assure you, Mr. President, our people will never fail to enroll your name in their grateful hearts.

Now that the war has progressed to this successful stage, pro-Communist appeasers everywhere are feverishly seeking to secure a "peace-nurse" order under a variety of excuses. To stop at the 38th parallel would be to frustrate your policy and to render in vain all the sacrifices of human lives and material sustained by the United States and other member nations. Therefore I desire to express to you, Mr. President, my deep conviction that the United States should stand firm in carrying out your principles, thereby encouraging all the anti-Communist elements in every nation, including Russia herself, to fight for their freedom. This is the only way, I believe, to avoid the possibility of another world war. As we know, revolt against Communism is now arising in many nations; to encourage it is the best means of weakening the position of the totalitarian leaders in the Kremlin.

Meanwhile we must not risk needlessly the lives of the American boys in Korea. The best way to reduce the burden upon them is by immediately arming and equipping the three hundred thousand Korean youths who have been selected and trained for the battlefront. Let these boys do the fighting at the front, while the United Nations forces support them with air, fire and artillery and hold secure positions in the rear.
The question of arming this additional large body of Korean troops has become inter-tangled in the thinking of some people with the question of re-arming Japan. These people declare that the Korean reserve contingents are not sufficiently trained. As a matter of fact, they are better trained than were many of the men in the present Republic of Korea forces when they were sent to the front. Under the direction of General Macarthy, working through the Korean generals, such an expanded Korean army could drive the Chinese across the Manchurian border and keep them there.

Mr. President, I know that you are being advised from some quarters to re-vitalize Japanese military power as a means of defending Asia from future Communist conquest. I must plead with you to look earnestly at the fallacies in this kind of proposal. The nations of Asia which have suffered for centuries from Japanese militarism cannot now trust the intentions of a re-armed Japan. Both for the sake of our own security and for the sake of the peace and stability of Asia, the armed strength of Korea should be at least equal to that of Japan. We have demonstrated our determination to resist aggression. Never in our long history have we attacked another nation outside our own borders. We have the manpower, the natural resources, and the will to provide a secure base of democracy in North Asia. We trust that American policy will not overlook either our requirements for self-defense nor our urgent desire to cooperate in the common defense structure of the world-wide democratic community.

Eventually the forces of the United States will leave Korea and we must then depend upon our own armies for the defense of our country. Unless everything possible is done to prepare and strengthen the Korean forces not only to achieve but to maintain the unification of our country, full effect cannot be given to your declared policy of establishing a united, independent, and democratic Korea. It is my sincere request that the Korean army be put in position to carry out and give full effect to this policy.

With assurances of my highest regard and personal good wishes,
I am, Mr. President

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

The President of the United States of America

The White House

Washington, D.C.