

June 30, 1950

Dear Clark:

Thanks a lot for your good letter of the twenty-ninth. I can't tell you how very much I appreciated it.

England, Australia and Holland have come in on the defense of Korea. The statement you suggest, I think, is a little premature at this time but it may be necessary to make it later.

Sincerely yours,



HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Clark M. Clifford
1523 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

*note in longhand -
Glad to hear from you.*

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



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