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May 10, 1952

471-B
Prisoners of War

My dear Judge McKinlay:

Your letter of May first to the President has been received and I want to assure you of his appreciation of your interest in letting him have an expression of your views. In this connection, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of a statement issued by the President on May seventh on this subject.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Honorable Donald S. McKinlay,
Judge,
Superior Court of Cook County,
Chicago,
Illinois.



Enclosure - Statement of 5/7/52 re proposal for reaching armistice with communist aggressors in Korea and return of prisoners.

Superior Court of Cook County
Judge Donald S. McKinlay
In Chambers

Chicago *su*

May 1, 1952.

Hon. Harry S. Truman,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

At times during the discussion of exchange of prisoners in the Korean War, I have read that many of the prisoners in our hands do not want to be returned to the Chinese or North Koreans. One cannot blame them.

I don't suppose our government would force even one such prisoner to go back, no matter what the consequences or threats. It would be a dishonorable and cowardly act, and no good would ever come of it.

One cannot blame the parents of our boys who are captives of the enemy, if they want to trade anything to get their boys back. But the government is in a different position from the parents, and must consider the life and limb of millions of other boys who may suffer if we exhibit weakness or fear in dealing with the enemy.

Respectfully yours,

Donald S. McKinlay

