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July 8, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Support for the Korean Aid Program

The House Foreign Affairs Committee has now completed hearings on the Bill authorizing \$150 million for economic assistance to Korea. Chairman Kee anticipates that the Bill faces very tough sledding both in the Rules Committee and on the Floor of the House. He believes that strong leadership support will be necessary in order to win passage of the Bill. It is likely that some Republican elements in the House may seek to raise partisan issue, using the Korean Program as a springboard for an attack upon the Administration's policies in China.

You will recall that in our talk yesterday you agreed that we should push ahead on the Korean Program and not wait for the release of the China White Paper. You suggested that I let you know when it would be most opportune for you to help us with the House leadership.

It would be most helpful if, at your meeting with Speaker Rayburn and Representative McCormack on Monday, July 11, you were to remind them of the importance of the Korean Program and to urge that they take affirmative action to support Judge Kee to obtain a rule from the Rules Committee and to assist him on the Floor of the House when the Bill comes up for debate. This is a rather urgent matter since the Rules Committee may have the Bill for consideration early during the week of July 11.

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