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August 7, 1951

Dear Mr. Goe:

Your letter of July twenty-ninth to the President has been referred to this office for reply.

You are quite right that the President has the authority to require General MacArthur to clear his speeches through proper channels. However, the President has stated publicly that he has no intention of exercising this authority.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH SHORT  
Secretary to the President

Mr. Tom A. Goe, x  
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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Kansas City, Missouri  
July 29, 1951

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

Dear Sir:

I feel that it is your duty, as Commander and Chief of the Military Forces of the United States, to require Douglas McArthur to clear his speeches through regular army channels as long as he is to appear in the uniform of a General of the army and be introduced as a General of the army.

I feel that if he is permitted to make statements such as he made a few days ago before the joint session of the Massachusetts House and Senate in which he openly refused to accept the commands of his superior officer, he is in effect giving the entire personnel of the Military Forces an impression they may refuse to accept the commands of their superior officers.

I do not deny that he, as well as anyone else, has the privilege of free speech but only if he is speaking as an individual and not as a General of the army and in the full dress of a General.

It would appear to me that Douglas McArthur, as a General of the army, is guilty of violating the Articles of War (Act of June 4, 1920, 41 Stat. 787) particularly ARTICLE 62 - 'Disrespect toward the President, Vice-President, Congress, Secretary of War, Governors and Legislators' and ARTICLE 63 - 'Disrespect toward Superior Officer'.

General McArthur must not forget that he did not represent the people of the United States in an elected office in the Far East. His command was by appointment and his removal from these commands certainly within the jurisdiction of his superiors.

Respectfully,

*Tom A. Goe*

Tom A. Goe

3529 Windsor  
Kansas City 1, Mo.

