

7 January 1959

Dear Mr. President:

I have given very careful attention to your letter which was delivered to me in Chinhai. Needless to say, your personal concernment over recent happenings in our National Assembly is a matter of moment to us.

First of all, may I say that there was a considerable amount of misrepresentation connected with the passage of our National Security Law. This we deeply regret.

It is true that when this important measure was passed certain Assemblymen were excluded from the Assembly Chamber by order of the Speaker. However, the Speaker's order of removal was issued only after a minority, about one-third of the members, had occupied the rostrum and had prevented not only the passage of the National Security Law, but other essential legislation as well. When a member is removed from the Hall for reasons of obstructive and destructive behavior he cannot return to that particular session without the Speaker's permission. It was the duty of the Security Guards to enforce this regulation.

I know I speak for the majority of our National Assembly when I say that they had no wish to interfere with the rights of the minority. But when the minority challenges the majority with acts of force and violence, that challenge must be met.

Yes, Mr. President, our purpose in revising the National Security Law was to provide a more effective legal basis to deal with communist infiltration, espionage and subversion. And to this objective we will now devote our best efforts. In so doing, I am confident we will dispel apprehensions with regard to the survival of our democratic and representative government.

Please be reassured that we will continue to fight to the limit of our abilities the forces of international communism which menace the freedom of all of us. In this fight, we can never overestimate the importance of American military and economic help. This help is accepted with deepest gratitude by our people for the survival of Korea and the victory of the Free World cause.

Sincerely yours,

His Excellency  
Dwight D. Eisenhower  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.