

November 16, 1953

Dear Mr. President:

*On behalf of*  
~~Representing~~ the Government and people of Korea,  
I wish to express to you our hearty thanks and appreciation for the visit of Vice President and Mrs. Nixon whose short visit with us has been a source of encouragement and inspiration to the entire nation. They certainly have brought us to a closer understanding of and stronger bond of friendship with the United States, particularly you, Mr. President. The beautiful gift of your autographed portrait was presented to me by Mr. Nixon at an open-air welcome meeting, when I read your personal message to the Government and people of this Republic. Your portrait and message thrilled all of us indeed.

Your personal confidential letter to me has been read carefully. I certainly appreciate all the efforts you will continue to make so as to have the Mutual Defense Treaty ratified by the U. S. Senate and the aid appropriation bill passed by the Congress. With your generous and ceaseless endeavor, I am sure that both Houses will find no sufficient reason for withholding their approval.

Please allow me again to mention the fact that unless Korea is unified before it is too late, Korea cannot survive as an independent nation. Then, no economic aid or defense pact will avail us much. I mention this simply because we want you to bear in mind that we cannot survive without unification. We know that you have this at your heart and that you will do everything within your power to save the civilian population of north Korea, the total <sup>number</sup> of which has been reduced from 7 millions at the start of the north Korean invasion to 3 millions now. Every day these people are dying by the hundreds if not thousands and they are agonizing and crying for us to come to their rescue. The million or more Chinese communist troops are bringing their families and other Chinese to get settled in north Korea. The industrial north, with no food from the agricultural south and no aid from outside, cannot subsist any longer. Therefore, to the Koreans, both in the north and the south,

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the question of their survival is uppermost in their minds. They know that, to survive, they must unify.

Mr. Nixon seems to be fully convinced of this fact from his own personal observation and I am sure he will report it to you in detail. As I told him, there is no question about our willingness to co-operate with you in every way possible. So long as the U. S. Government pursues the policy of justice at any cost, instead of peace at any cost, and decides to unify Korea either by peaceful means or by other means, there is no reason why we should hesitate even a moment to co-operate with the UN member nations in general and U. S. in particular. I know that we will work together to get the Chinese invaders now in Korea to evacuate at the earliest possible moment.

In reply to Mr. Nixon's question put to me just before his leaving, I said that if everything should go contrary to our expectation and the worse comes to the worst, I would feel compelled to take a unilateral action, which I earnestly hope would never happen. I added, however, that I would inform you before making any such move.

I told Mr. Nixon further that we should keep this understanding strictly in confidence. With that in view, I will keep your letter confidential because, if we don't, some may be tempted to think that you are trying to bring pressure on me, which, I do not doubt, is far from true, and also because we do not want our enemies to know everything our two countries have agreed to do. We want to keep them guessing at what we might do.

I am hurrying this letter to be sent to Tokyo where the Vice President may receive it before he leaves Japan.

Let me reassure you of our strong friendship and deep loyalty to the U. S. and you, Mr. President.

With highest esteem and best personal regards.

Cordially yours,

His Excellency  
Dwight D. Eisenhower  
President of the United States of America

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