

13 July 1954

My dear Ambassador Briggs:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter, which I received yesterday morning and to thank you for it. Please convey to President Eisenhower our sincere thanks and appreciation for his generous invitation to Mrs. Rhee and myself to visit the United States and be in Washington from July 26 to July 30, 1954, and to discuss the plans which I suggested in my last letter to Secretary Dulles.

In this connection, I also wish to express my appreciation to Secretary Dulles for making it possible for me to visit the United States once again.

Regarding what I told you rather hastily yesterday morning, I want to reiterate in writing that the ROK Government is ready to send three army divisions to Indo-China to defend at least the southern part of Vietnam. In so doing, we would have to count on the cooperation of the United States Government. But if such cooperation could not be given openly, the assistance of the United States Navy in transportation and United States Air Force in air coverage should be adequate.

If we had been permitted to help when we first offered to do so, the Free World would not have lost so much of the manpower of Indo-China and the northern half of that country. We must send effective aid at once, or all of Indo-China soon will be gone, and Thailand will be next on the list of Communist conquests.

It is clear that the United States is not in a position to send troops to Indo-China to fight the enemy. At the same time, all the world knows that the United States is not going to surrender to Communist imperialism and is therefore seeking all possible means of stopping Red aggression.

Why not, then, let the Koreans -- who are willing to fight Communism at any time -- help the anti-Communists of Indo-China to defend themselves? We Koreans know full well that if all the Asiatic peoples are conquered by Communism, we alone cannot remain an anti-Communist nation

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in a Communist Asia.

The British and the French are already lost to the Communists. The pro-Communists in their Governments will not fight the Communists to protect their colonies, and it even seems that sometimes they would prefer to line up with the enemy to defeat the Free Nations, especially the United States.

If we are to save Asia for democracy, we must persuade the reluctant French to fight on our side. Failing that, we shall have to drive those Frenchmen who sympathize with Communism from this part of the world. Such a unified front against the Reds will immediately bring all the Asiatic peoples behind the United States in the effort to turn back Communism.

In that case, even the Chinese behind the bamboo curtain will be our allies. Such support is absolutely essential, because unless the United States wins over the Chinese, it cannot expect to defeat world Communism.

It seems to me that further American assistance to France and some of the NATO nations is replete with peril. To help present-day France with either money or material is to run a grave risk of assisting the Communists. By the same token, NATO is not making satisfactory headway because some of the so-called NATO countries already are half under Soviet control.

The only way out for all of us is to sever our relations with those states that lean toward the Soviet, and stand firmly with the definitely anti-Communist nations and groups everywhere. In that way we can build solid defense lines in both Europe and Asia.

Action by the United States should be both quick and decisive. Unless we can give immediate encouragement to anti-Communist elements, we shall lose them one by one. It already is later than many of us had thought.

I also wonder if President Eisenhower has thought of the political implications of today's world situation. Far Eastern observers are of the opinion that unless the Administration acts positively in Indo-China forthwith, the November elections will be affected adversely.

Inaction already has been prolonged beyond the point of safety, in my opinion, and the results have been close to disastrous. It is my sincere hope that those of

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us who view Communism as history's greatest threat to civilization and Christian morality can yet band together to save the world for freedom and justice.

Yours sincerely,

The Honorable Ellis O. Briggs,
American Ambassador,
SEOUL, KOREA.

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