PRESIDENT RHEU'S CHRISTMAS
MESSAGE, 1954

TO GENERAL MADWELL D. TAYLOR AND ALL
FORCES UNDER HIS COMMAND

To all members of the United Nations Forces,
military or civilian, I extend my warmest wishes for a
blessed Christmas. I realize it can hardly be a
merry one, for when vast distances separate husbands,
fathers, sons and sweethearts from those who mean most
to them on this earth, it is difficult to concentrate
on Yuletide joys and the real reason for rejoicing.
Home is a magic word. Here, where so many things are
strange to the foreign born, home takes on added
meaning. It stands for everything that is fine and
good and desirable and sentimental. Yet the spirit of
Christmas is a wonderful thing that fills men's hearts.
Christmas is a time for rejoicing, for renewed hope
and faith.

If you will, you can experience a sense of
satisfaction over your presence in Korea at this time.
You responded to a call to defend human liberty, to
protect men, women and children and their homes from
an aggressor. In answering the challenge to democracy
you can take consolation. The united effort turned
back the invaders who sought to subjugate the entire
peninsula or drive us all into the sea. It is due to
you that we are enjoying freedom in at least half of
our country. Further, your presence here has kept
the Communists from conquering the rest of the
continent of Asia. You have prevented the front line
from advancing closer to the California shores, closer
to your own homes wherever they may be.

Whether the world recognizes your great achieve-
ments or not, you have indeed accomplished all this.
You should be satisfied in your own conscience. It is
only natural that you would like to feel that the
great objectives of the United States and other
countries represented here have been attained, that
when you depart you will leave a free, united and
democratic Korea. But if you see this goal still unachieved, you also are aware that we understand. We realise it is not due to your lack of willingness or ability, but because of decisions made by the United Nations policy makers which deprive you of the opportunity.

We are happy to remember those comrades of yours who already have gone home and hope they are enjoying reunions with their families now. We wish you happiness as you celebrate this occasion with us. I pray that God’s richest blessings be yours at this Christmas time and throughout the coming year.