

September 9, 1954

Letter, Vincent G. Burns to Syngman Rhee

Citation:

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Summary:

Vincent Godfrey Burns sends a letter and poem to Syngman Rhee after Rhee's visit to the United States.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



Epping Forest

Annapolis, Md.

September 9th, 1954

Dear Syngman Rhee ---

I tried to reach you when you were here in Washington, as I wanted very much to talk with you, and to see if there was not some concrete way in which I could aid you in your gallant fight against the Communist world conspiracy.

I was not successful. The people at the embassy would give me no information. I wanted to go to the Foundry Church the morning you were there and read the poem I dedicated to you but I got no encouragement from Doctor Harris. I felt pretty badly because of the fact that you had written me so fine a letter and indicated that you appreciated my poem. But poets --- as you know --- are today pushed aside for more practical and worldly people, who understand how to push themselves ahead.

I am enclosing a new copy of the poem, which will appear in my next book --- and it contains now an additional verse (the last) which was inspired by your courageous and forthright and outspoken message to our American Congress. You told them a thing or two. How I wish that our government would wake up, put aside the silly wishful thinking about Communism and get down to the serious business of destroying and liquidating the bandits and gangsters in the Kremlin. It is moral degeneration and callousness to look the other way while 700 million human beings rot under the iron heel of the Communist slavery. America cannot keep her soul much longer, unless we move fearlessly and finally to destroy the Moloch of world Bolshevism !

May I hear your latest plans to move to defeat the Red marauders in Korea so that your nation may be united ? Would you tell me how I can help here ?

May God bless you in your fearless efforts to unify Korea and destroy the savage enemies who would continue to enslave and degrade so many of your people !

Your loyal friend,

Dr. Syngman Rhee
Seoul, Korea



PS:

If you would write the National Broadcasting Company I think they would give me a radio and possibly a television program of three fifteen minute programs a week under the auspices of the Korean Relief, in which I could appeal to our people not only to send clothing and food for the coming winter for your people but also I could, thru the power of poetry, get across to our people the urgency of this world struggle against Communism and the moral and spiritual responsibilities we as Americans have in winning that struggle.

This is important and I feel sure you will have the vision and courage to act on it.

V - G - B



SALUTATIONS, SYNGMAN RHEE !

Salutations, Syngman Rhee !
As long as men love liberty
Your strong, heroic name shall be
A symbol of faith and bravery ---
Unmoved, unbowed like a redwood tree !
Salutations, Syngman Rhee !

Salutations, Syngman Rhee !
You stood your ground and turned the key
And set the hosts of the prisoners free ---
That deed you did so fearlessly
Has thrilled brave men from sea to sea !
Salutations, Syngman Rhee !

Salutations, Syngman Rhee !
In spite of pain and poverty,
A nation plagued by misery ---
In spite of fear and treachery
You swore you'd fight till all were free !
Salutations, Syngman Rhee !

Salutations, Syngman Rhee !
The free world cheers your constancy
And hearts take hope unflinching
That some day soon the world shall see
The end of Communist tyranny !
Salutations, Syngman Rhee !

Salutations, Syngman Rhee !
God grant your fiery energy
May stab awake our lethargy
To break the chains of slavery
And turn the tides of destiny !
Salutations, Syngman Rhee !

Vincent Godfrey Burns