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December 5, 1953
Letter, Howard C. Smith to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Howard Smith details the acts of treachery the United States and the United Nations have perpetrated against Rhee and the Republic of Korea.

Credits:

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MARYLAND CASUALTY COMPANY

940 Rivermet Avenue,
Fort Wayne 3, Indiana,
December 5, 1953.

To Syngman Rhee,
President of the Republic of Korea,
Pusan, Korea.

Dear Mr. President,

The following was written shortly following your courageous action in releasing thousands of prisoners captured by the heroic soldiers of the Republic of Korea and by their American and other comrades in Korea. This heroic deed in throwing up the prison doors to save these poor captives from a return to certain death at the hands of the Chinese and North Korean communists under the lead and direction of the monsters derving Soviet Russia thrilled the world.

I send it to you now, as a testimonial of regard and admiration - a regard and admiration felt by millions of Americans who cherish still their land's ancient and heroic stand for liberty and cheer and aid those others who act decisively for freedom. (Resist the Eisenhower-Dulles "big retreat" now under way.

Yours very sincerely,

/s/ Howard C. Smith

Great Rhee!
Stand Firm!
Brave Rhee!

How shines your deed amid the mud
And murk and mire and smog and filth
Of the politics, intrigues and
Life of this our time, as shines yon
Star in the sky of night high, high
Overhead!

Despite the Churchills, Malenkovs,
Maos, Eisenhowers and all
The petty tribe of little men
Who dare to lord it over us
The whole world 'round-
Little tin gods who strut as God -
Who break each pledge solemnly sworn
As flippantly as 'twere this twig
Held 'twixt my pressing fingers;
Despite all them and their cabals
And snares you dared, in freedom's hour

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Of need, of betrayal, to free
The prisoners of war who fought
Unwilling on the Red side 'gainst
Their kith and kin, their country and
All they held dear and then gave up
On promises of freedom made
In South Korea's name, and, shame!
Made to be broken in thename
Of this one-time great nation and
That sad, misshapen dwarf thing
Whose delegates sit in the glass-
Windowed hall in New York - what time
They plot not together, list not
Charmed to willed, planned lies of Malik,
And Vishinsky, Molotov and
All butchers sent by the Kremlin's
Butcher-gang. Last, worst and greatest
Infamy of all to turn men
Longing for freedom over to
Torturers against pledged vow!
As after the Germans quit we,
Under the stupid leadership
Of Roosevelt and Truman, Marshall
And Acheson, forced defiant
Russian prisoners into hands
Of Russia to do them to death;
So now with all this sorry past
We still persist in folly and
Seek to repeat the evil deed,
Driving more victims into the
Hands of their executioners-
Victims who trusted this nation.

You then released these men, brave Rhee;
(For which thank God!), as once to Paul
The gates of prison were flung wide;
Thank God! you spared us this shameful
Crime, this foul, foul blot on our shield
Of honor and before the world..
The prison gates you flung wide, wide
To freedom - and dared defy the
Wicked arts of those who smear you,
As Chiang was by the Lattimores,
Smedleys and those who blast the nave
Of all who fight the Reds, and call you
"Old," "vain," "bull-headed" and the like,
"Incompetent" and "all unfit"
To head the Republic!

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Let them rage, let them bare their fangs,
The serpent brood of Marx, Stalin!
The world hails your deed glorious,
Great Rhee, and will mark long the hour
When the thousands fled their prisons
As one of time's great, greatest hours!

ii

How is this-
"Treachery," say some?

Arrogant with Empire's new "majesty"
And new imperiousness o'erbearing -
Role unused heretofore to us, by us
Americans despised before our day -
Wreaking on our small partner our wrath and
Aches and smarts from defeat, first loss
Of a war in all our long history -
A war lost by backstairs conspiracy
'Spite of our soldiers' deeds, sacrifices,
Blood spilled, lives given, victories won
Which Churchill, Acheson, Truman, Marshall
Never intended to win -- our nation,
Shame be upon us forever for this
Shameful, vile, foul deed! this nation of ours
Charges "treachery" on the South Koreans!

For thatthey will not consent to baseness
Tamely submitted to by us, and sought
In turn by us basely to be rammed down
Their throats in defiance of ev'ry law
O f right and justice, decency, moral
Principle.

iii

Let us speak of "treachery" here and there,
Forthrightly, truly!

Was it "treachery"-
That the British sold rubber to Russia?
While the "UN" war was on,
Rejecting their own pledges free-spoken?

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iv

Was it "treachery" -

That Red Russia made engines of war and
Furnished them to Red Koreans and Red
China to war on South Korea -
Against their very pledge?

v

Was it "treachery" -

That, while pretending to punish and
Defeat the Red aggressors, the UN"
Forbade effective military plans,
Halted our warplanes at the Yalu and
Set up safe sanctuary for Red planes
Fleeing from attack and pursuit?

vi

Was it "treachery" -

That Britain extended formal honors,
The friendly right hand to re-handed China
In China's aggression on Korea -
A hand Mao did not deign to take?

vii

Was it "treachery" -

That British ships hauled troops of Red China
To war upon Korea, the "UN,"
Our country and even their own few sons
Upln the battle line?

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Was it "treachery" -

That big-mouthed spokesmen of America
Threatened to cut off supplies and support
From South Korea unless that country
Yielded to the Kremlin-ring, sponsored by
India's Nehru, and accepted any terms
Russia might choose to dictate to us
--(Remember when Dulles spoke of the bold,
Brave, tough new policy he would pursue?)--

Just as Truman's "great American," George
The "General" Marshall, demanding that
Free China take the Communist traitors
Into its government, with one single
Stroke of pen cut off supplies intended
For freedom's use by freemen and our friends,
Yes, supplies voted and ordained by Congress
For that use;
Afterwards boasting like Simple Simon
-Pulling out his thumb in fatuous glee-
What great deeds he had done in striking down
America's cause in the Orient,
"With a single stroke of my pen," like Booth
Exulting in madman vengeance from stage
After he killed great Lincoln -

While we hunt memory in vain to find
Any, one single occasion when Clark,
Or Dulles, or Eisenhower, or Lodge,
Or Acheson, or Truman, or Roosevelt,
Or Hiss spoke up to Russia even when
The Reds grossly broke every promise made -
Or did Roosevelt speak out once?

ix

Was it "treachery" -

When Russia, member of "UN" and bound
By "UN's" war pledge, yet broke that war pledge,
As every other pledge she ever made,

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With light-hearted aplomb and bravado;
Threw Red China into the war on South
Korea, armed Red China and the Red
Armies of the north of that brokenland;
Had her man stand up in "UN's" council
And boast that she had furnished arms and
Support, and all but confessed that she had
Herself pulled the puppet strings and waged
This strange war, as all know she has indeed?

x

Was it "treachery" -

When the "UN" council declared its "firm,"
"Resolute" purpose to unify this
Rent land by military might and her
High will to save the victim and punish
The aggressor come what might; and now says -
What ev'ry person knows to be foully
False - now says that she has accomplished all
She ever set out to do and seeks a
Truce, the land still split in two, still
Occupied in part by Red Chinese, still
Under the aggressor's heel, instant war threat,
Prisoners to be turned over to be
Badgered, brain-tormented by bloody goons
Russian-trained in schools of torture, and held
For these tender ministrations, for these
Bloody rites of "persuasion" by Nehru's
Russian sympathizers, assisted by men
Of Poland and Czechoslovakia,
Whose every will is Russia's will and
Every purpose is Russia's purpose -
Yet in this topsy-turvy world of the
Striped pants brigade are these three
Nations, Red two, Reddish one, called "neutrals"?

xi

Wat it "treachery" -

When the "UN" and this nation's leaders
Decided for themselves they'd had enough
Of this war-without-winning-or-purpose-

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Of-winning, wrote a plan of surrender
To Red Russia, Red China, Red Korea,
And said no word to Free South Korea
Except these gruff commands:

"Here, you - sign here - right here -
But fast!"

And Nehru says "UN" will be able
To "handle" the South Koreans -
Perhaps with those forces he sent to war,
Yes, with that Indian ambulance!

Nehru? And who else?

xii

Was it "treachery" -

Or was it simple Marshall-idiocy?

When Eisenhower and Dulles, speaking
As the Charlie-McCarthy for Edgar
Bergen's Acheson-and -Truman team,
Proclaimed all won, "great victory achieved,"
Like the old man of Blenheim-
Who in the poem didn't know what it
Was all about, but knew only, knew he,
That 'twas a great victory?
Moved, "Sic Semper Tyrannis" in Vox Pop
Conjures up Lincoln speaking in such words
As Eisenhower: Speaking at Gettysburg,
As Eisenhower, the Gettysburg farmer,
Might have spoken then: "The moment is come
When we must decide whether to carry
On a war to unify the states of
Pursue this goal by political means -
(With the assistance of dear old Britain).
It would be bad to prolong the war; we
Do not intend to use war as a tool
To accomplish the settlement to which
We are dedicated, which we lieve
To be just." Of course, the United States
Has not abandoned its objectives, NO:

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"The truceline," imagines Vox Pop, "may be
The Mason-Dixon line; but Mr. Lincoln
Will try, if possible, to get a line
On the Rappahannock, so the city
Of Washington would be in union hands.
The United States will never renounce
Proper efforts by all means short of war
To unify the states." Vox imagines
Lincoln and Jeff Davis pick a neutral
Commission to make sure all escaped slaves
Know they may return to their beloved
South - "Ole Virginny," Ole Kentucky Home"
And the other states of fond memory
Of the lash and what not. And Vox has Abe
And Jeff pick the neutrals - Alabama,
South Carolina, Mississippi and
Britain and Mexico.

xiv

Stand fast, great and brave Rhee!
Look the devil bravely in the eye
And see the plotters in hell first!