

## **December 5, 1953**

### **Howard Smith to Syngman Rhee**

#### **Citation:**

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#### **Summary:**

Letter and poem written to Syngman Rhee from admirer Howard C. Smith.

#### **Original Language:**

English

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan



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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 deriving 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.)

opi  
out

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 cables  
And snares you dared, in freedom's hour



- 2 -

31-

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 the name  
 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!



32-

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 that they will not consent to baseness  
 Tamely submitted to by us, and sought  
 In turn by us basely to be rammed down  
 Their threats in defiance of ev'ry law  
 Of 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?



33-

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  
 Upon the battle line?



34 -

## viii

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,



35 -

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

Was it "treachery" -

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



36 -

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:





37 -

"The trucelline," 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 firm, great and brave Rhee!  
Look the devil bravely in the eye  
And see the plotters in hell first!