

June 26, 1953

Letter, E.L. Sundet to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

The author claims Rhee enjoys widespread support in Lake Preston, South Dakota.

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Lake Preston, S. Dak. U. S. A.
June 26, 1953

Dr. Syngman Rhee,
President, S. Korea,
Seoul, Korea..

Dear Dr. Rhee,

It takes a great deal of nerve for a very humble person such as myself, (who is the mother of five children, a housewife, in a small mid-western community of this country, of ours) to sit down and write you, in regard to your stand on the Korean truce terms as proposed by the UN, and seemingly being advocated by our nation. Don't give in, to them, please. You are right, and our government officials are wrong, at least, all of them advocating this truce under present terms are wrong.

Many American people are not as yet awake, to what is taking place. They believed the Republicans and Eisenhower last fall, when they came out so strongly against the Democrats and their appeasement of the enemy. They have trusted them to do what is the right thing, and are only now becoming aware of their perfidy. However, all, Republicans do not feel the same way, as those in charge of our policies at this time, and once enough people get aroused, and it won't be long now, and realize just what is taking place, and how not only your country, but ours as well is being betrayed, there will be such a hue and cry, that our policy makers will not dare ignore it.

I have personally written all of the Congressmen from our state, protesting this appeasement, and truce terms, and stated flatly that I believe we are being betrayed by our own government. Don't do this to your people, and give in to what seems to you to be, almost ~~times~~ insurmountable odds.

If you realize much about this nation and its form of government, you will also realize, that it is a slow process, to change the minds of executives in charge, unless many many people become aroused to what is taking place. I personally conducted a poll of my neighborhood, the other day, to find out, what portion of the people, realized fully just what was taking place, and how many, if informed, would object violently to the truce terms, as they now exist. About 40% realized what was going on, but over 85%, once informed objected to our appeasement, and was solidly in back of your stand in the matter, and was not only willing but anxious to inform our officials of their objections. I should imagine, it is much the same situation throughout our nation. For certainly we did not like the brand of appeasement, the Democrats were offering us, as indicated from the vote last fall, but it is simply a case of people being too trusting of politicians promises, and not keeping themselves well enough informed, to know just how far our government had gone, in this direction.

Hold out just a while longer, and our officials will just simply, have to listen to us, and don't of all the things you do, judge America by what some of our government officials are making us out to be. We really are not cowards, tho' it must seem to some of you that we are. God is on our side, just so long as we are trusting in Him, and standing up for His basic freedoms, and If God be with us, who can really be against us, (and whoever it is, it won't matter) Please don't back down from your stand of an undivided Korea, nor from your hope that such a thing is forthcoming. Have faith, in this nations people just a little longer, and our government will have to listen to us.

Sincerely,

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Mrs. E. S. Sundet.



P. S. When your people released those non-communist prisoners of war, and Gen. Clark and others became so indignant over it, and threw hate and bitterness in your direction, and a news dispatch said, that Gen. Clark had said, "Not only does Rhee seem to be unrepentant of this act, but seems almost to be gleeful about it", I looked at my husband and said, and Rhee is not the only one who is gleeful about it, I am too. For now, your action, aside from its humanitarian point of view, has broken up the truce talks and appeasement measures for a short time, and has given the American people a real chance to wake up to what is taking place, and protest the Truce terms, and urge our government to go it alone, *along with* your nation, if it is necessary ^{to} win this war, and attain the goal your nation is seeking, and most of all should be, as well. Our commentators some of them, and even a few of the people of this nation, tho' not many, may talk as tho' this action was a terrible thing, but to many of us, it was a last desperate attempt to stem the tide of betrayal that was being perpetrated against your nation. And you and your people have most of this nations peoples good will, and sympathy, in this matter. Pay no attention to what a few of them say otherwise, for, they are so blinded by their fears they do not see things straight anyway. And they do not even realize this is true. If you don't hold out against this appeasement of the enemy, not only your nation will suffer, but all of Asia, and eventually all free nations shall to, and our nation, shall lose not only the respect of the world, but their own self-respect as well. You are a brave and courageous man, and you have fought all of your life for freedom, and now the freedom of the entire free world may depend on your continued resistance to any form of appeasement, to these Communists, for they know not the meaning of the word "Compromise", and to win the battle against such an enemy, we who do see the picture clearly must also not know the meaning of the word, Compromise, or appeasement, where they are concerned. For such actions will bring disaster to all of us, and I cannot believe it is inevitable evil shall triumph over right, and freedom and justice. If this be true, then indeed the only thing that will help us, is God, and His power to overcome these evil forces, that threaten all mankind.

And faith in Him, is the only method by which we can defeat this evil — faith also in His principles as well as His power.

God Bless you.

Mrs. Sundet