



GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
OFFICE OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER

Tokyo, Japan

13 December 1950

Personal.

Dear Congressman Boykin:

I am most grateful for your thoughtful note of December 6th and have read with much interest your clearly reasoned views as set forth in your letter to Admiral Souers, a copy of which you kindly enclosed.

Apart from the controversial aspects of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt's views, there was one public pronouncement he made, I believe during the depression, which received universal accord:- "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." This expression holds as true today as it did then. Fear in the public mind is the primary objective of Communist propaganda methods in the so-called "cold war", unfortunately receiving strong support from the tendency toward sensationalism in our public press. This is not dishonestly inspired but it has a profound influence upon the thinking of our people and oftentimes engenders fear when the need for caution may be indicated but reason for fear is non-existent. Thus I am informed that our recent action in the Korean campaign has been widely reported by such extravagant superlatives as "decimated divisions", "military debacle" and such nonsense. In the absence of any political intelligence giving us the intentions of Communist China and the limitations upon effective air reconnaissance, our attack or reconnaissance in force, as it turned out to be, of the 24th became our only available means of securing adequate field intelligence upon which to estimate enemy strength and intentions. It prematurely brought to light and unbalanced the Chinese surreptitious build-up operations and provided us with conclusive intelligence on Chinese Communist intentions at a relatively low cost. The sensational reporting of our withdrawal movements from this action have produced a fear psychology which is just what the Kremlin would most desire. It is one of the less desirable consequences of a free press, but despite the harm it occasionally produces the free press must be preserved.

In the midst of the confused thinking which seems so generally prevalent, it is refreshing indeed to read your calm and analytical viewpoint.

With expressions of cordial regard, I am

Most faithfully,



Douglas MacArthur
DOUGLAS MacARTHUR

Honorable Frank W. Boykin, M. C.
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.