

Optional Source 1: Clifford Memo

Source Information: Correspondence Between Clark M. Clifford and Harry S. Truman, June 30, 1950.
President's Secretary's Files, Truman Papers. (2 pages)

CLARK M. CLIFFORD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 29, 1950

Dear Boss:

Your action of Tuesday with reference to Korea was magnificent. Apparently the public was ready for this high type of leadership because approval of your action is surprisingly universal.

I know that you have thought of all the different ramifications of the problem that exists but I would like to emphasize two phases of it which I deem to be of outstanding importance.

1. I believe that the defense of South Korea should be as broad as possible among the members of the United Nations. In the past years, the effort was always made to have Russia aligned not against the United States but against all the democratic nations of the world. I think every effort should be made to avoid the appearance that this is a contest between two nations but it should be made to appear what it is, i.e., a contest between one aggressor nation and the rest of the peace-loving world.

2. I am concerned about the present order which limits our aid to that area south of the 38th parallel. I understand the reason for such order but I am distressed



Optional Source 1: Clifford Memo (cont.)

CLARK M. CLIFFORD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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that, in bombing towns and cities in South Korea, we are bombing friendly people and friendly areas.

I would like to suggest that the President issue a statement informing the world that he is going to ask the United Nations to issue an order giving the North Korean forces forty-eight hours to withdraw from South Korea. And, if the North Korean forces refuse to do so, that military forces of member nations of the United Nations will bomb military objectives in North Korea.

I believe that such a pronouncement would receive the overwhelming support of the people in this country and in the free nations, and it would greatly improve the chances of the free nations to prevent the Communists from over-running South Korea.

Please forgive my trespass upon your time but the old fire horse got a whiff of smoke.

Affectionately yours,

Clark -



The President
The White House

Using Optional Source 1

Sourcing Questions	Who wrote this document? When was the document? What is the author's perspective?
Contextualization Questions	What issues are being addressed in the document?
Corroboration Tasks	What does the document say about the problems being faced with the U.N. and the Korean conflict?
Close Reading Questions	What evidence does the author provide to reflect his position? What is the author hoping to accomplish with this document?

Optional Source 2: JCS UN Reports Memo

Source Information: Joint Chief of Staff Memo issued July 28, 1950, requesting all Reports on the Korean conflict are filed in Washington D.C. prior to delivery to the UN.

~~SECRET~~
PRIORITY

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED

Joint Chiefs of Staff
M. M. Stephens, Capt G.S.
Navy Executive Secretary
JCS 55234

TO: CINCPAC TOKYO JAPAN

NR: JCS 87422

28 July 1950

From JCS

1. Under the UN Security Council resolution of 7 July 50, the United States Govt is required to transmit reports to the Security Council, as appropriate, on the operations of United Nations forces in Korea. The first report, which was prepared in Wash and upon which your comments were obtained, was submitted to the Security Council on 25 July.

2. For obvious political and psychological reasons, it is considered desirable that your Hq prepare future periodic reports for transmittal to the Security Council by the United States govt, covering mil operations of forces of the United Nations.

3. It is visualized that such reports will be considerably briefer than the initial report of 25 July and will be of such a nature as to permit publication without danger of security violation.

4. You will appreciate that certain political factors which must be determined in Wash may from time to time indicate the desirability of certain alterations in your reports. In all such cases, any proposed changes will, of course, be cleared with you before transmission of your reports to the UN.

5. It is requested that your first report, under this procedure, be transmitted to the JCS prior to 4 August and thereafter at intervals of approximately two weeks.

Using Optional Source 2

Sourcing Questions	Who wrote this document? When was the document written? Why was it written?
Contextualization Questions	How might this document, when compared to previous documents, be more meaningful when understanding the U.S. and U.N. roles with the Korean conflict?
Corroboration Tasks	In what ways does this document reflect the United States role in the U.N. action in Korea?
Close Reading Questions	According to the document, how are the U.S. commanders to report the actions in Korea? Why might that be a concern?

Optional Source 3: HST Negative Response Letter

Source Information: Opinion Letter on Korea to Harry S Truman.

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Statement
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109 W. 84th St.
New York 24, N.Y.
July 12, 1950

President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Truman:

It is with horror that I read of the losses of American lives in Korea, and I ask myself, what are we doing there?

This is clearly a civil war, and the UN Charter clearly states that there shall be no intervention in domestic situations. How would we have felt had some European country sent troops to the South during our own Civil War?

It is also evident that Rhee had lost favor even with his own party, that he had not gotten a majority vote in the elections of May 30th. Must we pull his chestnuts out of the fire for him? The Koreans don't want him. Why should we?

I therefore urge that our troops are immediately withdrawn and that we use our good offices in helping to mediate the dispute, but that above all, we allow the Koreans to decide for themselves what parties are to represent them.

Sincerely yours,

George A. ...
Ann George Cook

Using Optional Source 3

Sourcing Questions	Who is the author of this document? What is the purpose of the document?
Contextualization Questions	When was this letter written? What other events happened around that time would explain why this letter was written?
Corroboration Tasks	Which one document could the author of this letter use to best support their position?
Close Reading Questions	What is the stance of the author on the actions taken in Korea? What evidence do they give to support their position?

Optional Source 4: HST Positive Response Letter

Source Information: Letter of support on Korea from Mrs. Roland Whitman Jr., to Harry S. Truman.

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8/4/50
R.S.

555 Hill Terrace
Winnetka, Illinois
July 17, 1950

President Harry Truman
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Let's have complete mobilization now - to win in Korea as soon as possible, and to deter the Russians from attacking anywhere else in the world.

We are very proud of your quick reaction to the North Korean aggression.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Whitman

Mrs. Roland Whitman, Jr.

Using Optional Source 4

Sourcing Questions	Who is the author of this document? What is the purpose of the document?
Contextualization Questions	When was this letter written? What other events happened around that time would explain why this letter was written?
Corroboration Tasks	Which one document could the author of this letter use to best support their position?
Close Reading Questions	What is the stance of the author on the actions taken in Korea? What evidence do they give to support their position?