

Optional Source 3: HST Negative Response Letter

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

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I therefore urge that our troops are immediately withdrawn and that we use our good offices in helping to mediate the dispute, but that above all, we allow the Koreans to decide for themselves what parties are to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