



7/26/53

Tonight we greet, with prayers of Thanksgiving, the official news that an armistice will quickly bring to an end the fighting between the forces of the United Nations and the Communist armies in Korea. For the nation the cost of repelling aggression has been high. In thousands of our homes it has been incalculable.

With special feelings of sorrow — and of ^{solemn} gratitude — we think of those who (in that far-off land) were called upon to lay down their lives, to prove once again that only courage and sacrifice keep freedom alive upon the earth. To the widows and orphans of this war, and to those veterans who bear disabling wounds, America renews tonight her pledge of lasting devotion and care.

Our thoughts turn also to those other Americans wearied by months of imprisonment behind enemy lines. The swift return of all of them will bring joy to many families. It will evidence good faith on the part of those with whom we have signed this armistice.

Soldiers, sailors and airmen of 16 nations have stood as partners beside us throughout these long and bitter months. America's thanks go to each. In this struggle we have seen the United Nations meet the challenge of armed aggression — not with words of pathetic protest, but with deeds of decisive purpose. It is proper that we salute particularly the valorous armies of the Republic of Korea, for they have done even more than prove their title to freedom. Inspired by President Syngman Rhee, they have given an example of courage and patriotism which again demonstrates that men of the East and men of the West can fight and work and live side by side in pursuit of a just and noble cause.

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Now the carnage of war ~~may~~ cease and the negotiations of the conference table ^{to} begin. On this Sabbath evening each of us ~~will~~ devoutly pray that all nations may come to see the wisdom of composing differences in this fashion before, rather than after, there is resort to brutal and ~~fatal~~ ^{fruitful} battle.



As we strive to bring about that wisdom, there is, in this moment ^{of} sober satisfaction, one thought that must discipline our emotions and steady our ^{resolution,} resolve. It is this: We have won an armistice on a single battle ^{ground} ~~field~~ -- not peace in the world. We may not now relax our guard. ^{now} ~~we~~ *cease our quest.*

Throughout the coming months, during the period of prisoner screening and exchange and during the possibly longer period of the political conference which looks toward the unification of Korea, we and our United Nation Allies must be vigilant against the possibility of untoward developments.

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And as we do so, we shall fervently ^{hope} ~~hope~~ that this armistice will, in fact, bring ~~the~~ free peoples one step nearer to their goal of a world at peace.

[~~With our allies we shall maintain and increase our strength, to the end that we may work even more effectively for a free world, without war. This is our resolve and our dedication.~~]

I think all of us tonight might well recall the words of Lincoln:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in ~~now~~ to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

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This is our resolve and our dedication.

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