

April 25, 1951
**Letter, General James A. Van Fleet to UN Ground
Forces in Korea**

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Summary:

General Van Fleet encourages the UN Ground Forces in Korea to continue their fight against "armed communism aggression."

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HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY KOREA (EUSAK)
Office of the Commanding General
APO 301

25 April 1951

To the Heroic Soldiers of all Ranks of the UN Ground Forces in Korea: -

On Sunday night, 22 April, the enemy launched his expected attack - the start of a third round of unprovoked ruthless aggression.

He has seen fit to drive masses into battle without regard to cost in lives. Again you have willingly accepted the challenge and in three days of battle have proven your superiority.

The magnificent support of our United Nations Air and Navy Forces will continue to strengthen our hearts and bolster our arms.

During my first ten days as your new commander, by personal contact with you at the front, I have learned of your peerless qualities - of your professional skill, determination unto weariness, high courage, and intelligent leadership found only in an enlightened army of freedom loving nations.

In addition, Eighth Army presently enjoys advantages of uncontested friendly Naval and Air supremacy, of enormous superiority in firepower and all types of weapons, in fact a tremendous superiority in everything except in numbers.

You are fighting to stop armed aggression, and to maintain peace not only in Korea but in your respective homelands.

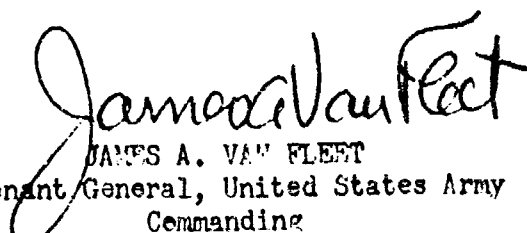
This renewed battle is for the preservation of life, liberty, and the right to pursuit of happiness of all free men. These are fundamental in the rights of man - the rock upon which our civilization is founded - and they are the first rights which Communism denies its own people.

The time has come when all men of the free and decent world must steel their souls to face the desperate, bitter and uncompromising battle with armed communist aggression. Our strength rests on the solid foundation of belief in God and the rights of man rather than on the will of dictators imposed through cruelty and the complete disregard of human rights.

General Ridgway and I have complete confidence in your ultimate victory.

We all ask for divine guidance and God's blessings for a righteous victory.

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JAMES A. VAN FLEET
Lieutenant General, United States Army
Commanding