

The Waldorf-Astoria Towers  
New York, New York  
October 17, 1946

My dear General:

You will perhaps remember, in conversation at Tokyo, I suggested that you might do a service to this country comparable to that of John the Baptist when he came out of the wilderness. I suggested that it is terribly needed and should be soon after these Congressional elections when politics will have gone into abeyance. I am more certain than ever that you could thus do a transcendent service by making three addresses--say, in San Francisco, Chicago and New York. The whole nation will listen to you as to no other man--and they would like the opportunity to pay some tribute for your unparalleled service.

There are three great fields of weakness in the country:

1. Morals, both in public and private life, have greatly degenerated during recent years. The heart-breaking scandals in public office exposed by Congressional investigations, the fearful increase in crime, divorce, blatant extravagance in living are part of it.

2. Our democracy is not working. We are in a muddle between left-wing and right-wing thinking. The left-wing regimentation of recent years has created a million bottlenecks in production and distribution and is at last breaking

down in shortages of food and other supplies in the midst of plenty. The Administration still holds to the Roosevelt notion that it is possible to have <sup>x</sup>totalitarian<sup>x</sup> economics and at the same time preserve other freedoms. Out of encouragement of left-wing elements, individuals and groups in <sup>x</sup>labor have risen to exercise greater power than the Governments. Democracy is gone unless it be master in its own house and no individual or group can be permitted to impose its will by imperiling the health and welfare of the people. Most of the people--farmers and workers--have the illusion that because they have paper money in their pockets that we grew richer out of the war. We are like all the rest of the world, greatly impoverished, and if we are to pull out of it, we have got to work harder than ever before-- and we must allow the initiative of the people to function. Yet the Government goes on spending as if the economic system could carry this burden of taxes forever.

3. Frustration in international relations is sweeping over the country. Obviously, America's Second Crusade for freedom and independence of nations wound up with less freedom, fewer independent nations, with Russia the real victor in the war and all the world menaced by her. The world is squarely faced with Asiatic versus Western civilization. Western civilization cannot stand the shock of either Communism dominating the world or of another world war. Strength by the United States in preparedness and sense and courage in diplomatic action can prevent both.

With a fresh mind, a new approach and your oratorical endowment, you can handle such old subjects with new light and inspiration.

The country is beginning to shake off the various domestic red tinges, partly as the result of Russian attitudes having focused attention upon their organization in the United States. Also, the country is just beginning to realize

the catastrophe brought on the world by the appeasement policies that have made Russia the sole victor in this war, except in Japan.

I enclose four little speeches of mine, not as guides to you but as possibly sparking some thought of your own.

Yours faithfully,

General Douglas MacArthur

Enc.

Lincoln Day dinner 1946

The Challenge to FreeMen - Aug. 11, 1945

Economic Recovery from the War - Oct. 8, 1945

Moral and Spiritual Recovery from War - October 13, 1945

Also:

Notes by Garet Garrett -- The Revolution Was  
Administrative Agencies  
and The Law  
One Year After  
By Virgil Jordan

Handwritten P. S. Not that you need education but since the above was written some unpublished material has come over my desk which perhaps too unbending yet is fundamental -- anyway it will not hurt you to throw it away.

H.H.

Gen. MacArthur

OFFICE OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER  
FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

File

Tokyo, Japan.

31 October 46

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate your letter of October 17 which has greatly impressed me. The picture you draw is one of crisis and naturally commands the national and patriotic attention of every true American.

With the best of intentions on my part, there are nevertheless difficulties of a very practical nature in accomplishment of the program you suggest. First is the propriety of my action as long as I am on active service as an Army officer. I doubt if I would be permitted to speak as I would wish on such vital matters not directly connected with my own duties and assignments. To do so I would probably have to leave the service. Second is the vital necessity of my continued presence here in Japan. I have a sure control now in spite of Russia and the Reds, but if I leave the situation might easily relapse into something quite different -- possibly one inimical and hazardous to the United States. I am loath to leave until a treaty is signed. Third is the very definite feeling on my part that no one would seriously listen to me, no matter what I might say. On military or occupation matters, yes, but on other questions I am doubtful. I believe the merit of anything I might attempt would be vitiated by the charge that it represented not so much a patriotic but a political effort. There would, I fear, be much scepticism, and it might well be regarded as a disguised effort to enter the political race.

In view of these real obstacles, I would hesitate to give any assurances in the matter, although conditions might conceivably change to an extent that would make it possible. If such proves to be the case, I will communicate with you at once so that you can advise and guide me in the venture.

With renewed expressions of greatest admiration and respect,

Very faithfully,

  
DOUGLAS MacARTHUR

Honorable Herbert Hoover,  
The Waldorf-Astoria Towers,  
New York, N.Y.