



Harry S. Truman Library & Museum

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December 8, 2009

Speaker J. Dennis Hastert
Senior Advisor
Dickstein Shapiro LLP
1825 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403

Dear Speaker Hastert:

This is in follow-up to a recent phone message I left with your office staff in Washington, DC.

It is my understanding that you are involved with an organization planning events to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. Because this conflict played such an important role in the Truman presidency, the Truman Presidential Library is involved in coordinating a number of activities to commemorate Truman's historic decision to support the Republic of Korea under a UN mandate in June of 1950. I have enclosed with this letter an outline of our activities, which include symposia at Key West, Florida (The Little White House), the Truman Presidential Library, the Eisenhower Presidential Library and the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC. We are also exploring the possibility of working with the University of Missouri to conduct a program in Seoul, Korea. In addition, we are developing an exhibit on the Legacy of the Korean War to be displayed at the Truman Library throughout much of 2010.

I would appreciate any information you can provide on activities your organization may be involved with. We would love to have the opportunity to coordinate our planning with other organizations and reach as wide an audience as possible with information about our endeavors.

You may remember me as the former Illinois State Historian and Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency during the last six years of the Jim Thompson administration. You are probably more likely to remember my late brother, Thomas Devine, a wrestling coach who attended your clinics prior to moving on to become deputy warden of the youth correctional facility in Joliet.

Thank you very much for your attention to this correspondence. Any information or assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Devine, Ph.D.
Director, Truman Presidential Library & Museum

11/19/09

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President Harry S. Truman's Legacy in East Asia

A Series of Programs Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Korean War

Introduction

The Korean War was one of the most important and decisive events of the Truman Presidency. With the June 25, 1950 invasion of South Korea, President Truman was forced to make what he considered to be the toughest decision of his presidency — sending thousands of American soldiers into deadly combat. Truman saw the attack by North Korean forces across the 38th Parallel as an effort by the Soviet Union to extend its influence in East Asia while discrediting the newly-created United Nations. Truman also viewed the conflict in Korea as a possible diversion to draw American attention away from vital areas of interest in Western Europe and the Middle East.

Once the Chinese entered the conflict and U.S. and U.N casualties mounted, American support for the conflict, which Truman described as a “police action,” began to wane. By mid-1951 the war seemed to be about preserving a status quo rather than achieving victory over North Korea and “Red” China. Furthermore, the abrupt dismissal of the popular General Douglas MacArthur helped plunge the president’s approval ratings to new lows. By early 1952, it was clear that the unpopular and costly war in Korea would make any attempt by Truman to seek re-election an impossibility.

Six decades since the decision to lead a UN-sanctioned effort to preserve the independence of the Republic of Korea, Truman is now considered one of our greatest presidents, and he is praised for his leadership during the Korean War. Yet controversies remain about the conduct of the war, the armistice which left the Korean people divided, and the continued United States presence in the Republic of Korea.

The Harry S. Truman Library proposes to commemorate the Korean War throughout 2010 with a series of programs to address contemporary issues in their historical context.

I. *The Truman Legacy in East Asia: Japan, China, and the Two Koreas*

The Eighth Annual Truman Legacy Conference

Harry S. Truman Little White House, Key West, Florida, May 14-15, 2010

- Keynote and three panels as determined by program chair

Note: Dr. James I. Matray, California State University at Chico will be the program chair.

Program Planners:

Dr. Michael Devine, Truman Presidential Library

Dr. Ray Geselbracht, Truman Presidential Library

Dr. Robert Wolz, Truman Little White House

Audience

- Attendees at Key West Symposium (75-100)
- C-SPAN (the 2009 program was presented on C-SPAN)
- Truman Library Web Site
- Publication in "Legacy Series," Vol. 8, Truman State University Press (TSUP)

**II. *Korea's Legacy of War: The Two Koreas and Their Future*
A Two Day Symposium
Seoul, Korea
*May 27-28, 2010***

- A joint project of the University of Missouri, Columbia and the Harry S. Truman Library. [The MU Korean Alumni Asso.]
- **Keynotes:** Brief addresses by high level representatives of the Republic of Korea, China, Japan, Russia, the United States, and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (is this last possible?)
- **Panel:** "The Future of the Korean Peninsula: Two Koreas or One?" Korean scholars, practitioners, experts representing spectrum of views regarding North-South relations.
- **Panel:** "Korea and Geopolitical Relations in East Asia." Scholars, practitioners, experts from the countries of the region, and one from the United States.

Note: A Kansas City / Abilene / University of Missouri delegation to Seoul will visit to attend the conference and participate in other activities.

Conference and Program Coordinator: Sang Kim, Office of Asia Affairs,
University of Missouri, Columbia

Audience

- 300-400 attendees, including University of Missouri Korean Alumni
- Extensive media coverage in Korea
- HST Library Web Site

Publication of Key Presentation in "Legacy Series," Vol. 8 (TSUP)

III. The Korean War, the Armistice, and the Search for Peace on the Korean Peninsula
Harry. S Truman Library and Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, (June 16-17)

A Two Day Symposium

Day One: Harry S. Truman Library, Emphasis on political, social cultural and international topics.

- “The New International Historiography of the Korean War; What We’ve Learned during the Last Twenty Years.” Possible panelists: James I. Matray, Allan Millett, Spence Tucker, Kathryn Weathersby, William Stueck.
- “The Building of the Two Koreas.” Include “Juche” (self-reliance) in North Korea, the Kim family dynasty, struggle for democracy in South Korea, 1988 Olympics, Sunshine Policy, and the development of two economics. Possible panelists: Greg Brazinsky, Kim Hakjoon, Bradley Martin, Marcus Nolan, Edward A. Olsen.
- Dr. Clayton Laurie of the CIA History Office will chair a panel on U.S. intelligence during the Korean War.
- Dr. Christian Ostermann will chair a session on the Woodrow Wilson Center's Korean War documentary project.

Dr. Christian Ostermann of Woodrow Wilson Center and Dr. Ray Geselbracht, Truman Library. Program co-chairs.

The CIA’s Historical Collections Division (Chris Ferry, senior project manager) will release four important series of Korean war intelligence documents in conjunction with the conference, and will provide DVD and booklet presentations of the newly released documents. A session will feature the significant release of 60,000 documents related to the Korean War and its aftermath for the Woodrow Wilson Center's North Korea Documentation project. CIAHCD will describe the document release and the process leading to it during the conference. The Truman and Eisenhower Libraries will provide information about the document release on their websites.

Day Two: Dwight D. Eisenhower Library (travel from KC to EL in morning, lunch at library, tour and dinner follow conference, return to KC). Emphasis on military topics.

- “Ending the Korean War and Establishing a Political and Military Stalemate.” How and why the armistice was finally negotiated, and on establishment of stalemate during the Eisenhower administration. Possible panelists: Donald Boose, Allen E. Goodman, Rosemary Foot, Edward Keefer.
- “The Long Armistice and the Search for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, from Truman through George W. Bush.” Include Pueblo crisis, DMZ issues, nuclear issues and diplomacy (Six-Party Talks). Possible panelists: Bruce Cumings, Selig Harrison, Seymour M. Hersh, Don Oberdorfer.

Audience

- 150-200 attendees at each venue
- C-SPAN
- Truman Library Web Site
- Publication of key presentation in "Legacy Series," Vol. 8 (TSUP)

IV. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, c. early November 2010

- One day program – a keynote and one panel – to conclude the conference series.
- Coordinators Dr. Christian Osterman, Woodrow Wilson Center

Audience

- 150-200 attendees
- C-SPAN
- HST Web Site
- Publication of Key Presentation in "Legacy Series," Vol. 8 (TSUP)

V. Associated programming during the Korean War 60th anniversary year:

- Truman Library will produce an exhibition on social, cultural, and political aspects of the Korean War. This exhibit will open with a public reception (to which the Korean Ambassador to the U.S. or other high ranking officials will be invited). The exhibit will be seen by approximately 100,000 visitors to the Truman Library in 2010. In addition a one-day teacher workshop will assist area educators to develop lesson plans and activities to enhance classroom visits to the Truman Library. (See attachment A)
- Documentary film featuring oral history interviews with Korean War veterans, produced by Shelley Bookspan. Interviewees will include North and South Korean veterans and civilian survivors, Chinese veterans, and American and other United Nations veterans, women as well as men. The film will present images from the holdings of the Truman and Eisenhower Libraries and other sources. (See Attachment B)
- Harry S. Truman's Legacy in East Asia will be published by Truman State University Press as volume 8 in the series and drawing content from the conferences in Key West, Independence, Abilene, Seoul, and Washington, DC. The volume will be published in early 2011.

“Memories of Korea”

An exhibition at the Harry S. Truman Library

March 27 — December 31, 2010

June 25, 2010 marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. For the people of Korea, the war was a cause of great suffering as families were separated and as the land was laid to waste. Although American men and women were once more called upon to fight in a foreign land, to most Americans it was a “forgotten war” that intruded only peripherally on their desire to build the good life in a booming post-World War II economy. To American policy makers, the war was the first test of the nation’s new role at the head of the world’s democracies. For President Truman, Korea represented a particular challenge to demonstrate that nations, acting in concert through the United Nations, had the responsibility to halt the kind of aggression that had triggered two world wars in his lifetime.

This exhibition recalls the region, the war, and the war’s legacy through the eyes and memories of the people who lived there, who fought there, and whose lives were permanently changed by the experience. The story of Korea is told with their letters, diaries, photographs, films, and personal memorabilia. Organized around four chronological areas Culture and History, Antecedents, War, and Legacy — the exhibition explores the rich culture of Korea, the political winds that led to the conflict, and the sixty years of division and divergence that have characterized the two Koreas since the war. One of the last remaining vestiges of the Cold War, divided Korea is a reminder of the clear political boundaries that once divided the world itself into East and West.

Culture and History

Korea’s historical place in the world and its rich cultural traditions establish the setting for the story. Its ancient interactions with its East Asian neighbors, its initial contact with the West, and its renown for fine arts and crafts are illustrated. Key artifacts include:

- A 12th Century vase with Korea’s unique celadon glaze that had belonged to the Korean royal family
- A black lacquer box with pearl inlaid design. A gift from Mrs. Syngman Rhee to Bess and Margaret Truman

Antecedents

The occupation of Korea by Japanese military forces in the 20th Century was the precursor to the divided Korea that emerged from the ashes of World War II. As Soviet and American forces accepted the surrender of Japanese forces on opposite sides of Korea’s 38th Parallel, the line came to symbolize the growing Cold War hostility between the superpowers. The flashpoint came in late June 1950.

Key artifacts include:

- Notification of arrival of U.S. forces in Korea to accept surrender of Japanese forces south of the 38th Parallel, 1945

- Letter Syngman Rhee to President Truman, November 20, 1948, expressing concern over the removal of American troops
- Framed photograph of Syngman Rhee inscribed to President Truman, Christmas 1949

War

As the Korean War raged from June 1950 to July 1953, it had profound effects on those who were caught up in it. The exhibition brings the complexity of the war down to a personal level. An American soldier writing home to his parents and complaining about the frigid cold. Memories of a Korean woman whose family ended up on the other side of the 38th Parallel. A pilot recalling a dogfight with a Russian pilot in a MIG fighter. A President, writing in his diary of the difficult decisions he has to make. Their individual stories bring rich colors to the larger story of the war, which, in the nation's memory today, is largely only a series of black and white images.

Key artifacts and documents include:

- Cartoons depicting the daily life, frustrations, fears, and sorrows of typical soldiers. Examples of cartoons drawn by Patrick Flaherty, a soldier assigned to Graves Registration in the war. These cartoons will form the centerpiece of this section of the exhibition. These are on loan from the Center for the Study of the Korean War, part of a collection of 168 cartoons by Flaherty.
- Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously to Sergeant Charles R. Long on Independence, Missouri.
- South Korean flag, autographed by various Korean and American officials aboard ship while observing the Inchon Landing, September 15, 1950
- President Truman's handwritten diary, December 2, 1950. Truman worries that the Chinese invasion of Korea puts US and UN soldiers in a desperate position
- President Truman's handwritten diary, January 27, 1952. Truman is frustrated by what he sees as the duplicity of the Chinese government over the Korean War
- President Truman's handwritten diary, May 18, 1952. As the Korean armistice talks drag on in Panmunjom, Truman is convinced that the Chinese are simply dragging their feet for propaganda purposes
- Typewriter used by Vernice Anderson to type the Wake Island Communique, the official statement issued by President Truman and General Douglas MacArthur following their meeting in the Pacific October 15, 1950.
- Recorded interviews with Korean War veterans recounting their experiences.

Legacy

In the years following the Korean War Armistice of July 1953, nothing has changed and everything has changed on the Korean peninsula. The war never actually ended. No formal peace treaty was ever signed. South Korean and American troops still face North Korean troops in a tense encounter along the 38th Parallel. Yet, in the intervening years, South Korea has grown into a vibrant democratic and economic power along the Pacific rim. North Korea has stagnated under an oppressive and secretive central government, become a pariah nation in the eyes of the world as well as a dangerous and precarious nuclear power. President Truman's goal of stopping communist aggression in Korea succeeded. But the broader goal of creating a stable, peaceful, and economically viable Korean peninsula remains a challenge to today's world leaders. The Korean War will not truly end until this challenge is accomplished.

Key artifacts and documents include:

- Medallion: The Nation Order of Merit for National Foundation Joong Jang, awarded to former President Truman on June 25, 1964 by the Korean Ambassador to the United States, on behalf of Korean President Park Chung-Hee
- Video and audio interviews with Koreans and Korean Americans

The Truman Library will be partnering with Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and with the Center for the Study of the Korean War on aspects of this exhibition and on other programs that will mark the 60th anniversary of the Korean War in 2010 through 2013.



September 14, 2009

Dr. Michael Devine, Director
Harry S. Truman Library
500 W. U.S. Highway 24
Independence, MO 64050

Via: email

RE: Production of Video; 60th Anniversary of Korean War

Dear Mike:

As always, it was great to talk with you last week. My partners, Julie Corley, Bob Cashier, and I are excited by the prospect of participating with you and your colleagues during next year's examination and memorialization of aspects of the Korean War in American and world history.

Our role, as producers of an accompanying oral-history based video, will be to capture some of the human stories of the war as well its cultural and political aftereffects. In the 30-minute product you have requested, we envision a brief introduction to the post-World War 2 division of Korea and to the incursion that led to the newly formed United Nations to proceed with a police action. This background will be necessary to establish the context for the story. Next, we will select illustrative and poignant highlights from videotaped interviews we will conduct with a cross section of war survivors, American and Korean: veterans, politicians, refugees, children of refugees. We will interweave themes of their stories with archival footage of the war and immediate post war period, radio addresses, as well as assorted apt historical visuals such as posters, documents, ephemera, and photographs. It is likely that eight to ten interviewees could be featured, if briefly, in a 30 minute piece, for which we would estimate the need to conduct approximately 32 individual interviews.

Based on our discussion, it seems that the majority of the relevant interviews could be conducted here in southern California or in the Kansas City area, which would minimize the amount of travel necessary as well as allow for greater production efficiencies. Document collections at the Truman Library and at nearby Graceland University will be mined. Additional documents, and certainly archival footage, it appears, may be found at UCLA, at NARA College Park, and possibly at the United Nations archives in Manhattan.

Dr. Michael Devine
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As we proceed through our work, gathering stories and visuals, we would begin to craft the story arc of our video. Prior to producing a rough cut, we will submit to you either a script or a storyboard for your information, comment, and approval. We would then submit our rough cut to you for similar review. The final cut would incorporate all comments.

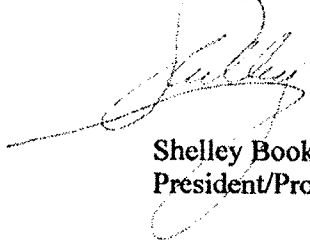
LifeStory Productions, Inc., would be responsible for obtaining all releases and clearances necessary for this production. We would turn copyright over to the Truman Library on receipt of final payment, retaining for our company and for individual work efforts appropriate credits and the right to show the video for our own marketing purposes.

As we discussed, this video would be produced for under \$2,000/minute, for an estimated cost not to exceed \$50,000, not including travel and miscellaneous expenses. The latter would be reimbursable at cost, with advance approval.

Because time is short to conduct the necessary research and interviews in advance of a release in time for the 60th anniversary date, we urge final approval of this project as quickly as possible.

Thank you again for including us in this very important and interesting work. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments or questions. We look forward to working with you!

Best regards,



Shelley Bookspan, Ph.D.
President/Producer

Budget (Estimated)

	Truman Library	"Outside" Foundation Support*	Eisenhower Library	University of Missouri	Yonsei University	Woodrow Wilson Center
I. Truman Legacy in East Asia (Key West, FL)	20,000*					
II. Part 1. Korean War (Truman Library)	10,000▼	25,000				
Part 2. Korean War (Eisenhower Library)		25,000	10,000▼			
III. Legacy of War (Yonsei University/ Korean War Museum)	5,000	50,000		10,000	10,000▼	
IV. Conference at Woodrow Wilson Center	2,500▼	5,000				10,000
Exhibition Korean War (Truman Library)	10,000▼	70,000				
Film (30 min. documentary)	20,000▼	50,000				
	\$67,500	\$225,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

* Possible Sources: Korea Foundation, Kia Motors, Dae-wou Corp., Korean Airlines

♦ Partnership with Little White House, Key West, FL.

▼ Denotes in-kind support