



File 6

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 May 1986

Dear General Livsey,

My visit to Panmunjom and the DMZ last week enabled me to appreciate the outstanding work done by the soldiers of the United Nations under your command. I should like to thank you most warmly for the excellent arrangements made for my visit and for the first class briefing. What I saw left a deep impression both of the ever present danger of Communist aggression and of the constancy of the United States in defending freedom around the world. It was a privilege to experience this. You are truly in the front line for freedom.

I should be grateful if you would give all those concerned with the arrangements for the visit my most sincere thanks - not least for the Iron Lady cap. I am still trying to decide the best occasion on which to wear it!

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

General William J. Livsey.

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Caroline -

Have you seen this?

There isn't yet a letter  
to Gen. Livsey on file.

Col. has  
already  
done it.  
Ch.

Julie  
9.5.86

Already written  
Ch

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OF 090355Z MAY 86

FOLLOWING FOR CABINET OFFICE.

MY TELNO 252.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO KOREA: MESSAGES OF THANKS.

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT MRS. RYDER ASKED MY A D A FOR A DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO GENERAL LIVSEY.
2. TEXT FOLLOWS.

BEGINS:

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO YOU AND THOSE UNDER YOUR COMMAND FOR ALLOWING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND LEARN AT FIRST HAND SOMETHING OF THE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND.

I FOUND THE PRESENTATION OUTLINING THE ACTION OF THE 29TH INFANTRY BRIGADE AT SOLMA-RU, AND MY VISITS TO THE GLOSTER MEMORIAL AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS CEMETERY AT PUSAN A SOBERING REMINDER OF THE PRICE WE HAVE ALL HAD TO PAY FOR THE FREEDOM WHICH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA NOW ENJOYS. THE VISIT TO THE JOINT SECURITY AREA AT PANMUNJOM MADE ALL TOO EVIDENT THE NEED FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL UNITED NATIONS COMMAND TO MAINTAIN THE ARMISTICE AND TO DETER RENEWED AGGRESSION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER DEVASTATING OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES ON THE PENINSULA. TO TRY AND MAINTAIN SUCH A FRAGILE 'PEACE' YEAR AFTER YEAR MUST CALL FOR THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE, DILIGENCE AND COMMITMENT FROM ALL THOSE UNDER YOUR COMMAND.

MAY I CONCLUDE BY SAYING THAT I DO APPRECIATE ALL YOU DID PERSONALLY TO PROVIDE ME WITH SUCH AN ENLIGHTENING VISIT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ENDS.

SPRECKLEY.

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