

August 10th, 1950
212 W. Seminary Ave.
Wheaton, Illinois

The Honorable Paul H. Douglas
Senator from Illinois
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Our democratic government is based on the proposition that an educated and informed electorate will advise its chosen officials from time to time. International events of the past few years indicate that our officials are seriously in need of advice. Unfortunately, I cannot offer any advice or suggestions on what should be done about our foreign relations until I can understand our present condition and how we arrived where we are today. Perhaps you can give me some information upon the following questions.

1. Why are we expending our blood and wealth in Korea? Our goal seems to be the 38th parallel. Since this is a quite fruitless and empty reward for our efforts, there must be some other fine point which I have missed.

2. Is the 38th parallel like the Mason-Dixon line? Who drew this line and what considerations were made as to its location? In what way is the U.S.A. obligated to maintain this line and when was the obligation ratified by our Congress?

3. During the conference at Potsdam it was apparent that Germany was going to be divided into three parts; something like the partitions of Poland a couple of hundred years earlier. The general view presented was a central city of Berlin with three radial lines starting from the middle. When the final results were unveiled it was found to be a confused mess of three large zones and three little zones inside one of the large zones. An arrangement more conducive of friction is difficult to imagine. We have already paid dearly for this friction and the end is not in sight. Who thought this arrangement up? Was it part of the results of the conferences of Yalta and Tehran or was it conceived at Potsdam? What were the reasons for this peculiar arrangement? What obligations has the U.S.A. for maintaining this arrangement and when were these obligations ratified by our Congress?

4. Five years have passed since the end of the war. We have expended immense sums on the reconstruction of Europe; allies, neutrals and enemy included. Today one reads of unending plans for further aid. What has been accomplished by past expenditures? What can future expenditures accomplish that the past has been incapable of? Loose gifts in the name of charity are demoralizing to both donor and recipient alike.

5. Can you send to me copies of the agreements at Yalta, Tehran and Potsdam with a complete list of signers or refer me to where they may be seen? How binding are they on the U.S.A. Apparently there are other places in the world such as Greece, Persia and the Indies where we are obligated in some fashion, formally or informally.

It is obvious that our foreign policy must be reoriented from mere expediency to one positively favorable for us. After I've received your answers to the above and studied our present ratified commitments, I may be able to suggest advantageous alterations. I will greatly appreciate your supplying me with any information you have on the above subjects.

Yours very truly,

Grote Reber